

# THE COLLEGE CHRONICLE



# Liverpool College

# The Editorial

Welcome to the first Sixth Form Newsletter of the academic year!

A new term means a new cohort of writers with new article ideas. In this edition we are normalising the nude through arty gal Amelia's life drawing experience and encouraging others to attend classes.

Ever confused, Laila is questioning how a lady version of James Bond would impact society. Hopefully she reaches a conclusion quicker than she did when choosing a University course.

Our resident storyteller, Mia, has written a short story titled the 'Yellow Door,' about an argument - we won't give too much away, but one question: who is "you"???

Eve and Sarah, as well as regretting taking three essay subjects and spending every hour of the day together, are attempting to make some sense of the chaotic political climate by exploring its connections with the Classical world. We can't promise impartiality, but we can ensure a new perspective on the topics the nation is tired of hearing about.

Sam is looking ahead to University and writes about the general consensus of Sixth form. It may upset some of you to think of a time when the school's best year group is departed, but Sam's insight will help us to prepare for the inevitable future.

Nikita provides an interesting perspective as he interviews two of the new borders on adapting to the College after leaving their past lives.

Guest writer and local celebrity Jack Matthews has written about the influence of art on his personal life and its importance in society.

Wanted! If you are reading this and want to contribute any articles feel free to do so!





This is a way in which you can express your creativity and gain experience in writing. Just email your written pieces to [18stallworthy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:18stallworthy@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) and or [18williams@liverpoolcollege.org.uk](mailto:18williams@liverpoolcollege.org.uk) for a chance to be featured.

We hope you enjoy reading our pieces!

Au revoir,

Eve and Amelia

Photo credits to Sarah

# In Pursuit of a *Pax Britannica*-: Boris and the Emperor Augustus

To any individual who follows current affairs, it should come as no surprise that the Prime Minister is a Classics graduate. His background in the ancient world seems to have acted as a constant undertone, and at times a guide, to his pursuits in modern politics. The subject is apparent in every aspect of his career, from the grandeur of his Greece vs Rome debate with Mary Beard, to the simple placement of a bust of Pericles in his study. Most recently, Johnson has used the emperor Augustus' murder of political rivals as justification for his expulsion of 21 Tory rebels from the Conservative Party.

His comparison of himself to the “first” emperor of Rome is an unsurprising comment from the man who decided to go from journalism to politics because “no one builds statues of journalists”. Augustus, or Gaius Octavius to use his original name, exerted a tyrannical force during the civil wars, with stories existing of him ripping out the eyes of anyone who came in his way with his bare hands. However, after finally defeating Antony



and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium, he made the political decision to reinvent himself, from murderous tyrant to paternalistic peacemaker, and thus renamed himself Augustus. Our thoughts are already drawn to a certain figure in our democracy, one who also in pursuit of personal reinvention changed his name from “Alex” to “Boris”. The figure would also, like Augustus,

rather divert our attentions away from his teenage years, not to mention from his “disgracefully cavalier attitude to his classical studies”.

On his deathbed, the Emperor Augustus is reported to have said “I found Rome a city of bricks, and left it a city of marble.”. After the civil war, Rome a city destroyed by conflict, but Augustus’ actions transformed it into what would be the centre of the western world for 200 years. Unfortunately, Johnson cannot be said to have enjoyed the same success in his tenure as Mayor of London, with his spending of over £940m on a new set of London buses with a tendency to overheat, and the Emirates Air Line cable car that was found to not have one single frequent user. Other projects such as the garden bridge had millions of pounds spent on their development, only to never leave the initial stages of planning.



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Perhaps Johnson's intentions in his comparison are an intentional foreshadowing of what he hopes his tenure as Prime Minister will bring. Augustus' most famous legacy is not his tyranny, but the Pax Romana, a 200-year long period of peace commencing at Augustus' accession, after he closed the Gates of Janus to signify the end of war. Presumably, Boris believes that he can be the Prime Minister to bring a long-awaited peace to the years of unrest in our country, albeit securing the British border doesn't have the same ring as sealing the Gates of Janus. It will soon become certain whether Johnson will enjoy his Pax Britannica, or whether we will be one step closer to what in AD 69 became known as the 'year of the four emperors'.

Eve



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## Normalising the Nude

Recently, I attended my first life drawing class at Leaf on Bold Street. Although I had drawn people in real time before, the models were always clothed. In art, we often work from images over a long period of time, in order to achieve the detail needed for a high grade. There is an expected outcome. Yet in the life drawing session no one was there to judge, or grade sketches. Instead, we all appreciated each other's pieces for what they were with no preconceptions. Life drawing is also different because of what you are actually doing: it requires you to draw what you see with the added difficulty of time pressure. When doing coursework in art at school we often have too much choice in terms of what we choose to create. This overwhelming feeling is not present in life drawing as you just draw what you see.

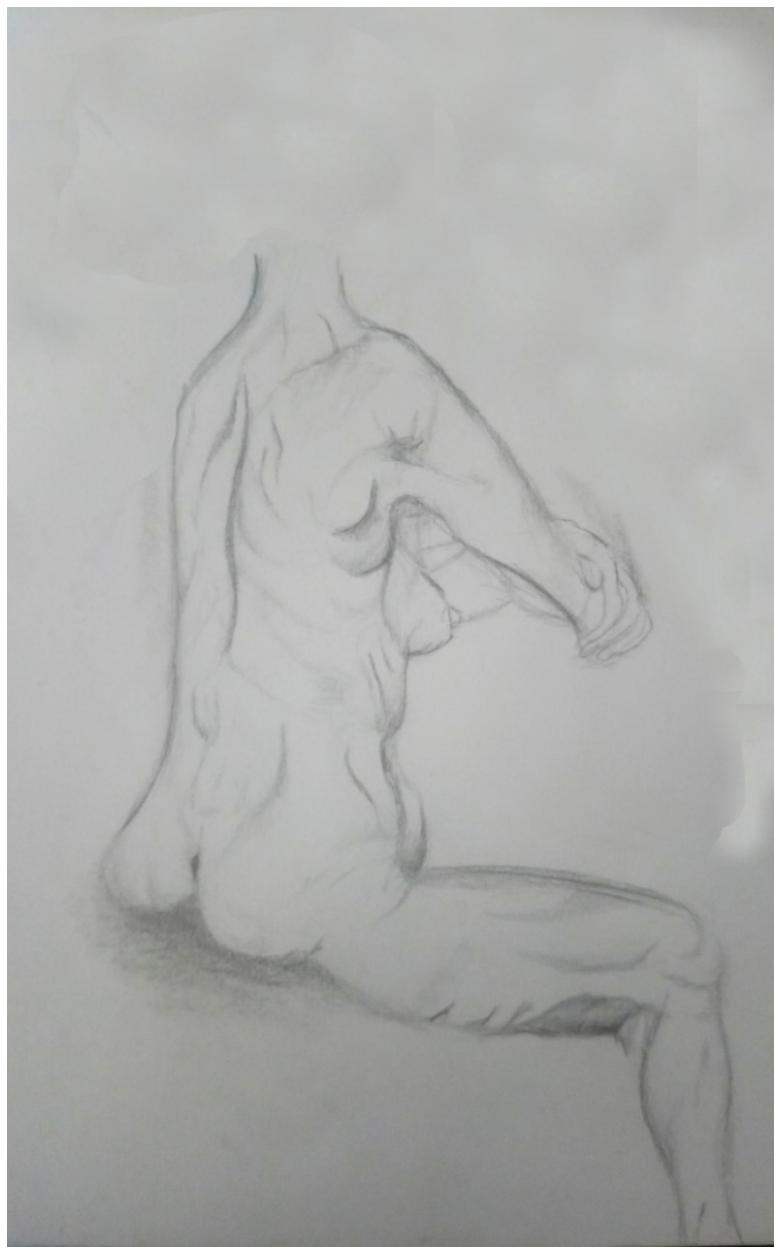
A red velvet curtain revealed a spiral staircase to a second floor that separated the jazz night downstairs from the intimate sketches created above. I was apprehensive because I did not know what was going to happen. I sat second row, with a clear view in front of me. We began with five two minute sketches, followed by a set of five minute sketches, a break, two twenty minute sketches, and finally two thirty-five minute sketches. The session goes very quickly and in turn I did not stop to think, I just drew. Others sipped on their wine whilst drawing and so there was a relaxed, calm atmosphere which soothed my anxiety. Even in three hours I could see the progress of my drawing from the first light sketches to the more defined and detailed pieces at the end. We concluded with a presentation of our creations; this allowed us to compare how each of us saw the figure before us and in turn interpreted our own styles.

From this experience I learnt a lot about the nude and how it differs from nakedness. There is a sexist argument surrounding the topic as most often it is women who appear naked in art, rather than men. Some of these creations are for pleasing a male audience and in turn these women become objects, just like a vase of flowers. Critic John Berger argues, 'To be naked is to be oneself. To be nude is to be seen naked by others and yet not recognised for oneself.' To an extent this is true because in the moments of creation you are just looking at a body, attempting to refine your skills as an artist. Yet afterwards that nude model is not just an object, as you remember the experience and recognise the model for who they are. But perhaps that is just me trying to oppose the dominant male influence on our experience of art.

I hope with this article you have become more comfortable and aware with what actually occurs at life drawing classes. I would recommend going with a friend for your first time to make it more comfortable, but also to share the experience with one another.

The group I attended was Liverpool Life Drawing which you can follow on Facebook for more updates of classes and events! Other recommendations for classes include the Palm House, Bluecoat and Liverpool Independent Art School.

Amelia



# Earth: What you can't miss, but don't notice

We all have things in our life that bring us joy. Some people have music, some have their favourite sport and absolute oddities. I, for example, enjoy looking at the demented and creative media the internet has to offer.

Art has been a major influence in my life due to my parents. My father has an undoubtable talent to make me cringe and cry with laughter at the same time and my mum, with her degree in drama, is probably more dramatic than most reality shows now-a-days. They have helped open my eyes and my brother's eyes to the wonders of the creative world!

Ever since I was a tyke I have been drawing, granted most of the early pieces wouldn't have got into the Louvre, but after years and years of doodles and practice, I can safely say my art has greatly improved.

Art is everywhere. Your day is filled with art whether you like it or not. From buildings, to cars, to the clothes you're wearing, the grass, the leaves, the sun or even WHAT YOU'RE READING THIS ON, it's all art. People always have different views on what they consider is art. Look at whatever you find interesting and no matter what it is I can guarantee you it's art. It's art because it has been put together and you are able to appreciate it, not just give it a quick glance. To be interested in anything shows that you put this one little, minute thing above others.



Jack

## Looking ahead to university



The pressure is rising for our Year 13s as we head into a crucial time of deciding futures and making plans. Talking to other students in the year, there is a mixture of excitement and apprehension, with deadlines looming. From university open days, to filling out UCAS personal statements, the Liverpool College students are fully in the mind-set of opening new doors to new opportunities in life.

The idea of university is an intimidating one to many as it can be seen as the first step into adulthood, due to the route to your aspired profession being clearer than ever before. Yet it is this exact same sense of independence that comes as a thrilling challenge to others. The 'escape' of parental restrictions and the essence of freedom is a vision that some students share, but university is hard-work and should be treated as such, as it serves as the stepping stones to success. It is a place to build self-confidence, experience all aspects of student life, broaden your horizons, and meet new people. I am thoroughly looking forward to university, as I get to study the subject I have a passion for, and most importantly pursue what I want to do in life. Students should see this process as the journey to life's next stage. It will be rewarding when the results that were earned and achieved help gain entry to that chosen course.

The UCAS personal statement is a way of detailing the reasons as to why you should be chosen to study a specific course. It is a chance to celebrate any achievements that correlate directly to a course that a student wants to study. Despite all of that, university isn't just a place for study but a place to experience a different city and its culture, meet new people, gain work experience and delve into a world that was previously unknown to you. Whether you want to experience the hustle and bustle of a new city, or go somewhere a bit more remote for some peace and quiet while you study, the idea of exploring somewhere new is a seriously big draw for students. Going to university will help develop the essential skills you'll need in your career and working life: communication, organisation, time management, team work, leadership, and problem-solving.

UCAS themselves are quoted as saying, 'having a degree makes you more attractive to employers, you'll have a greater choice of jobs and you'll earn more. The average salary for graduates is 30% higher than for non-graduates aged 25-30. In 2013–14, 90% of all graduates were in work or further study within six months of leaving university'.

To conclude, whether university is the route you wish to go down or not, it is definitely an experience that should be given some thought as it provides the foundations for your future.

Sam

## Getting to know the boarders

Dana



Dana (16) from Latvia started studying at Liverpool College this year. I am studying Chemistry, Biology and Geography as my A-Level subjects.

So, how did I decide to come to England? Unfortunately, there are no such opportunities in Latvia as there are in England in terms of education and jobs. I have a lot of friends and people I know, who went to study in England and liked it very much.

Speaking of Liverpool, I really enjoy weekend walks around the city centre with my friends. Discovering new locations is exciting. Liverpool is definitely a great city to visit as it has a lot of interesting places.

I like the opportunities Liverpool College gives me. For example, working out at the gym, as sport is an essential part of my life. I've been playing tennis since I was nine and have participated in a lot of competitions. In Latvia I was ranked number thirteen. My other hobbies are reading books about psychology and watching television series or films. My all-time favourites are the 'Dog's purpose' and 'Split'.



## Katrin

Katrin (17) from Estonia. My main reason for coming to England to study A-Levels was the idea that I can focus on three subjects of my choice and be passionate about learning. It seems like a dream because in Estonia you have to study about fifteen subjects at high school.

I haven't got to know Liverpool that well yet, but I have liked it so far. The people here are friendly and helpful and the city centre is beautiful. Everything is extremely different from my home country in terms of culture, architecture, etc.



The most challenging thing for me was leaving my friends and family, but now I am very involved in my studies, so I don't even miss home that much. In my free time, I love doing yoga and reading different biographies of entrepreneurs (for example- Sophia Amoruso - a very successful businesswoman, who founded Nasty Gal, a women's fashion retailer) as I find them quite inspirational. My dream job is to become an entrepreneur and own my own business in the science sphere, so all of my subjects, which are Maths, Economics and Chemistry will help me in that. My hobbies include hiking, camping and mountain skiing, as well as travelling. I am very lucky, because my parents travel a lot due to their job, so they often take me with them. I have visited a lot of European countries like Finland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Greece, Denmark, Latvia and Lithuania so far, but my dream is to go to Sydney, Australia and to try surfing there!

Nikita

# Is Hilary Clinton the modern day Medea?

The Hilary Clinton and Medea comparison has been widely disputed within the last decade by leading Classicists such as Mary Beard to minor scholars like Jamie Stiehm. Nonetheless, the most noteworthy discussion is why a notorious politician is being compared to such an irregular and somewhat monstrous mythological character. In this article we will delve into both the myth of Medea and the similarities between the two whilst also exploring the reason as to why this issue should be discussed as misogyny.



Contextually, the myth of Medea is a significant starting point. Medea is a sorceress who aided Jason, leader of Argonauts, to obtain a precious golden fleece which was her father's. The two created a deep connection and later on married each other which then led to the follow up story in *Euripides Medea*. Medea, after finding out Jason has decided to move on, cunningly schemes and devises a plan which results in Jason's future wife and her father, who is clinging to his daughter's wedding dress, melting.

Later on, Medea breaks all conventions of Ancient Greek society by killing her own children in front of Jason in order to prove to him his mistakes. Comically, Medea then flies away with a bunch of dragons and the play ends with Medea fleeing and her husband alone with nothing.



Hitherto, one may be asking as to why

the previous point was relevant to the overall crux of the argument. Well, from a feminist perspective, Medea is seen as a female icon as she is self-governing and reverses all types of societal standards, yet once a female icon is in power, or as we see in 2015-2016 attempts to gain presidency, they are painted and depicted as an horrific figure.

Evidently, Hilary becomes the awful, devious, malicious and anti-maternal figure when being compared to Medea. Albeit, yes, this was a ploy implemented by Republican supporters hoping that this would make people dislike Hilary, which in the long term would aid Donald Trump's image. But, why is Clinton compared to this bizarre and outcast figure? Ultimately, this was due to the scepticism associated with women in positions of authority and clearly this example was a comparison that could justify one's fear. Throughout history Medea was seen as a controversial figure as she opposes social expectations of women. Similarly, Hilary Clinton runs for presidency and achieves popularity in the male dominated sphere of politics.

To conclude, it's really a sticky one. The comparison between Medea and Clinton is rather shocking as Hilary is being compared to an anti-hero, but it was used to suggest that women are not rational enough to be in a position of power (when Medea loses her power she becomes outlandish and decides to kill several people). Thus, this fear of irrationality is what shaped this comparison and caused the enigma to spark such controversy.

Sarah

# The Yellow Door

The train rattles as it moves forwards on the tracks. I watch the waves crash over the tall, brick wall that separates the water and the pavement, murky brown water spilling over to the wrong side. The sky is solid grey and I know it is freezing outside even if I'm sweating now. This is the angriest I have ever seen the sea; it lifts as high as it can off the ground and it moves unnecessarily fast as each wave flings itself at the other. The sea-gulls have to fly the highest they have ever flown so as not to get caught up with the water.

I look over to the other side and I see it. Our yellow door. The only yellow door on the whole street. Only it's not *our* yellow door anymore, it's just yours. I feel myself standing up without even thinking about it. Then I'm doing something that I didn't think I would ever be doing again. I'm getting off the train at our stop. Your stop. I start slowly walking to your yellow door and think of all the different ways you could react when you answer the door. You could smile, welcome me in and put the kettle on or you could take one look at me, scream and slam the door in my face. After what I did, the latter is probably more likely.

We had been arguing all day. Actually, you had been arguing all day and I had been letting you scream at me, spit flying everywhere. I would hardly ever say anything but when I did, anything I said would make you angrier, so I shut up and would be quiet once again. I was always silent and you were always angry. I knew that arguing wouldn't get me anywhere: you were right and I was wrong because you were the adult and I was the child. I was too young to argue back even when I was technically an adult too. I was out too late this time. My friends walked me home but you were annoyed anyway. I knew that you were shouting out of love but everything you said was too much. Too insulting. Too controlling. Too annoying. You never understood what it felt like when everything was too much. You could always deal with everything. There was too much going on in my head, too much going on at university, too much going on with everyone and everything I knew. So I walked out after you fell asleep. I just needed time and space away from everything. Away from you.

I'm walking towards that yellow door now. You insisted that Lily picked the colour of the door because I had picked out our bunkbeds. I didn't like her choice then. I told her it was silly; it would stand out too much against the other doors. She burst out in tears and I begged her to be quiet, not to tell you so that I wouldn't get into trouble. I did anyway. You took my phone away for two weeks and I wasn't allowed to go out with my friends for three. I didn't talk to Lily until you let me out with my friends again. When she tried to talk to me at night, I would pretend to be asleep and I would still pretend until she gave up talking and went to sleep herself. I like this yellow door now though, it seems happy. It brings back happier memories than the ones I had made in the eighteen months I have spent away from you. I missed it.

When I reach the front door I pause. What would you think of me now? The new me with my degree and my short hair and my suits? Would you be proud? Would you send me away? How long has my brain felt so fuzzy? This was a bad idea. I should most definitely turn back. It's been too long and so much has changed. Not just me either. Lily has changed too. I follow her on Facebook, she's in art college now and she died her hair yellow, like the door. You haven't changed at all; you've always been the same. I bet Lily is still grounded for dying her hair an unnatural colour. That's one thing I could always count on, that you would never ever change. Ever. That's how I know you would still be angry, that even if you welcomed me back you would hate me forever. So I have to turn back. You won't want me here.

I've just turned around when I hear it. The familiar creek of that stupid yellow door. The creek that let you know that I got home late every Friday night. I stay with my back to you for so long. Too long. But then I turn around. Your face was smiling, your eyes were crying and your arms were open.

Mia

# Who Will Be The Next Bond?

Last year the first female Doctor Who was revealed as Jodie Whittaker, whose first series received wide acclaim and also outrage at its more politically conscious storylines. This year, a new story is published every day on the upcoming Bond film. Many of them feature strong opinions from an array of celebrities on the idea of a woman taking the role. Most recently ex-Bond Piers Brosnan expressed his support: “I think it would be exhilarating, it would be exciting.” James Bond is perhaps the most instantly recognisable action hero, and one of the most typically masculine. We associate the word “masculinity” with confidence, dominance and a very particular set of physical characteristics related to strength. Conventionally, it is thought of as the direct opposite of femininity, which suggests empathy, motherhood and delicacy. Daniel Craig’s physical performance is a good example of this heightened masculinity. Googling ‘James Bond body language’ brings up articles with titles like ‘10 Rules to Charm anyone like James Bond’ and ‘How To Be James Bond: Science Explains Why He’s So Irresistible to Women’. Bond is an icon to heterosexual men.

So would the character have the same appeal played by a female? Some of the women with the best odds at the moment are Hollywood actresses Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie, Claire Foy and Angelina Jolie. Another suggestion is Jodie Comer, who gained fame playing the assassin Villanelle on the successful BBC drama Killing Eve. The transition to murderous spy would be easy for Comer, but a major part of her character’s charm on the show is her sociopathic nature, which allows Villanelle to kill without a conscience and partly explains her actions. The character of Eve is presented as her foil: a ‘proper’ woman, who is compassionate and rational. Therefore there is the possibility an audience would not react well to a stereotypically feminine woman playing Bond, a character who kills ruthlessly but does not have the ‘excuse’ of sociopathy; especially considering the traditional definition of feminine. A female James Bond could become a stock character ‘femme fatale’. This trope is often criticised, as historically, in film noir, the character of the vamp lady was a villain, who almost always ended up receiving punishment for her promiscuity and rejection of motherhood. Despite this, James Bond appeared a decade or so later, with the same promiscuity and coldness, but as the hero of the story. Maybe now society is ready for a violent, immoral heroine, who will be considered as honourable and British as the Queen. Someone who is capable of both exciting Piers Brosnan, and saving the day just in time.

But more likely, Tom Hiddleston will be cast.

Laila



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