

PROMOTING GLOBAL AWARENESS AND CITIZENSHIP AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



Mini-Saga Competition

Our international pupils were challenged to write a 'mini-saga', using a single image as inspiration. This had to be exactly 50 words long and allows them to show off the development of their English, as well as provide a window into other cultures. The starting image is included below, along with some of this year's best entries.

I once wanted to live like this. Drinking wine, holding a sword, robbing the rich to help the poor, walking the world without any worries. To stand up against anything that is unfair or to defend those unjustly treated. Who wouldn't long for such a life, free from the world?

- Shing Yu (Year 11)

He stared in her eyes as the katana stopped at his neck. "Please," he begged staring into her cold eyes, searching for an emotion. Nothing. The sword cut and the life left him. She grabbed the jug he was supposed to have bought the king and left with unruly hair.

-Zoe (Year 11)

This woman wanted to be a soldier since her dad was a soldier in the war and had been killed fighting. She cut her hair and dressed as a boy and fought. When the war was finished she unmasked herself and revealed her identity. From that moment woman could fight.

- Marcarena (Year 9)

Here I am, walking over a bridge about to face my biggest fear. Enjoying my few minutes that I could have left. I am ready even if it means that I will die. I fight for freedom for me and other people. That's what I trained for, I am ready.

-Lukas (Year 10)



Upcoming Curriculum Topics...

Y7 History - West African Power
Y7 History - Feudal Japan

Y13 Business - International Investment

Y7 Design Technology - Plastic Recycling
Y8 Design Technology - Cultural Dishes

Y7 Geography - Antarctica (Past, Present & Future)
Y8 Geography - Africa
Y9 Geography - Natural Disaster Planning in Japan
Y13 Geography - Carbon Cycle & Climate Change

Y7 PRE - World Festivals

Y10 Physics - Nuclear Fission & Fusion Power

Y10 Art - Personal Identity & Heritage Project

Y10 Media - Cultural Demographics
Y11 Media - Ethnic Representation and Attitudes

Y9 Classics - Religious Influence on Social Norms
Y10 Classics - Relationship of Religion and Politics
Y13 Classics - Art & Literature as Propaganda

Y7 Languages - Christmas in European Culture
Y8 Languages - Pen-Pal Programme
Y10 Languages - Language and Employment

NEW WEBSITE CONTENT LAUNCHED!

CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO VISIT OUR NEW "GLOBAL AWARENESS" PAGES



RECENT EVENTS...

Recent RHS events with a link to global awareness include Georgie's eco-initiative, the Washington DC tour report, our celebration of Thanksgiving and a whole-school address by prefects Josh and Millie...



SHOULD WE BE BOYCOTTING THE WORLD CUP? - MR COHEN

In 2010, Qatar was awarded the right to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Qatar is the first country from the Middle East to host what is arguably the world's second-biggest sporting event after the Olympics. They beat stiff competition from the United States and Australia who were also keen to host this prestigious event. Since then, a flurry of corruption allegations and claims of Qatar "buying the World Cup" have surfaced while the country, which follows strict Islamic laws, has been widely criticised for its treatment of migrant workers and their stance on same-sex relationships has also been in the spotlight. One and a half million fans from all over the world are expected to visit Qatar to watch the World Cup finals, which started on the 20th November, and I am asking myself the question as to whether or not I am going to watch any of it.

For the past 12 years, there have been a number of allegations, parliamentary enquiries and European court cases surrounding the controversial decision for Qatar to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Qatar has been accused of paying FIFA officials £3m (\$3.7m) in bribes to secure their backing but was cleared after [a two-year investigation](#). At the time, FIFA's then-chairman, Sepp Blatter, supported the bid but has since decided that it was actually a "mistake" to award the World Cup to Qatar. In 2013, [The Guardian newspaper published an investigation](#) which found that thousands of Nepalese workers in Qatar had been facing exploitation and abuse that amounted "to modern-day slavery". This was followed by [a report from Amnesty International](#) which found that Qatar's construction sector was "rife with abuse, with workers employed on multimillion-dollar projects suffering serious exploitation". In 2017 Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Bahrain cut off all diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a land, sea and air blockade after accusing it of supporting terrorism. Qatar strongly denies these claims.

Qatar is home to 2.7 million people - but only 300,000 of them are citizens of the country. The vast majority of the remaining population are workers, mostly migrants from Nepal, India or Bangladesh, without significant civil rights and without access to adequate health care. In 2019, [a new Amnesty International report](#) revealed that "hundreds of migrant workers" have been forced to give up on "justice" and return home "penniless" since March 2018. This led to immense pressure from the West and eventually, Qatar announced the abolishment of the notorious "Kafala system". The Kafala system is a kind of dependency relationship between employers and workers. Since its abolishment, employers are no longer allowed, at least officially, to withhold workers' passports, effectively imprisoning them. But massive human rights violations apparently still occur in employment. It emerged that workers in Qatar can be deported to their home countries overnight if they fall ill with Covid-19, this is reportedly often without receiving their wages and losing their possessions. Only since 2020, due to pressure from abroad, has there been a monthly minimum wage of 1,000 riyals (230 Euros), which seems completely staggering given the fact that Qatar is one of the richest countries in the world. Unfortunately, it would appear that the abolishment of the Kafala system made little difference to the migrant workers, as in November 2021 [Amnesty International produced a 48-page report, Reality Check 2021](#), saying that "practices such as withholding salaries and charging workers to change jobs were still rife, despite labour reforms".



POETRY CORNER...

This year's national poetry day ran with the theme of "Poems for the Planet". In the next few editions of RHS Global, we will share the winning entries from each year group.

Our World (Juliette, Y8)

Eyes wide, a sea of clouds
stretching far into the blue,
as a faint dot in the distance
spirals down onto the broad trees

Picking up its heavy wings,
it flew, trees scattered like seeds,
drops of colour sprouting from
beneath the earth, the edges
mirroring the life surrounding it.

As the leaves dances in the wind,
tumbling upon fresh dew,
rotting, disintegrating into
dust, the splatter of the thick
sludge underfoot, oak crying
out, deformed. The rubbish
scattered. Waste drifting through
the air.

Gone is the tree, the sea,
the birds.
You try to escape but the air
is dense and your breath
becomes heavy

Til it all fades to nothing.
Gone was the place where there
once was something.



Next edition will feature the winning
entry from Year 11

SHOULD WE BE BOYCOTTING THE WORLD CUP? - MR COHEN

[According to The Guardian newspaper](#), at least 6,500 people have died during World Cup construction work in Qatar since 2010. Most of these deaths have been attributed to the brutal working conditions that these people have been exposed to and the heat found in the desert. This means that for every team that is participating in this World Cup (32 nations) approximately 203 construction workers will have died. However, the exact figures are considered controversial, because it is unclear how many of these deaths were actually a direct result of the construction work. Either way, in my opinion, the idea of building eight stadia in the middle of a desert at a cost of 6,500 lives and [a financial cost of up to \\$220 billion](#) to build the stadia, hotels and assorted other parts of infrastructure required, seems excessive for a country with no previous culture of football. By way of comparison, it cost \$3.5 billion to prepare South Africa for the 2010 tournament. Just imagine for a second what that money could be better spent on. It's essentially a futile exercise because it's unlikely that, should the World Cup be taken away from Qatar tomorrow, \$220 billion will suddenly be spent on the grassroots of football or given to charity; but it nonetheless seems like an appalling waste of money, especially given the fact that there were much more suitable options that were available to FIFA.

On top of all of this, there is the ongoing tension between the World Cup being a global, inclusive event, and the fact that homosexuality is illegal in Qatar. In my opinion, the argument about whether the second-biggest sports tournament in the world, after the Olympics, should be held in such a country should really end there. In a civilised world, those sorts of attitudes should not be tolerated, never mind enshrined in law, but apparently FIFA does not take such concerns particularly seriously, if the attitude of their president is anything to go by. Sepp Blatter said in a press conference, when asked about what gay people should do if they want to go to Qatar, that they should "refrain from sexual activity." Blatter clarified, or at least attempted to clarify, his statement afterwards; but the fact that he felt the need to treat such a serious issue so flippantly speaks to his general attitude. It is hardly surprising that there is currently no international male footballer that has come out as being gay, despite a number of sportsmen and women from a wide range of other sports feeling comfortable enough to reveal their sexualities.

There are some people who feel that we should keep politics out of sports, and I would argue that these people pay no attention either to sports or to politics. Sports are, and always have been, about as political as it gets. International competition at the top level is organised by nation-states. Flags and national anthems feature throughout. The question of who gets to host big sporting competitions is extremely political, to host an international tournament can be a great boost to trade and a great "launderer" of national reputations. Throughout history, we can find a plethora of examples where sportspeople have used their fame (or notoriety) in order to raise political issues that need to be addressed. For example, Tommie Smith and John Carlos both raised a black-gloved fist on the podium at the 1968 Olympics which was later coined as the "Black Power Salute". Or take Colin Kaepernick, who decided to "take a knee" during the national anthem during a pre-season game against the Green Bay Packers to highlight the oppression of Black people in the US. The biggest of all sporting events, the Olympic Games, has been boycotted by nations on six occasions between 1956-2022; possibly the most famous of these boycotts happened during the Cold War years in Moscow in 1980 where 66 countries chose not to send athletes and then again in Los Angeles in 1984 where 18 countries chose not to attend.

Finding it objectionable, then, that Qatar has been allowed to host the World Cup isn't me being "liberal" or "woke": it's basic decency, and the argument that "it's just the way the world is", and "we should hold our noses and enjoy the football", is baffling to me. I am also disheartened that musicians such as Fatboy Slim and Robbie Williams, who are both vocal supporters of gay rights, will be playing in Qatar around the time of the World Cup. It's baffling to me, too, that we're pretending that the odd discreet rainbow armband on a player or rainbow flag in the stadium will be regarded as "constructive engagement" at this tournament. In my opinion, FIFA has demonstrated beyond any doubt that its main priority is making money. But it is important to highlight the fact that FIFA doesn't have a monopoly on "constructive engagement". It's not too late for musicians, sponsors and even, above all, footballers to come out and make a stand by boycotting this tournament. In my opinion, that really would be using the global popularity of football to spread positive social messages to wider society.