

Grays Convent High School

THE STUDENT SCOOP

FRIDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER, 2022 | VOL 1

Greetings to all Grays Convent High School students! My name is Amy Dhannie, and I am a writer and editor for The Student Scoop. I am currently in year 10 and am preparing for my GCSE exams which will take place in a year and eight months. At the moment, my favourite subjects are History, English, and Media Studies. English has been an early passion for me since the moment I was able to read and write. I enjoy writing down ideas and thoughts on paper and allowing them to merge together to create something special and unique to me. This is mainly what inspired me to apply for the Editor role in The Student Scoop. I have also written several newsletter articles for Grays Convent and enjoy the many joys and benefits these achievements bring to me. I also enjoy using my God-given talents to help raise awareness to particular issues that sit close to my heart (such as the many Christians who are persecuted globally for their faith), which is why I wrote about Open Doors. Because I would like to possibly go into a career in journalism in the future; I also thought that writing sections on global news would help bring insight into news that is hidden and covered up by the mainstream media. I have really enjoyed my 3 years at



**AMY DHANNIE - YEAR 10
STUDENT EDITOR**

Grays Convent so far and am thankful for the opportunities I have been offered by teachers and the goals I have achieved both inside and outside of the classroom. I look forward to my next 2 years at this school with anticipation and am honoured to be able to be the professional editor (along with Amelie Soong) of The Scoop! (Congratulations to all The Student Scoop writers)!



**AMELIE SOONG - YEAR 10
STUDENT EDITOR**

Hi! My name's Amelie. I'm a sports enthusiast and a prolific book critic. Some days, I love to curl up in a corner and read a thrilling mystery novel; other days I would prefer to be out on a pitch, playing football or rugby. My favourite footballer is Fran Kirby because of her incredible dribbling skills. I enjoy helping out at school and you may have seen me at various sports clubs. I'm a self-taught ukulele player and I love trying

new things. Apart from sports and reading, gaming is a strong interest of mine. You'll find me, hunched over at a computer playing Minecraft on the weekends. Languages are also a big part of my life with Cantonese being my second language. At Grays Convent, I've had the opportunity to learn both French and Spanish and I've been trying to learn Russian. My favourite subjects are PE, Maths and Computer Science. One thing you may not know about me is that I love writing poetry. I also like listening to music - my favourite band is Twenty One Pilots. In the future, I would like to coach rugby and, if that doesn't go to plan, coach football. I like writing, talking, playing and watching sports and I'll be writing all about it this year. I edit and write for The Student Scoop because I think it's a great way to improve my writing and grammar at the same time! I hope you enjoy this new publication and I hope you all achieve your goals in whatever capacity that is. As Sun Tzu said "Great results can be achieved with small forces."

*Congratulations to our
two new Student Editors!*

THE COST OF LIVING 2022

The cost of living is something that has impacted us all this year. With petrol prices, electricity bills, and food costs rising; many families have been finding it difficult to manage. But have you ever wondered how this affects students globally? Have you ever wondered what small changes you could make to help, and how schools are aiming to help those households in desperate need? Many children across the UK have had to adapt to difficult changes. In the UK alone, close to four million children are living in poverty, where their parents are struggling to pay rent, heat their homes, and buy essential food items. In Dundee, Scotland, over a quarter of school students are living in abject poverty, and with the cost of living increasing, many will experience difficult times. Schools across the UK are providing free lunches for children, setting up clothing grants, and providing trollies packed with essential food items which students in need are able to take home. Clubs after school (such as netball, football, and cricket) are now free, as are school trips; meaning that parents and carers are able to save money. The Scottish government states: "We know this is a worrying time and we are doing everything within our limited powers and finite budgets to help children, their parents and carers." The UK government is also providing £37 billion to help households with the greatest needs. However, not all schools are taking this amount of action. In some schools, students are being forced to have smaller lunch

portions or go without a second meal to save costs- resulting in a negative impact on health and, consequently, academic achievements. These schools do, however, have breakfast clubs set up so that these students can have a larger breakfast (mainly toast) to help sustain them throughout the day. Students globally are taking it upon themselves to do all that they can to help out with the cost of living. One primary school student in Dundee stated "...we now take the bus to school and back home so that we can save petrol/gas for emergencies and family trips". Another says she worries that "my parents won't be able to pay for my gymnastics as it is quite expensive and [they] need the money to go towards more necessary things". Many children have decided to wear jumpers at home during the colder winter months to come and sleep in more layers to save their parents having to put the heating on. Many students across the UK have also decided to walk or cycle to school instead of driving or paying bus fares. There is no denying the fact that the cost of living is increasing and will heavily impact those already living in poverty. However, by doing our bit to help, I believe that students can help parents keep the costs down. It's truly as simple as turning off the light when you're not using the room or making sure that you are not charging devices (such as phones and computers) unnecessarily.

**AMY DHANNIE - YEAR 10
STUDENT EDITOR**



Our greatest condolences to the Royal family.

May the good Lord grant Queen Elizabeth eternal rest and may she rest in peace.



Hello! My name is Efe Donkor and I'm currently writing for The Student Scoop (a magazine written by students for the school). My name means wealth (like money/fame). I'm 13 years old and in Year 9. I like reading, writing and netball. I joined the Student Publication Run because I like writing and I would like to provide a magazine for people to read. I am talkative, caring and appreciative. When I'm older, I want to be a lawyer or an accountant. I enjoy listening to music, (and artists like Kendrick Lamar and Tyler, the Creator) and I enjoy being challenged. My favourite lessons are English, History and PE. My favourite colours are green and blue and my favourite book is The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. My biggest inspiration is Maya Angelou with my favourite quote from her being, "If you don't like something change it, if you can't change it, change your attitude." I love documentaries about crime and law, and I hate musicals. My favourite animal is a sloth because I think that they look cute. In the past, I have been a Chapel Representative, Form Captain and I still currently work in the library. I was born in the same town as Idris Elba (a famous actor). I'm currently reading "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" by Ransom Riggs. My favourite genre is thriller because I enjoy plot twists and learning the backstory behind these events. I hope you enjoy what's to come from the Student Publication Run. Thank you for reading!

**EFE DONKOR - YEAR 9
STUDENT WRITER**

Hello! My name is Efia and I am one of the writers of The Student Scoop. I like reading, cooking and watching real life crime documentaries. I look forward to helping to bring you your Convent Magazine. I'm in year 10 and I was born on the 12th of October. I want to hopefully be a professor one day and my favourite colour is blue. I've wanted a pet rabbit for nearly four years now and I still hope I'll get one. My favourite subjects are English and Geography. I write stories as a hobby and like meeting new people and making new friends. My favourite season is autumn and my favourite animal is a fennec fox. It's nice to meet you.

**EFIA DUKER - YEAR 10
STUDENT WRITER**



COMMUNITY NEWS

In the Grays Convent Library School Community, there are many opportunities to communicate with other readers about books. For example, the library participates in the Carnegie and Katie Greenaway Shadowing yearly, book quizzes and more. Last academic year, some students that participated in the Carnegie Shadowing, then went on to volunteer for the Summer Reading Challenge over the summer holidays, donating over 15 hours to help spread the joy of reading to children from 3-18 years old. This was a great opportunity because it gave you experience talking to kids and you were also able to make new friends which added to your experience. The Summer Reading Challenge ended on 10th September 2022 and there will be a celebration event where they will be awarding certificates and prizes to the volunteers during this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This takes place on Tuesday 27th September 2022 where volunteers are commended for their excellent work and dedication over the summer holidays. Despite the opportunities, there are many advantages of having a library at school. For example, the library helps to improve your understanding of vocabulary and literature. The library is yet another place where you can add to your knowledge and interests, whilst also having fun! You can also work in the library which helps you gain friendships, experience and communication skills throughout the school year. It is fun to be able to speak to others about your likes and dislikes in books. They allow you to gain leadership skills and work experience. The library helps to create healthy relationships. For example, last academic year, they had a Mental Health Bookstand that was available to students all throughout mental health week. The library helps to assist staff and students' interests in reading, viewing, studying, revising and using information to help further their ideas and bring a new level of knowledge to them. The community has a positive impact on people's learning, giving them a fresh and clean environment to focus on their studies.



Do you want to gain access to opportunities like this? Then, visit the library! The library, which was opened around 1996, is a warm and welcoming place where you can browse for books, access computers, read or study. The library is available to use on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday very week! In the library, there are many books from dictionaries, manga, novels and geographical books. Stuck on what to read? Here are some genre recommendations from avid readers to get you started (Left).

"MY FAVOURITE GENRE IS THRILLER BECAUSE I LIKE BEING IN SUSPENSE AND I ENJOY THE PLOT TWISTS BEHIND THEM." - NABILAH HAQUE

"MY FAVOURITE GENRE IS ROMANCE BECAUSE THEY FASCINATE ME AND MAKE ME WANT TO CONTINUE READING!" - KIRAN KAUR

My favourite genre is thriller because I love the plot twists behind it and my personal favourite book is Diary by Kevin Brooks because of the sick and twisted story behind it.

Thank you so much for reading, I hope this encourages you to go to the library!

**EFE DONKOR - YEAR 9
STUDENT WRITER**

LITERARY SCOOP

**WHEN YOU ARE OLD
WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**

WHEN YOU ARE OLD AND GREY AND FULL OF SLEEP,
AND NODDING BY THE FIRE, TAKE DOWN THIS BOOK,
AND SLOWLY READ, AND DREAM OF THE SOFT LOOK,
YOUR EYES HAD ONCE, AND OF THEIR SHADOWS DEEP;
HOW MANY LOVED YOUR MOMENTS OF GLAD GRACE,
AND LOVED YOUR BEAUTY WITH LOVE FALSE OR TRUE,
BUT ONE MAN LOVED THE PILGRIM SOUL IN YOU,
AND LOVED THE SORROWS OF YOUR CHANGING FACE;
AND BENDING DOWN BESIDE THE GLOWING BARS,
MURMUR, A LITTLE SADLY, HOW LOVE FLED
AND PACED UPON THE MOUNTAINS OVERHEAD
AND HID HIS FACE AMID A CROWD OF STARS.

WELCOME TO GRAYS CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL TO THE YEAR 7S
AND ANY OTHER NEW STUDENTS.
I HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR TIME AT GRAYS CONVENT
AND IF YOU'RE NOT REMEMBER,

"OUR GREATEST GLORY IS NOT IN NEVER FALLING, BUT IN
RISING EVERY TIME WE FALL" - CONFUCIUS.

I HOPE EVERYONE'S FIRST WEEK HAS BEEN FINE AND IT'S BEEN
A SMOOTH ADJUSTMENT TO NEW SCHEDULES AND CLASSES.
GOOD LUCK WITH THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

**EFIA DUKER - YEAR 10
STUDENT WRITER**



THIS SUMMER IN SPORTS



Over the summer, England's Women's Euro success has exploded into the mainstream as well as The Hundred Womens for cricket fans. At the end of July at Wembley Stadium, England's squad (captained by Leah Williamson) defeated Germany 2-1 with Chloe Kelly scoring the winning goal. This was a historical moment as last year the men had reached the final, however, they were unable to bring it home- but these spectacular women won England their first major tournament since 1966, under the unquestionable management of Sarena Weigman.

The Hundred Women's Competition has also brought joy and despair to fans all over the world with the Oval Invincibles winning the final with 163 for 2 compared to the Manchester Originals, 131 for 6.

As September begins, England rugby fans will be delighted to hear that the red roses (England Women's Team) thrashed the Eagles

(USA Women's Team) 52-14 on the 3rd of September. A player who stood out most, for me, was Claudia Macdonald, who had a serious neck injury that she had been recovering from for the past 10 months. She was told that 'she may never play rugby again' but through her resilience and perseverance, she recovered fully enough to play and scored two tries in this match. She is an inspiration to me because of her hard-working ethos.

This autumn, look out for the Women's Rugby World Cup which starts on the 8th of October due to take place in New Zealand and the Men's Football World Cup taking place in Qatar on the 20th of November.

**AMELIE SOONG - YEAR 10
STUDENT EDITOR**

CHARITY CORNER: OPEN DOORS

Ijanada's Story

Ijanada was abducted by Boko Haram (an Islamic terrorist group based in North-eastern Nigeria) as a teenager. She was forced to marry a fighter during her abduction and was pregnant with her second child when she managed to escape. However, like most women abducted by Boko Haram, she was rejected by her community and her and both her children were ostracised by society. However, through it all, Open Doors has worked with her and her two beautiful children to recover from her traumatic experience and strengthen her faith and trust in God. She is now thriving in a local Christian community that helps women kidnapped by Boko Haram and supports them and their young families. Ijanada states: "I am so grateful. Your prayers have really kept me going. I am so happy. Thank you so much. God has been with us all the while. He has protected us. You never forget me. Today (2019), you travelled to my house, just to see me and my children. I'm so grateful. May God bless you."

What is Open Doors?

Open Doors is a Christian organisation that seeks to aid Christians (like Ijanada) who are persecuted for their faith in countries such as Syria, North Korea, China, India, Iraq, Mexico, Eritrea, and Nigeria. They supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services to families globally, and rely completely on fundraisers and donations to their charity. You can find out more about them at opendoorsuk.org. You can support people like Ijanada by fundraising and supporting individuals and families through activities such as:

- Bake Sale
- Cycling, Running, Walking
- Running a prayer meeting weekly for Open Doors
- Writing a letter to your selected "Persecuted Family"
- Being your church advocate for Open Doors

By doing this, you will help support many Christians around the world- some of them being as young as 13/14 years old! To see how you can help, go to opendoorsuk.org/act/ or opendoorsuk.org/act/fundraise/.

**AMY DHANNIE - YEAR 10
STUDENT EDITOR**

YEAR GROUP CHARITIES FOR 2022-2023

YEAR 7 - TANZZANIA

YEAR 8 - THURROCK
FOODBANK

YEAR 9 - THURROCK
FOODBANK

YEAR 10 - ST LUKE'S HOSPICE

YEAR 11 - CAFOD

FOLLOW THE SCHOOL ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@GRAYSCONVENT



GRAYS CONVENT
HIGH SCHOOL

SOME UNUSUAL FACTS...

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

Crocodiles can't stick their tongues out.

Starfish do not have a brain.

Polar bear skin is black!

Snails have been known to sleep up to three years if the weather isn't moist enough to meet their needs.

**EFIA DUKER - YEAR 10
STUDENT WRITER**

WE ARE RECRUITING

The Student Scoop Wants YOU!

We need responsible, passionate students to participate in the creative cycle of a news story by investigating and writing rich and unbiased 'scoops'.

Desired Skills and Personal Qualities

- Collect, verify and analyse thoroughly newsworthy information.
- Assemble findings into a stable story.
- Write and deliver news stories with the reader's perspective in mind.
- Receive assignments or investigate news leads/tips.
- Contact, interview and research sources.
- Maintain notes and audio recordings.
- Cooperate with staff and student editors.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest current events in the "beat" by studying papers, attending events etc.

The student writers will be responsible for the bulk of stories that are published. They will need to work alongside the editors and staff to choose what to report on and to make sure they submit their work in a timely fashion.

TO APPLY PLEASE SEE MISS TAYLOR OR MISS WARBY.

You will need to write your own article. This piece should be a review of something; a movie, album, sports game etc. Please limit your article to 800 words.

This role is recommended for current year 8 and up but all applicants will be based on the strength of their article.