

JFS

Journal

JFS School

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January 2023

When Agatha Christie's world-renowned play, 'The Mousetrap', first debuted in theatre, the writer herself did not believe it would run past a year. Now, 70 years on, it has become the longest running West End production, having been performed close to 29,000 times! The play is about a couple who own a guest house in the early 1950s and are opening it up for the first time, just as news of a murder (that day in London) reaches them. Five guests visit for the night and are snowed-in. However, the next afternoon, a policeman is sent to them, suspecting that one of seven in the house is the murderer from London. The rest of the play follows the murder investigation, as one of the characters falls victim to the killer. The show ends, swearing the

Christie's Legacy Lives On



From the Editor's Desk...

What an array of talent we have in our midst. In this edition you can delight in drama, learn at Limmud, treasure the theatre, study sports, peep at plays, follow fashions, behold the ballet, whether the weather and regard the register.

Thank you for reading!!

Ms Wolfson

audience to secrecy, so as not to ruin 'whodunnit' for anyone else.

For a piece of theatre that was written such a long time ago, one might think it has become dated and lost its relevance for the modern audience. However, I would strongly argue that this is not the case. In September 2022, the film, 'See How They Run', was released in cinemas in the UK and USA. The movie is based around Agatha Christie's iconic 'whodunnit' and takes on this aspect of the play as a key storyline to the film. The story is set in 1953 and begins with the celebration of the 100th performance of 'The Mousetrap'. The play is set to become a film, featuring the fictional American director Leo Köpernick. However, before Köpernick can even begin with the film, he is murdered backstage at the theatre where the play is performed. The story follows two police officers on the case to figure out who murdered Köpernick.

'See How They Run' draws many parallels to 'The Mousetrap', with certain scenes being replicated in order to enhance events of the storyline. Yet it carefully makes sure that those who have not seen the play are not put out. It even features a copy of the scene where the audience is sworn to secrecy. It is very clear that in the film's creation, the writers did not want to give away the magic of the play, which I find admirable. With just about any bit of information being available online today, 'The Mousetrap' could easily fall victim to its secret being spoilt and having the audience know 'whodunnit' whilst watching the play, which ruins the whole point of a 'whodunnit'.

So, has 'The Mousetrap' stood the test of time? I definitely think it has. The play is one I believe will never get old.

By Emily Bunder Y12

Taking the Register

Headline facts and figures - 2022

Summary

Overall absence rate

5.4%

during week commencing 12
September 2022

Authorised absence rate

3.5%

during week commencing 12
September 2022

Unauthorised absence rate

2.0%

during week commencing 12
September 2022

The attendance rate was 94.6% across all schools in the week commencing 12 September 2022. The absence rate was, therefore, 5.4% across all schools.

By school type, the attendance rate across the week was:

- 95.5% in state-funded primary schools
- 93.5% in state-funded secondary schools
- 89.3% in state-funded special schools

As reported by the BBC, there has been a rise in the school absence rates which has been a direct correlation to the rise in illnesses lately. The overall absence rates of the autumn term 2022 until the week commencing the 5th of December exceeded that of the 2021 autumn term during the Omicron variant's ubiquitous presence. This is partly due to the number of unauthorised absences having risen this term, compared with both pandemic and pre-pandemic levels. In the autumn term of 2021, JFS' attendance rate for Years 7 - 9 in the autumn term of 2021 was 93.80% on average compared to this year's 93.7%.

However, the department for Education has said that this increase in absence is due to the, "Recent increases of the rates of seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses." Moreover, in recent weeks

there has been an increase in flu cases which was most prevalent among children aged between 5 and 14 according to the UK Health Security Agency. We can see these national statistics are prevalent also in the JFS community with last academic year's autumn term having a higher

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attendance rate for KS3 than this year's autumn term.

This can be explained due to the rise in travel recently due to the pent-up demand to travel overseas so illnesses have been spreading more rapidly. Recently, everyone I have spoken to was ill over the winter break or knew someone who was.

Many have expressed their concerns about the recent disruption to education, which has so closely followed on from the Covid-19 pandemic. Geoff Barton, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, has conveyed his concerns stating that, "While schools have managed this situation as best they can, the rise in absence rates is concerning from both a health and education point of view."

By Tami Potishman Y11

Education Loss



On December 12th 2022, parts of the UK experienced the first snow in almost two years. Unfortunately, this meant that many students and teachers were unable to get into school and because of this, several thousand children have lost out on vital parts of their education. It is now being considered that for each snow day, an extra day is added on at the end of term to ensure children receive the correct amount of learning or even making it compulsory that the school find ways for the children to learn from home.

However, many disagree with this and are of the belief that as it is extremely rare for snow to settle in the UK, snow days should not lead to added days later as it is a valuable experience for children. Moreover, if school is closed on days where it is inaccessible, it will mean that no child is behind in their learning and this would therefore not result in extra schooling being necessary.

Amanda Spielman, Chief Inspector for Ofsted says, "It really is important that the default is keeping schools open. Obviously, there are circumstances in which that is not possible." When she was asked what her opinion on added days was, she stated that the government would have to make that decision, but it would be highly

effective as children have lost a lot of their schooling already. Living with Covid has allowed us to see how hard it is without full education; so it is now of utmost importance that we learn to accept a small amount of extra learning time.

In 2020, it was found that learning gaps had increased drastically but much of this increase occurred before we went into lockdown. Having said

“
8.4 million children are deprived of education in the United Kingdom alone
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this, the gap between many students' knowledge had remained the same from around 2007, so this has given us more awareness of how illness highly affects education. Assuming that the learning gap was not a result of lockdown, we can learn that it may have been the paranoia of parents not wanting to send children into school that resulted in grades lessening.

8.4 million children are deprived of education in the United Kingdom alone. This shows that we are extremely fortunate to be in a good education system and will hopefully all go on to have good careers. UNICEF stated that without education, children will be less able to develop their full potential. Aside from Covid, there are several recurring issues that lead to education loss including disabilities, transportation and violence. All of these are problems that many children around the world experience and even our communities may have experienced them in less severity.

Notwithstanding, many who are privileged do not see how differences between people can lead to loss of education so it is important that those who are aware can educate those who do not see the importance of education and equal treatment.

By Esther Nathan Y7

Messi Finally Wins

If one game could summarise a whole tournament, it would be the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final. One team was led by a star who needed only one more trophy for his lucrative collection; and the other was led by a star who has been waiting in the wings and was ready to take over.

The much-awaited competition promised so much and it delivered it perfectly. Whether it was the heart-warming moments of Achraf Hakimi celebrating each historic win for Morocco with his mother in the front row, or it was the heart-



breaking moments of seeing one of the world's greats bow out early in his last-ever tournament. It may have been the chance that was taken to give a country a sense of hope, such as Wout Weghorst's intelligent finish in the 101st minute to keep the Netherlands hanging. Or, it was that single chance missed, such as Harry Kane's penalty that could have handed England a lifeline in their aim to reach the final.



10.00 am. 1.00 pm. 4.00 pm. 7.00 pm. Students, adults, families, people on aeroplanes, and even schools joined an audience of millions to tune into the matches in unison. Every word

sang of the national anthem, every cheer as players ran towards the goal, every chant after their country succeeded into the next round. Even as far as national holidays that were announced to commemorate upsets, such as Saudi Arabia's shock win in their first match against eventual winners Argentina.

But, at the end of the day, the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup belongs to only one man; and no, it is not Emiliano Martinez and his incredible penalty-saving ability. It was Lionel Messi, the 35-year-old of Paris Saint-Germain and Argentina, scoring an outstanding seven goals as Argentina stormed to victory.

The World Cup is the 'creme de la creme' of football, even if you are not a football enthusiast. To see people so emotionally wrapped even to the finest detail of a much debated and sensible question of, "Which channel does the country have a greater record on?"

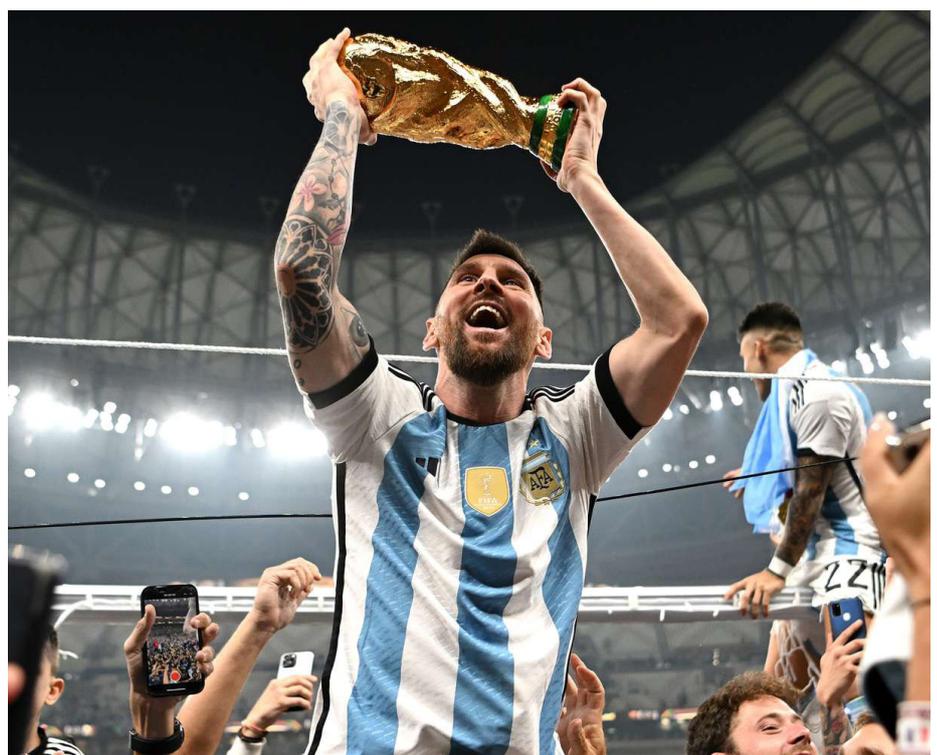
So as a new generation evolves, and players say their farewells, having won the most-coveted prize in world

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At the end of the day, the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup belongs to only one man”

football or not, the World Cup acts as a stage to introduce the future of the world's beautiful game. Stars are to be made and are born before we know it.

This World Cup may be the most memorable tournament of our generation, as we are likely to not see a pool of such talented players for a while. The MSN era, the Ronaldo and the Luka Modric era is coming to a close, and as the curtain came to a close at the Lusail Stadium in Qatar, there couldn't have been a better 120 minutes on the 18th of December to represent that.

By Aaron Jaffe Y12



Parliament In Person

“
I encourage you to read about the incredible history the parliament in our country holds!”

From the Cost-of-Living crisis to the continuous strikes from Railway workers, Nurses and many more, the UK Parliament has been in the news a lot recently! I was invited by MP Stephen Metcalfe to watch the first Prime Minister's Questions of 2023, and to have a tour of the beautiful Palace of Westminster. It was a very interesting and motivating trip, and I would like to share it with all the wonderful readers of the JFS Journal.

Prime Minister's Questions is a weekly event every Wednesday at noon where all MPs get together for one big debate. The Members of Parliament, from both sides of the House, ask questions to the Prime Minister regarding concerns in their constituencies, recent policies and manifestos, and much more.

I began my journey through Parliament in Westminster Hall. Not only is it the oldest building on the Parliamentary Estate at 925 years old, but it was, and still is the most used 'room' in the entire palace! Every Monarch, Prime Minister and some US Presidents have addressed an audience in there. It is most recently recognised from the Queen's Laying in State, where her coffin sat in the middle of this grand hall.

The central lobby is the last point you can go as a 'stranger' (this name is



an old-age tradition and is another name for visitors), and a fun fact is that you can 'lobby' for your MP here. This means that you would talk to the people standing around, waiting for a meeting, debate or in my case, PMQs, advertising your MP to try to boost votes for your party of choice.

Before it was time for Rishi to 'take the stage,' the procession of 'The Mace' took place (the golden stick that gives the chamber permission to be a parliament). We took our seats in the Gallery during the questions for the Minister of Scotland.

At precisely midday, cheers were heard in the chamber, which is a lot smaller

than it looks on television. The MPs began to scrutinise Rishi Sunak for his new policies that he had announced at a press conference the previous week in Stratford.

From the NHS to Andrew Tate, every topic you could imagine was mentioned in the short 30 minutes the PM was there. I learnt so much in my short time at the Houses of Parliament. I am very grateful to MP Stephen Metcalfe for this incredible opportunity, and I encourage you to read about the incredible history the Parliament in our country holds!

By Adam Kirwilliam Y9

TESLA vs POLESTAR

Nowadays, we see increasingly more electric cars everywhere, even in our shopping centres! In this article, I'm going to compare two electric car companies.

In 2022, 224,119 electric cars were sold in the UK alone. But, the question here is if you should go big and get an established brand of electric car or go small and get a lesser-known brand. In this case, the established brand is Tesla, American, which you have probably heard of. The other, smaller brand is Polestar, a Swedish company founded in 2017 as a part of Volvo.

The specs I will be comparing are:

- Upgrades (added features)
- Size
- Looks
- Speed
- Efficiency
- Comfort

This will be for the Tesla Model X (2022) and the Polestar 2 (2020). Both these cars are dual motor meaning they are all wheel drive and

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Nowadays, we see increasingly more electric cars everywhere
”

therefore have better grip, meaning they are better at dealing with wet, icy, or otherwise slippery conditions than a single motor car.

Size - Both cars are quite chunky, the Tesla coming in at a whopping 1.684m (height) by 5.036m (length) by 1.999m (width). Meanwhile, the Polestar 2 is large but not as much as the Tesla. It has the measurements of 1.497m (height) by 4.606m (length) by 1.859m (width). For the Tesla, the boot size is 2,487 litres where as for

the Polestar it is 1,095 litres with the back seats down. This is a noticeably significant difference.

Looks - Both cars look very modern and futuristic on the inside and outside. The Tesla stands out to me however because of its falcon wing doors. Not only do they look good on the outside but they have an attractive interior. The only problem with them is they have no in-door storage. The Polestar has a sleek, futuristic interior but no falcon wing doors. This means the Polestar doesn't stand out as much. The Tesla comes in a lot more colours: Solid Black, Midnight Silver Metallic, Deep Blue Metallic, Red Multi-Coat, Midnight Silver Metallic. We see different colours on the Polestar, which are: Magnesium, Jupiter, Thunder, Snow, Midnight and Space. The Polestar has a much more metallic array of colour options and is not available in red or the bright blue that the Tesla is available in.

Speed - Being a dual motor, the





Polestar has an increased top speed than the single motor, being 127mph. The Tesla is a lot faster capping at 162mph. In terms of 0-60, the Tesla comes in at 2.5 seconds, and the Polestar at 4.5 seconds. For the Tesla, the standard wheel size is 20", and for the Polestar, it is 19"5.

Efficiency - Being fast isn't always the best. The Tesla takes more battery power the faster you go, as in any electric car. It takes seven hours for the Tesla to fully charge, while the Polestar takes eight. The Tesla can go 270 miles on one charge and the Polestar 300 miles. Both cars use regenerative charging. This soon to be revolutionary piece of tech can recharge your car battery when braking.

Comfort - In the Tesla, all seats are heated and ventilated, for chilly days this would be very useful. However, the Polestar is only equipped with heated seats for the driver and front passenger. Both cars have a panoramic windshield. The Tesla has a horizontal control screen in the front and a screen in between the front seats for the rear seat passengers to enjoy and can be connected to game controllers to play games. You can also use streaming services like Twitch.tv and Netflix to watch television. The Polestar has a portrait one in the front but none in the back. The Tesla only has one seat material choice, synthetic leather upholstery. The Polestar takes the point here as it

has three options for seats. The basic one is normal cloth. Then there is the slightly upgraded one, 'weavetech', and then the premium seats, which are made of leather. The 'weavetech' is made of recycled PET bottles.

Upgrades (addable features) - Both cars have upgradable features you can buy when getting the cars. You buy the cars on the internet and not in the stores. Let's start with the Tesla. For starters, it does not have as many more upgradable features as the Polestar. You can upgrade the wheels to 22". Upgrade your autopilot to advanced autopilot, or even better, full self-driving. The advanced autopilot includes features like auto lane change and Auto Park. The full self-driving includes all of the advanced autopilot features plus traffic light and stop sign control and soon Autosteer on city streets. As for the Polestar, there is a lot to cover. First, you can get the performance pack. This includes 20"4 alloy wheels and a software upgrade. You can also get the less expensive pilot pack which includes items like better sound. You can get better interior design features with the plus pack. This includes nicer seat material and surfaces. Finally, you can get detachable accessories for the Polestar which include items like child seats, a towbar and mats.



By Ben Foxman Y7

Journalists On The Go

In the interest of bringing even better journalism to you, the JFS newspaper team visited the offices of The Guardian newspaper in Kings Cross.

Before going on this trip, I had the expectation that it would give me more of an insight into how to structure, and write an article, and would teach me to be more critical of my work. In reality, I took away many more skills than this. We started off by exploring the structure

of a newspaper and of how articles are written, and then by looking at a typical day for a journalist – although this varies, as some journalists begin their shift at 1.00 am. We were then tasked with building a newspaper front page, complete with headlines, two articles, pictures, and four kickers (short additional headlines).

More importantly, our newspaper front page had to be created in roughly 80

minutes. The strict deadline of midday was much tighter than we had ever imagined and provided a bit of a change to my unhurried, unpressured style of writing articles. Nevertheless, I found that the opportunity to work under pressure taught me invaluable skills around how to effectively organise the limited time that I had.

The trip to the offices of The Guardian newspaper also helped me to perceive the impact my writing has on a reader, and to understand what grabbing the reader's attention really means. With a finite amount of space on the newspaper front page, only a restricted number of characters are allowed in the articles. So, every word counted, every word had to have an impact, had to give the full story, and yet at the same time intrigue a reader to read on.

Being concise was perhaps the most fundamental skill that I learnt from our trip. It taught me the importance of a well-structured article, both to grab the reader's attention as well as to convey a clear message and unambiguous information.

By Eliana Y11

perfect vegetarian dinners
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**ed Gray report now
ent' after Met row**

MPs labelled the Metropolitan Police a broken organisation after the force admitted it had asked Gray to make "minimal reference" in her inquiry report to matters its officers were now investigating. Gray's team had been considering sending a redacted version of the report to No 10 or waiting for the Met to conclude its inquiry and then sending the full report. Last night, government sources said they decided to send a redacted version, at the request of the Met. They are not believed to be intending to submit anything further to Downing Street. Earlier, Labour had called for the full report to be published. It said the government was in a state of extended paralysis, while some Tory backbenchers described Boris Johnson as a "lame duck" without the authority to tackle the looming cost of living crisis and possible Russian invasion of Ukraine. Scotland Yard had issued a brief statement yesterday morning saying it was in "ongoing contact" with Gray's team about "the content of the report" to "avoid any prejudice to our investigation". Police stressed they had not asked for the document to be delayed, but their request left Gray unable to publish the report as she intended. Last night, in a further statement, the Met said it had received "information" from the Cabinet Office "to

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Ben Whishaw
Sometimes with straight actors playing gay parts, I think: I don't believe you

→ Saturday

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“ Being concise was perhaps the most fundamental skill that I learnt from our trip ”

AI Brings A New Era

Artificial intelligence has become an art form. Images that once had been thought as only possible to be created by humankind, have been created and improved by AI (Artificial Intelligence). Not only has art been radically changed by machines, but basic text based conversations have been created by it to be almost human-like, and these machines can even create their own stories.

What is AI? AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a man-made machine that can work out problems using its knowledge and being able to perceive and infer, like humans do. The idea of AI is not new. Alan Turing, who created the enigma machine in WW2, speculated about the possibilities of AI. He mentioned that one day, AI would 'play very good

chess', and that was proved true when, in 1997, Deep Blue (made by IBM), beat the current world champion, Garry Kasparov, in a Chess match.

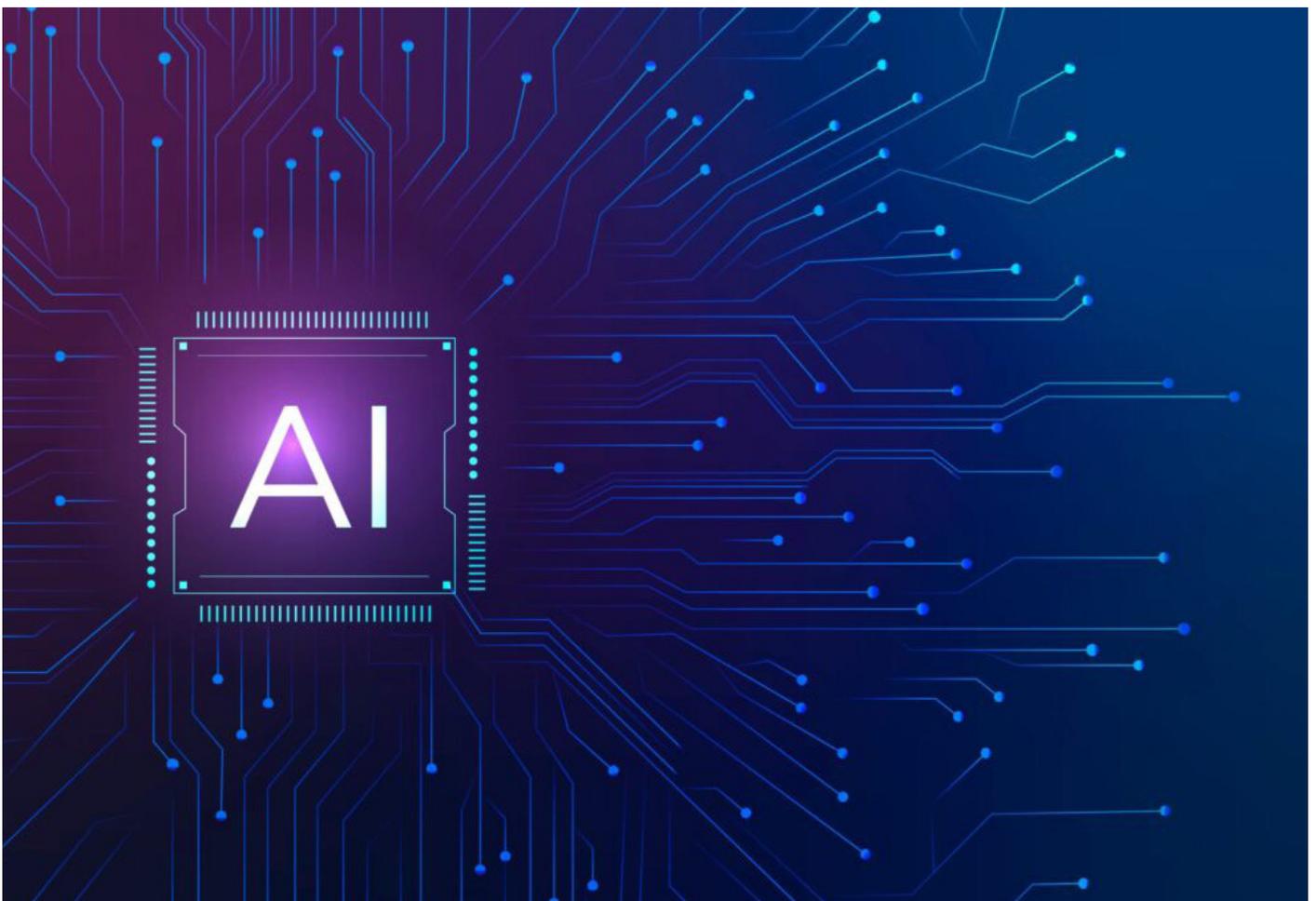
AI cannot know what we want from them. That is where 'prompts' come in. You put in a short piece of text, and the AI works out what you want to know from there. For Image AI's you put the prompt in and the AI tries to figure out an image that has the same meaning as your words. For example your 'prompt' could be 'a knight standing in the rain, as a castle looms ahead of him'. The AI will then output one or more images, depending on your AI, which shows your 'prompt' in words.

A new job called 'prompt engineer' has emerged. Someone who puts in 'prompts' for a certain output, most

probably these would be very complex and long. These would be like a form of code. Overall, I believe that a new era of art and technology has begun, and what we are seeing now, is just the beginning!

By Elijah Pillemer Y9

“ **Artificial
intelligence has
become an art
form** ”



With Love From London



Just as it hit 00:00, on the first of January 2023, more than 100,000 people were gathered on the banks of the Thames to watch the return of the internationally renowned London fireworks show, and to welcome in the new year.

Many people considered this year's display to be the most elaborate and show stopping performance in memory, but far fewer people know of the amount of preparation, dedication and cooperation that goes into its production. Surprisingly, the production planning first begins in September with the music. This year's set was composed of three acts and 37 songs, directed by Kojo Samuel,

founder of Kojo Music, and included hits from Cher, Dave, Rhianna, Elton John and many more. The show was produced by a company called Identity, who describe themselves on their website as a 'global full-service live events agency'. The 12,000 fireworks were supplied by Titanium Fireworks, based in St Neots, Cambridgeshire. They have also been responsible for events such as the 2014 Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games and the Trinity May Ball in 2019.

Half of all the fireworks used were launched from three barges waiting beneath the London Eye, filled with 30 tonnes of equipment, and 2,000

fireworks each. It took three days per barge for all of the detonators to be set up. The 2023 show also included 400 drones provided by Celestial, who describe themselves as, 'a drone art company that connects technology with soul' and have previously worked on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The lighting was designed by Tim Routledge, who has also worked with Stormzy on his Glastonbury performance, Beyonce during her Formation world tour, Sam Smith, the Spice Girls and many others. The display lasted 10 minutes and 50 seconds and was synchronised and triggered by GPS to Big Ben's New Year countdown.

Composed of five main tributes, the fireworks kicked off to the sound of Sweet Caroline, commemorating the Lionesses' victory during the 2022 Women's Euros. The accolade proved just how monumental the win was not just for England, but also for the women's game as a whole. Whilst the Lionesses homage subsided, it was followed by a message of continual support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict against Russia, by lighting up the London Eye in the blue and yellow of Ukraine's national flag. This salute was accompanied by Stefania, a song from the Ukrainian winners of Eurovision, the Kalush Orchestra. Rainbow fireworks observed 50 years of London's Pride, with a message from Peter Tatchell (from the Gay Liberation Front), "We are here, we are queer, and you better get used to it." Turning away from all the noise, the Thames was silent as drones above the Horse Guards Parade formed a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, as her 50p coin. Alongside this image, words from the late Queen were played, "I declare before you all,

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From the JFS Newspaper team, we wish you a very happy 2023!

that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service," accompanied by a farewell from Dame Judi Dench. The drones then changed to a newly minted 50p of King Charles III, with the anecdote,

“As stewards of this precious planet, it is our actions, and our actions alone, that will determine its future.”

It was not just the UK that marked 2023 with a bang!

Australia's fireworks rivalled that of London's, where approximately 13,000 fireworks, totalling AU\$7 million (£4 million), were set off from the Sydney Opera House. Brazil's celebrations included a drone memorial of the renowned footballer, Pelé, who passed away two days before New Year's Eve. In Taiwan, fireworks erupted from the sides of the country's largest skyscraper, Taipei 101. Halfway around the world, in Dubai a similar display could be seen from the Burj Khalifa.

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After two years of no celebrations at all due to the covid pandemic, for many the New Year's fireworks symbolise a more hopeful future.

From the JFS Newspaper team, we wish you a very happy 2023!

By Ilana Long Y12



To Kill A Mockingbird Play Adaptation

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The world-famous book, published on the 11th of July 1960, has been adapted into a play that is currently being performed in London. This play questions the old American justice system and makes the reader question where the line crosses for right and wrong in this coming-of-age story.

Through the eyes of a young girl named Scout, we see how the world is perceived from an innocent angle. We see her journey, and how the range of events opens her eyes to the real unfair world, and the importance of pursuing justice. This provokes the thinking of right and wrong and if a person is really evil or good

in the end. The reason the book is called 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is because Atticus (Scout's father) tells her, "It's a sin to kill a mockingbird." This symbolises someone innocent who has been injured or even killed

“**Makes the reader question where the line crosses for right and wrong in this coming-of-age story**”

unfairly by an evil or wrong person. This image/symbol is used many times throughout this book and this plays into the themes of good and evil, acceptance and justice.

As well as seeing the play, you can read the book and watch the movies, which are available on YouTube. The book has won awards such as the Pulitzer Prize and the movies have won several Oscars and Golden Globes. This current production of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' has broken records and been a huge success; also due to famous actors being cast such as Matthew Modine, from Stranger Things, who is currently playing Atticus (January 2022).

This is a play worth seeing and is still relevant today with the ongoing problems of sexism, racism and antisemitism. The rumours, fake news and injustice in today's society is something which we should all recognise and try to battle. This book will help you see different angles and sides to justice and provide a great learning experience to take into your everyday lives and then share your knowledge and improve our society for the better.

By Hannah Pillemer Y10



Winter fashion Trends

Scarves, thermals, coats, hats, and gloves. Not exactly the formula for a fashion statement. With the depths of winter brewing, the difficult decision of choosing style or warmth faces the public. Every year, people are having to choose warm, yet unflattering and unfashionable coats and boots to maintain good health and grip on icy roads, whilst brutally obliterating their fashion profile.

That leaves us with the question; does the cold weather automatically cause a dip in more than the temperature? Alternatively, do we simply need to be reminded of the two trendy items which save us every year from a diabolical and borderline embarrassing ensemble.

“ Does the cold weather automatically cause a dip in more than the temperature? ”

‘UGGS coming back into fashion’ was perfectly put by the New York Times, “Highly unlikely yet totally predictable.” The shoe had lost its ‘It’ factor for years and enthusiasm over the shoe faded as they became absorbed by the mass market and the likeability faded away. However, Winter 2022 has seen a rebirth of the luxury boots.

It was not just the UGG shoe itself that was reinvented, but UGG covers have also been created this year to preserve the non-waterproof boots and ensure they remain intact for every winter to come.

The comeback of UGGS has not only been with the original designs, tones, and lengths but also some edgier, artier inclinations to reinforce



the trendy nature of the brand. This has broadened its audience to new consumers, in particular teens whose interest has been sparked (particularly through the influence of celebrities who have confirmed UGGS are now ‘trendy’ again). UGGS are officially back!

This year has seen the return of earmuffs rather than bobble hats which has been unexpected, yet most idyllic. Not only is the price of earmuffs on average significantly lower but the physical benefits are also high.

Earmuffs have been around since the 1870s and their truly timeless nature

is down to both style and safety. They provide both hearing protection and warmth to a sensitive area which can become uncomfortably cold without protection. More importantly, wearing earmuffs rather than a hat means a fresh blow dry is preserved and minimises forehead breakouts from the cotton touching your skin. What more could you ask for from an accessory?

So, you are now legitimately ready to hop on the winter trends and leave the comfort of your home knowing your winter outfits are both cosy and classy every single time.

By Leah viner Y12

Limmud 2022 - Together Again

On the 23rd of December 2022 the Limmud Festival started at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham. This 6-day wonder was filled with food, fun, games, speeches, events and education on Jewish knowledge and culture. Are you thinking about attending next year? If you aren't right now, you definitely will be by the end of this article!

Speakers and Speeches

At Limmud anyone can do a speech about anything they want, related to a Jewish topic; and yes, that can include anyone including you. You can hear life stories, religious talks, political discussions, speeches about Jewish history and current Israeli affairs that are amazing and inspiring. Trust me, at Limmud there will always be, every hour of the day, a session which will appeal to you.

Things to do

From babka making to watching movies you are never bored at Limmud. Aside from the speeches there was a screening of the animated movie, 'Where is Anne Frank', stand-up comedy, pickle making, football, Torah learning, wide game, assassins and many more. Some activities bring you closer to friends and family, whilst others make you meet new people and create everlasting bonds.

Concerts

During the evenings there were concerts that were truly amazing - full of cheering, dancing and singing. The singers and musicians included Bat Ella, Daniel Cainer, Sephardi performances of Moroccan music, Klezmer and more. All the singers and performers were exceptional - their voices like no other. For those who

want to show off their own voice there were 'open mics'.

YTL- Young Teen Limmud

From Sunday onwards, while the adults listen to speeches, children and teenagers do YTL. YTL is a youth program that runs from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Each year group is a separate group. In YTL you listen to talks, do arts and crafts, take part in events, play games, do murder mysteries and much more. From Year 7 up you can leave YTL anytime you want to attend speeches, events or to go do something else that you fancy.

Tots and Toddlers

For the little ones there's a nursery and if their parents want to go to events and speeches during the evening, there are baby listeners. There are also many interactive events for them, such as a giant bouncy castle and a ball pit.

International

France, Switzerland, USA, Brighton, Wales, Canada, South Africa, and Israel are just some of the places people came from this year at Limmud. I myself made new friends from France, America, and England. Limmud is for the old and the young, the religious and the secular and all genders. Everyone is welcome who is interested in Jewish learning and

“ *This 6-day wonder was filled with food, fun, games, speeches, events and education on Jewish knowledge and culture* ”

takes their next step further in their Jewish journey.

Overall, I loved Limmud Birmingham 2022! My favourite part was just staying in the Hilton hotel, having the whole hotel only for Limmud participants. In the halls and conference rooms we dined, danced, listened, and created unforgettable memories. The atmosphere was amazing, and I would absolutely recommend coming to Limmud Birmingham 2023!

By Roline Pillemer Y7

**SHMOOZE
TOGETHER
FESTIVAL 2022**



Ballet - An Underrated Art

When most people think of ballet, they think of young women dancing in tutus to twinkly music. But this is only part of the story. Dance has been used in performances for thousands of years, but ballet itself first came into being in Renaissance Italy. In 1581 France had its first major ballet, and in 1673 Russia did too, these are the two countries where the most famous ballet productions come from.

Despite this amazing history, some people think it is not for them. For some, this is just a matter of opinion, but for others, it is because of what they have been told, which may not necessarily be true.

Some people think ballet is performed almost entirely by women. There are many that have male protagonists! Others don't like it because it is expensive, which is also not true. You

can get cheap tickets for most ballets in the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, which is very famous for its amazing performances.

Some think it is old fashioned, but this is again untrue for many ballets. People are constantly making new ballets, modernising old ones, or adapting them from another story or event.

“
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music”

Others think there is only one type, a fairytale-like magic story like 'The Nutcracker' or 'Swan Lake'. But there are other types too. There are adaptations of other stories such as 'Romeo and Juliet' or 'Alice in Wonderland', there are gothic ones like 'Giselle', classic fairy tales like 'Sleeping Beauty', and even ones based on true events like 'Mayerling'. So now you know the full story, then why not head down to a theatre, whether it is the local one down the road, or the Royal Opera House itself, and witness a centuries-old tradition, no matter if it is a classic ballet or a brand-new one, and see if maybe you like it after all!

(All ballets referenced have been attended by the author).

By Judith Mailer Y8





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