

## Introduction from the Vice-Principal, Helen Clarke

We have a set tradition for the Michaelmas term at Cherwell College

To immerse students' academic journey into an intensive Oxford enrichment season with access to professorial talks, and debates in magnificent venues. Cherwell College is situated right at the heart of its architectural treasures. While studying A-level students make the most of the city, exploring numerous Medieval and Renaissance colleges of Oxford University as well as churches and other sites in the city and outskirts. The very fine view from the window of our classrooms affords historical art or philosophical material for discussion.

How should one live? What is it to be a human being and to fulfill one's potential as a human being?  
What is human happiness and the good life?

Or similar questions our students investigate at their weekly ethics club or through Socratic dialogue at our evening discussion clubs

What would be an ideal governor?  
A philosopher king?

Albeit, it is actually evil for philosophers to live only a contemplative life and not to undertake the task of ruling, which eventually decreases the quality of the philosophers' lives, though the happiness of the whole as a community would be more of paramount importance.

This is the paradigm of social common good our students are exploring whilst running their multidisciplinary enrichment clubs, music festivals, events like Intersarsity debates, Parliament week, and science projects!

We are delighted to be part of our dynamic, talented, and engaging students' community and we look forward to the new term with many more exciting, creative, and scientifically important projects in the pipeline!



## Introduction to Head Girl of Student Residence

## Introduction to Head Girl of Day Students

Hello, my name is Ralina Abibullayeva.

Hello, my name is India Kay.

I am eighteen, and study Psychology, History, and Economics, A-Level.

I am seventeen, and study Chemistry, Philosophy, and Economics, A-Level.

I am from Kazakhstan and have previously lived in Croatia, Poland, and Austria.

I am from Tanzania and Namibia.

This term was quite eventful, from having regular Ethics, Philosophy, and Current Affairs discussions, the Ukrainian Culture Week, Parliament Week, and visiting Bleinheim Palace - I would say, that Michaelmas Term was productive, exciting and a refreshing start to a new academic year.

This term was quite eventful and has been a wonderful start for the Cherwell community. For the following year, I hope to bring this community closer together and integrate Cherwell students within the Oxford community as well as build school spirit.

I hope our readers, enjoy and discover Cherwell College even more, with this issue, and more issues to come soon.

Please enjoy our first college newsletter for the Michaelmas term.

*Ralina Abibullayeva*

*India Kay*



## Debate Club

This half-term at Cherwell, students participated in a series of debate workshops in partnership with debaters at Oxford Union, exploring new ways to improve their knowledge of public speaking and critical-thinking skills. During the first session, students were guided through formal parliamentary debate structure, which as its name suggests, mirrors the structure of British parliament. In the sessions following, students explored multiple topics, including the damaging effects of social media, the legal status of recreational drugs, and the future of the English monarchy. There were many diverse and interesting viewpoints shared, and students hope to continue these endeavours to a greater scale next term.

Lydia Layton



## Philosophy and Ethics Club

The philosophy and ethics society is a safe space where we share our views and discuss with one another. We take a laid-back approach to tackling ethical and controversial topics active in today's society. The club helps us see multiple perspectives on a topic and share our knowledge. These topics can be anything from religion, human rights, abortion, and cancel culture, to capitalism and communism. All in all, the philosophy and ethics club allows us to be open-minded and speak out about what we think is morally right or wrong.

Jordi Moerman



## The UK Parliament

The house of lords, house of commons, and monarchy are the three essential components of the UK parliament.

Parliament was not intentionally created. It organically evolved out of the daily political requirements of the English king and his administration. Additionally, it did not grow constantly over time but instead experienced brief bursts of fast expansion. The modern British Parliament is one of the oldest continuously operating representative assemblies in the world, despite its unintended and unplanned development. What led to this? Revolt, conflict, invasion, many dethroning's, and even Henry VIII's love life are all part of the plot.

A small landowning elite that prioritised their own power and wealth made up Parliament for many years. The demographic makeup of Britain changed starting in the 18th century as a result of societal changes resulting from the development of industry and the demise of agriculture. With these changes came calls for equality and fairness from the working and middle classes. The process of creating a more representative parliament took a long time. The House of Commons was established at this time. The house of lords was established in the fourteenth century, but because of changing circumstances, it required revision. The House of Lords has always held the power to veto any legislation that the House of Commons passes. The first reform attempt was the Parliament Act of 1911, which led to a gradual change in the House's authority and composition. Every phase of the reform process was met with controversy in the Commons and the Lords, and it still is. The two houses of parliament do the majority of their activity, and decisions made in one house must be confirmed by the other. The UK parliament performs a variety of tasks, including debating, passing laws, overseeing government operations, approving government taxes, and holding the government accountable. For more than 900 years, the Palace of Westminster has served as the seat of government.

Natalia Minibaeva

## Changes Within the Monarchy

Earlier this year, Queen Elizabeth II passed away due to health issues because of her age. Since her death, several members of the public have been placing flowers and tributes at the Royal Palace, along with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. World leaders remember her service to Britain as well as the world, and Prime Minister Macron of France describes her as being "kind-hearted" and a "friend of France". The world continues to remember her excellent life in which "she made history" and consistently maintained the monarchy through turbulent times, especially 1992, which she described as her own "annus horribilis".

The Queen will be remembered for her greatest achievements, one of which was the stability she brought to the post-war period, and her peaceful nature has helped encourage people to persevere during some of the most trying times, from World War II to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

It is because of her position and her nature that many across the nation travelled to London to go and see her casket to pay their respects, many not even going inside but just fulfilling the wish of being close to the woman they all loved and respected.

In respect of the Queen, the nation will perform a minute of silence at 8 pm on Sunday 18th September, the day before her funeral, which has been declared a bank holiday and which shall be attended by the European royal families, US presidents, Commonwealth leaders, and other world leaders, and is said to be the biggest gathering of royals and politicians in decades.

Following her funeral, Charles will be proclaimed King by the Ascension Council on Saturday the 17th at St. James's Palace in London. The coronation is set to go ahead, and more information about that will be found following the funeral.

During this trying time for his family, Charles and Camilla have been shoved into the spotlight and visited Edinburgh, Belfast, and Cardiff. As well as a return to London to see the nation, shows the respect and affection he has for the nation.

Wanjiru Kariuki

## Women in Education

### The tenfold impact of increasing access to education for women.

Docendo discimus- by teaching, we learn. These words belonged to Seneca, a Roman philosopher who benefitted greatly from the education he received in his younger years. It was this education, paired with an inquisitive mind and a thirst for knowledge, that helped birth much of the literature and philosophy Seneca is now most revered for. His position as a wealthy male in Rome provided him with the privilege that is school and education. Fast forward today, and it appears that not much has changed outside of the Western world when it comes to the contentious issue of access to education. Women, especially those who are poor and situated in developing countries, have suffered the most. A lack of good education, let alone any education at all, is arguably one of the greatest contributing factors to the gender inequality 'pandemic' of our modern world.

Worldwide, over 129 million girls do not receive an education, with an estimated 30 million girls excluded from primary education, and 67 million girls from secondary. From that statistic, it comes as no surprise that 49% of countries have received gender parity in primary education, with this gap widening dramatically to 24% for upper secondary, (sixth form). This is a cause for global concern, especially in the context of the economic status of affected nations. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative has reported that chances of women accessing higher paying jobs increase drastically when they are given an education. This will provide women with the appropriate qualifications to access a wider range of jobs, creating healthy competition in the workplace. With a larger workforce, the benefits ricochet in the economy- more people earning leads to greater spending and consequently, the general growth of a nation's economy. Investing in girls' education helps to develop a country's progression and acts as a catalyst for gender equality on multiple levels. Girls are much more likely to receive a greater income later in life when supplied with an education, thus increasing their family's overall quality of life. A whopping 1.7 million children would be conserved from poverty-induced malnutrition, if all girls were to receive a primary education. Furthermore, if all girls worldwide were given access to a secondary education, 12.2 million children would be protected from malnutrition and stunted growth.

Empowering women to work will lead to a significant growth of third-world economies. As a study from the IMF demonstrates, policies improving access to educational opportunities and finance for women have contributed towards an increase in economic growth and a reduction in inequality for developing countries. By providing women and girls with further educational opportunities there will be reductions in fertility rates, and increases in labour force participation rates. With decreasing fertility rates, population growth will decelerate; women will also have more time energy and money to focus on career and its progression.

The Nobel Prize laureate and Oxford graduate Malala Yousafzai is an incredible example of a woman who was willing to put her life at risk to fight for her right to education. Malala was a young girl from Pakistan who was shot in the head by the Taliban after speaking out on girl's rights to education, however she miraculously survived the near fatal injury and was treated in a hospital in Birmingham. After her recovery Malala dedicated her life to speaking out for girls who have been denied the right to go to school, this included speaking at the Oxford Union in 2013, and she set up the "Malala Fund" - a charity that would further help this cause. In 2014 she was awarded the Nobel Prize in recognition for her work, making her the youngest Nobel laureate in history. Malala furthered her education and went onto study PPE (Philosophy, Politics, Economics) at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. In 2020 she graduated and is now continuing to campaign for women's rights to education globally through her charity. Her inspiring story is an example of what impact a woman can have when given the right to education.

As we look to the future, improvements to education for girls and women will provide these countries with a more knowledgeable workforce, healthier families, less early-life pregnancies and lower wage gaps between men and women. Bestowing women the chance to advance academically would only reap benefits not only for themselves, but for the global community. As the number of girls attending schools and gaining qualifications increases every year, gender equality in developing countries worldwide will hopefully become the norm.

Frances Adamson



## Current Protests in Iran

As of September 2022, following the death of Mahsa Amini, many Iranians have taken to the street to protest the Islamic Regime as well as the unlawful morality police and what began as a protest has become a national uprising against the religious extremity of the government. This is said to be so much different from past protests since Iran became an Islamic Regime, but these protests are much different to others and is instead referred to as a national uprising and Professor Roham Alvandi from LSE commented that "This is an uprising demanding the end of the Islamic Republic," and people are no longer living in fear of the government. Since Amini's death, the movement has evolved from calls for justice for the brutality of the morality police and have instead united many of Iranian society with the Kurdish minority making up the majority for the discrimination that they have faced in the past. Women have currently been the face of this movement following Masha Amini's death as well as students at both university and high school with one local school pushing a government official out.

The bravery of the people of Iran should not be forgotten as they stand up against a cruel regime that has been using tear gas, gunning down protestors and are also allegedly involved with the explosion at Tehran's Evin prison known for holding students, protestors, and anti-government figures. In a Twitter post Sunday, human rights activist and former Evin inmate Atena Daemi said tear gas was fired by security officials, citing a woman prisoner. As well as the sudden disappearance of the Iranian rock climber Elnaz Rekabi who competed without a hijab, but a friend has said it fell off accidentally, and later her passport was confiscated in Seoul but apparently returned home according to the embassy. Regardless of the travesty Iranians face they have stuck together and helped to hide each other as well as help those who are injured and seem to hopefully get past the restrictions of the regime.

Wanjiru Kariuki

## Ukrainian Culture Week

We were sincerely delighted to become a part of the big festival celebrating Ukrainian high culture in Oxford this autumn. Ukrainian Culture Weeks brought a series of extraordinary and unforgettable evenings of beautiful classical music, art and talks. The pinnacle of the Ukrainian Culture Weeks 2022 is the Bouquet Kyiv Stage Festival, which takes place annually in Kyiv city, Ukraine, at the historical site of St. Sophia National Reserve.

The festival was intended as a gift of gratitude to the British People for the tremendous support they have given to Ukraine and the Ukrainians. The Ukrainian Culture Weeks 2022 initiative has been launched by Cherwell College Oxford, Ukrainian Cultural Centre Dom Master Klass, and Oxford University Ukrainian Society, with the aim of supporting Ukrainian culture and heritage.

The concerts were sold out well before the days, and every hall was full of applause! From the opening with the extravagant fashion show by Fedir Vozianov to the final poignant and outstanding performance given by Chamber Choir Kyiv, conducted by M. Hobdych, every event has been special, touching the strings of the soul!

Oxford gave a very warm welcome to the contemporary "Ukrainian Paganini" Bohdana Pivnenko and an outstanding pianist Anna Khmara. The creative duet performed Ukrainian compositional art of the last quarter of the 20th century and the first two decades of the 21st century.

As expected, the special guests to the festival – Apollo5 (London) treated the audience with premiers at the Christ Church Cathedral. The choir performed the works by Victoria Poleva and Anna Kuzina-Rozhdstvenska in the magnificent venue. Victoria Poleva herself attended the event, as well as the final concert of the Piano Marathon at the Holywell Music Room, where Anthonii Baryshevskiy gave an evocative performance of the works composed by Victoria and other world-famous Ukrainian composers.

Anthonii was one of three contemporary pianists to make the Piano Marathon fantastic on the second day of the festival. Yevhen Gromov opened the day with the emotional performance of Haydn, Liatoshynsky, Stankovych and Schubert, and was followed by the tenderness of Valentyn Sylvestrov's Bagatelles – XII performed by the virtuoso pianist Oleh Bezborodko.

Yuliya Bukus

## Interview with Stephen Clarke

**What was it like to have a greater insight into Ukrainian Culture?**

I lived in Ukraine and actually worked for the British Embassy but I think what has been good in Oxford is the response, not just from the Ukrainians here but from the British people as well. Particularly at the Sheldonian Theatre concert, which has been so warmly received by members of the public here in Oxford.

**What was your initial reaction to the outbreak of war?**

Disgraceful in one word.

**What part of the Ukrainian Culture Weeks reminded you of your own time living in Ukraine?**

Hospitality and friendliness. It made the invasion even worse and more heartbreaking.

**Would you want to see Oxford do more for Ukraine? Can you see yourself being at the front of leading something like that?**

One of the issues is that while we had the UCW, we can't let it just drift away and we must have people lobbying our government.

**Do you think the government should do more to assist Ukraine?**

I think they are doing a lot already and I'm not sure we can do too much more because of the Russian reaction. I think it was very devious of Russia by falsifying the annexation of four regions and had we reacted, then Putin could claim that as a Russian attack.

**Is there one thing that you want people to take away from Ukraine Culture Week?**

They have to remember and try to take in more of Eastern European Culture, with its ballet and music which is phenomenal, but it is taken for granted and we should make people more aware of its wonderful and moving culture.

Interviewer: Wanjiru Kariuki



## Interview with David

Currently there's an art gallery in Oxford as a part of Cherwell College's efforts during Ukraine Culture Week to showcase and exhibit the talent of Ukrainians and recently one of the artists, David Sharashidze, was at the exhibition was interviewed on his own art pieces as well as his life in Ukraine and how the Russian conflict has affected him since February.

**What was your initial reaction to the declaration of war in Ukraine back in February? How did you feel? Did it bring back memories from your time in Georgia?**

Despite the fact that the situation became more and more tense every day, they still hoped that common sense would win and there would be no war, but, unfortunately, this did not happen. There was one big question: Why? Everything repeated as in Georgia in 2008. And even earlier in Abkhazia in 1993. The same reasons, reasons and style - not to fight, but to kill civilians, children, the elderly and robbery.

**Do you know anyone personally who is fighting for Ukraine's independence?**

All of Ukraine fought for independence. Each in his place is a warrior. Some with weapons in their hands some write music or pictures. Someone became a volunteer. Doctors and businessmen, children and old people. All are united by one desire - to protect their country, independence, freedom.

**What were your paintings inspired by?**

I am a romantic by nature, in every person, object, event, in everything that surrounds me, I try to see something beautiful and unique, fleeting, something that is elusive for many.

**Do any Ukrainian artists or any artists in general inspire your work?**

Each artist puts something special and unique in his work. And this inspires me to find my own creative language.

**Do you have a favourite piece in this gallery and if so, why is it your favourite?**

Each work carries some moment of uniqueness, therefore, in each picture, each work, I treat with respect and interest.

Interviewer: Wanjiru Kariuki