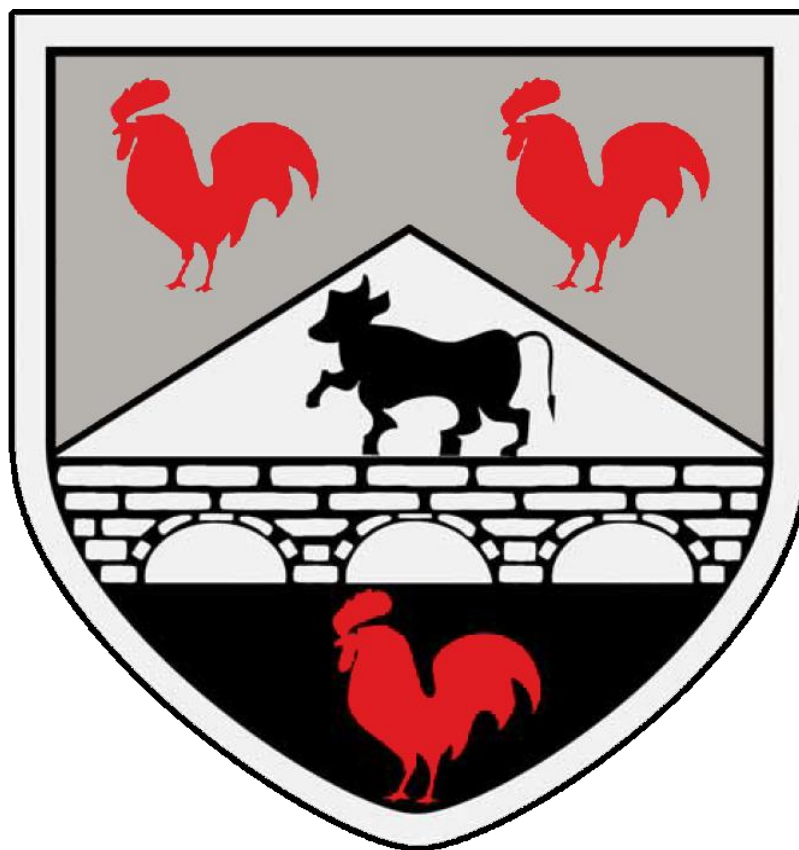




Cowbridge Comprehensive School Student Magazine

PRINT



- March 2019 -

Have a suggestion for PRINT?

Email us at print@cowbridgecs.co.uk



Editor's Note ~

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our fifth edition of PRINT, Cowbridge Comprehensive School's student magazine. March is Women's History Month, so this issue we're celebrating feminism with Cerys Woods' article, *The Guilty Feminist*. We also have an article discussing the important issue of period poverty with Freya Yates' article, *Period Poverty*. As most of you know, the performing arts department put on the annual school production just before half-term. This issue, we have a review celebrating its huge success by Adam Durrant. For a department interview, we have the Welsh department in the spotlight. As always, we have our charity piece about the *Carers Trust* and our blog piece: a short story by Rose Price on Valentine's Day.

From all of us at PRINT, we hope you can find something useful to read this month and enjoy our March Issue. And, once again, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the support of staff, students, and readers that we've received in the last few months.



Have something you want published?

Send it to us at print@cowbridgecs.co.uk



The Guilty Feminist

- Cerys Wood -

Feminism, I think we can all agree, is of fundamental importance to quite a few of us and, like many, I take pride in my label of being a 'feminist'. Unfortunately, dismantling the patriarchy, smashing the glass ceiling and closing the pay gap often fall to the bottom of my list of things to do, with getting my roots done and stocking up my vast collection of lip-gloss taking priority. Sometimes, when an ignorant bigot decides to raise their head and make a frankly unwanted contribution, you can think 'nah I'll let that pass'; it's been a long day - someone else can deal with it. These fears of being an 'inadequate feminist' or 'not being feminist enough', can make you wonder whether you deserve to wear the badge and march with those who *are* 'adequate feminists' and very much *are* 'feminist enough'. But who is anyone to set the standard for the perfect feminist and surely women judging women is exactly not what we want?

Deborah Frances-White, the acclaimed feminist, British-Australian, Oxford graduate, ex-Jehovah's Witness, author, director, broadcaster and overall amazing being - coined the term 'Guilty Feminist' on her podcast after the same name. As an ambassador for equality, diversity and inclusion, her admission of her faults as a key feminist figure was new and refreshing. Something we'd not seen before. She starts each of her podcasts, with the help of guest speakers such as Shappi Khorsandi, with the line "I'm a feminist but..." and proceeds to discuss whether they had a feminist week or a guilty week. Here are a few of my favorites so far:

- "I'm a feminist but I still watch America's Next Top Model unironically"- Personally, I think everyone should. Tyra Banks teaching people to 'smize' (smile with your eyes, look it up) is educational. It is a documentary.
- "I'm a feminist but can't we go back to the good-old days when girls weren't allowed to do maths?" Yes. Please.

Many women and feminists on more of the radical side heavily criticize White, despite her arguably producing the most relatable and popular style of feminism through humour. She makes it okay to bring fun to the fight but also knows when to draw her audience back in and encourage them to rally up against serious no-laughing problems such as period poverty. By Deborah Frances-White, humour is used as a tool for good and for change, however it is important for us to remember the severity of many the inequalities women face globally.

And so, the world of feminism can be a difficult one to navigate - especially when there are new sign posts popping up every few days stating things that, as 'feminists', we should or should no longer be doing. But ultimately, the Oxford English Dictionary defines a feminist as - a person who supports the belief that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men - so as long as you meet this definition I think you qualify to join one of the biggest families in the world.



Period Poverty

Freya Yates

If you haven't seen the mass of adverts and articles that have popped up on your screen whilst you're watching your favourite Youtuber, period poverty is a major issue in the UK that has only now been recognised and brought to light.

According to MacMillan Dictionary, period poverty is defined as girls and women being too poor to afford sanitary products, yet the reality is that it goes much deeper than this.

There has always been a large stigma around periods in the UK to the point where many girls won't talk about it. However, in recent light, the topic of periods has almost been forced into our faces and for a good reason, because it's nothing to be afraid or ashamed of. According to PLAN International, in the UK, 10% of girls are unable to afford sanitary products, 49% of girls have missed an entire school day due to their period and 12% of girls have had to 'improvise' on their periods. For those who don't know, which can be most of us, the average period can cost up to £492 a year - including sanitary products, new pants, pain relief and chocolate (Huffington Post) and even though the argument can be made that, things like chocolate and pain relief aren't needed, sanitary products are a must and can cost around £11 a period. This may not seem like a lot but when your household is already struggling with food and water bills, it becomes a 'luxury' that many girls cannot afford.

Furthermore, in the UK, many products have a VAT on them which is usually up to 20% and is put on products that the Government considers a luxury, such as: biscuits, crisps and sanitary products! Yet, things like cake and herbal tea are exempt. Just think about this for a second, we essentially believe that having period products is not necessary to us but cake is... Personally, that just seems utterly bizarre!

Look, having your first period can be daunting and you may feel embarrassed to ask for any help, but remember, almost every woman around you has experienced a period and has had to deal with the issues that come along with it. If you are struggling or you're worried then it is always important you speak to a parent, teacher and friend - someone you can trust - because whether we like it



or not, our periods will be with us for a long, long time and we cannot make them our enemy.

Period poverty is currently being dealt with in different ways across the UK but please, if someone asks you for a sanitary product, help them get one if you can and let them know it's okay and then you'll have made a small but amazing change in our fight against period poverty.





Welsh Department Interview



What do you look for in a star pupil?

A star pupil knows that intelligence, ability and talent are not fixed and are open to change and can be influenced by hard-work and practice. A star pupil keeps going when the going gets tough, persists in the face of obstacles and is not afraid to make mistakes, but rather sees them as an opportunity to learn. I think that star pupils have curiosity and constantly want to know why things happen and how things work. Being a star pupil is more about attitude than aptitude.

What is something students would be surprised about in your department?

Not all of us grew up speaking Welsh. Three out of five teachers went to English medium schools and did GCSE Welsh Second Language and A Level Welsh Second Language just like we do here in this school.

What is the best thing about your department?

Not only do we have a long history of academic success, but we know what it's like to learn a language; we know how difficult it can be, but we also know how valuable and worthwhile it can be too.

What are you most proud of?

All our teachers are not just fluent Welsh speakers, but we all have degrees in Welsh and are trained Welsh teachers. Which means you're all in very good hands. Also, our GCSE results are amongst the best in Wales, every year, which makes us probably the best Welsh department on the planet.



Why should a student take your subject at GCSE/A Level?

More than 580,000 people in Wales speak Welsh every day, and there are over a million people who understand Welsh. Linguistic experts calculate that there are over 200,000 Welsh speakers living outside of Wales. 26% of the world's population speak English, and only 6% as a first language. Among the 6,000 languages spoken in the world, if ranked by the number of speakers, Welsh would be in the top 15%.

All public sector organisations in Wales are legally bound to provide services in both Welsh and English and many private companies do so because it's good for business. This makes Welsh-speaking employees a very attractive asset to companies. Welsh language skills are increasingly valued by employers. With more and more services being offered bilingually, there is more demand for people with bilingual skills. The ability to use Welsh is essential if you want to work in the public sector, in education, healthcare and also hospitality and catering. Throughout Europe, the tourism and hospitality industries are recognising the importance of being able to offer unique experiences. Having two languages and a sense of Welsh history and culture puts Wales in a very strong position.

Most people, worldwide, speak one international language and one language that's tied to their own cultural identity. Anyone who can speak more than two languages knows that languages have worth beyond simply being a way of communicating. Languages are completely different ways of seeing the world. My life is greatly enriched by my ability to speak Welsh. I am yet to meet a single Welsh speaker or learner who would disagree. Since I and others who can speak the language consider it to be such a good and enriching thing, I suppose you'll just have to take our word for it! If that's not enough for you, perhaps you should learn and find out for yourself.





Barnum - *An Amazing Show Week*



Yet again, the Performing Arts Department has excelled itself with this year's school production of Barnum. Although ambitious, it certainly was worth any risk.

The first thing that comes to your attention when you enter the hall is the fantastic set. Rather than the usual seating and stage, the hall had been transformed: the seating had been pushed back and new tiered seating had been set up facing all four directions; it really felt like you'd taken a trip to the circus. The layout perfectly suited the performance, which certainly was a spectacle.

For those of you who don't know the story of Barnum, it follows the exploits and life of P.T Barnum (played by Luke Hinkin-Evans), who inspired the popular film, *The Greatest Showman*. However if you weren't a fan of the film, like me, don't worry- it's very different and, in my opinion, much better. It is equally as dramatic as the film, if not more, tackling the themes of love, politics and death. Not only is the musical enjoyable, Barnum was really well executed by the skilled Performing Arts Department, especially since the set had only been completed on the day of the first performance! There were around 150 pupils involved with the production, whether that be performing, playing in the band, helping back stage or selling refreshments. This made Barnum a record-breaking production in terms of the number of students participating.

Arguably this was one of the most ambitious performances to date in Cowbridge Comprehensive School's musical history. There was juggling, acrobatics, tight rope walking, magic tricks, opera singing and even a mermaid and the largest elephant in the world all alongside the usual singing, dancing and acting, which were fantastic. It was surprising that it all fitted under one roof! Yet the cast and crew put in an incredible amount of work and it really paid off- it was great to see the orchestra, headed by Mr Colbourne, on set as well, with some cast and band members welcoming and playing among the audience before the show. This really helped to set the scene.

All in all, lots of hard work led to an amazing show week- *and that's no humbug!*



BLOG PIECE

WHY I HATE VALENTINE'S DAY

When Valentine's day comes, kids give each other cards and make hearts out of red card and have fun.

Not me. I sulk in my bedroom or sulk at school, depending on what day it is, writing in my diary how unfair it is that for some reason all the other kids have boyfriends or girlfriends and I don't.

Even my SISTER has a boyfriend. And she's eight. I could've sworn no-one had a boyfriend or girlfriend when I was eight but there you go.

The ONLY thing I like about Valentine's day is that when it's over you can get jumbo packs of love hearts in the sweet shop for about twenty pence because they didn't sell enough before Valentine's day. But even then that's only because it's OVER.

I guess I'm just one of those people that the moment I get a boyfriend this will be my favourite time of year, but that just hasn't happened yet. Right now, I hate seeing all the soppy red paper hearts and pink posters advertising bunches of flowers and perfume. I sometimes think Valentine's day wasn't designed to make couples happy but to make single people feel lonely. Like me.

I'm not entirely sure who St Valentine was (I think he was Roman or something) but I don't know why he had to go and ruin February by dumping his stupid day slap bang in the middle of it.

It also doesn't help that my favourite colour is blue, definitely not red and pink. Seeing red and pink everywhere is not fun. It sort of seems unfair that at Christmas you get red and green, and Valentine's day you get red and pink, and at Easter you get pale yellow and pink and green, but blue just seems to be completely left out.

I guess that's my rant over. But I'm pretty sure there are thousands of people who agree with me. One of my friends, a girl called Anna, tried to start a petition last year to



cancel Valentine's day. She got over a hundred signatures (eighty of them boys) and she tried to send it to the prime minister but all she got was a message from the prime minister's secretary saying the prime minister couldn't cancel Valentine's day and she hadn't got enough signatures.

I think we must've caught the wrong person too because the secretary added a PS at the bottom explaining that it was her favourite day of the year and that we were not to contact her with anything similar again. So that was the end of that.

Anna and I have given up trying to stop Valentine's day after we got an email from the headmaster saying we couldn't put up posters saying Valentine's day was banned in school again unless we wanted a lunchtime detention.

So I suppose I'll just have to put up with it all.

- Rose Price





Carers Trust is an organisation that has been set up to help protect and give support to the thousands of young carers around the UK. The Trust gives young people who are struggling with all the extra responsibility of being a carer, a place to relax and get advice. An example of what you'd find on their website is how to gain financial support, get health and well-being access and even people to talk to when you're going through rough patches or having a hard time just coping. Currently in Wales the Trust have set up several extremely helpful projects like setting up a young carers ID card that will allow you more leniency when dealing with professionals; by showing the card you won't have to explain your entire situation any time you go to a practice such as the Doctors'. I highly recommend checking out the charities website, even if you're not a carer so that you may see how you can chip in to help with one of their many projects currently running across Wales.

<https://carers.org/>