



Zuzanna Kiszycka & Brielle Minta (Year 10)

Trump Orders Increase in  
Migrant Deportations

The latest updates

Donald Trump, a 2024 president winner, has added new laws against migration. In recent matters, Trump has delivered dramatic surges by Immigration and Customs Enforcement of people who were living in the US.

Since Trump took over office, immigration detention facilities have been filling up across the country. I.C.E has been going to extreme extents that they have been stepping up in workhouses, court houses and homes to arrest those who promoted protests across Los Angeles in recent days.

Trump’s decision to deploy people over the state has caused an escalation in protests and violent clashes with law enforcement according to local officials. In over six months, people being held has increased to 25%.

Since October 2024, data of arrests from ICE have increased to 50,000 and CPB has decreased to below 20,000. At the end of April, the administration said it had deported more than 139,000 migrants.

Overall, we find Trumps decision is wrong to a large extent. This is because Trump has been deporting many innocent people over the past few months. Innocent lives have been taken from families and locked away in Immigration detention facilities.



Picture Caption: ICE officers have been conducting raids across many southern US states.



Picture Caption: US President Donald Trump pictured at the US-Mexico border.

Angel Da Costa Odunga (Year 8)

The Rise of AI: Friend or Foe?

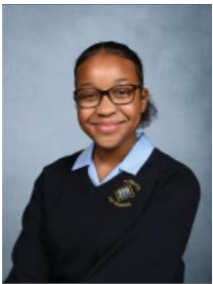
Exploring the environmental impact of artificial intelligence

In today’s society, it is impossible to ignore the relevance of AI ever since its debut- it has been utilized through social media, virtual assistance, and public services but what exactly is AI? And are there any consequences towards its usage? In this article we shall debunk the controversial issues on the significant impact of which AI holds accountable for in our environment.

AI (artificial intelligence) in a brief definition is any computer system that can perform multiple tasks through the recognition of data, the purpose of this whatsoever, is to imitate human characteristics as this constructs a more effective cognition within the program. The relevance of artificial intelligence relies solely on the advancement of technology, as the more technology evolves the more artificial intelligence will grow. This can be seen evident through the statistic reported from the official “Eurostat” website on how over the past year that “41.17% of large EU enterprises used AI technologies.” Which implies the relation this computer system shares with industries as it can enhance efficiency and innovation.

Although the normalisation of AI has increased among the public, this does not excuse its problematic tendencies and influence on our environment. Pollution. One of the controversial issues that can be in our world right now can be climate change, as it conflicts severe damage to ecosystems, killing our planet like a virus. The basis of AI contributes to this deadly threat owing to how the system will require high amounts of energy to consume; therefore, without sustainable practices this will eventually result to a large conduct of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide.

In conclusion, understanding the negative effects of which AI assists plays a crucial role as it can empower us to manage to ethical concerns- leading us to promote fairness and societal well-being.





Emma Olufelo and Leila Oni (Year 9)

## We Cannot Stay Silent

### Women Suffer as the Middle East Burns

As Christians, we are called to “carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), yet how often do we truly act on this? The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East challenge us to reflect on our responsibility. Are we living out our faith — or turning a blind eye to suffering? Are we simply feigning ignorance?

Since 2023, wars across the Middle East have left countries such as Israel, Gaza, Yemen, and Syria devastated. For two years, seven nations have been caught in brutal struggles over oil, water, and power. Millions continue to live in fear, unsure whether they or their loved ones will survive another day. While people in these regions endure unimaginable pain, many of us remain silent, distracted by our own problems.

Women and girls our age are paying a particularly heavy price. In warzones, they

face gender-based violence, are forced out of education, and often become caregivers in families shattered by conflict. Their voices are silenced in societies already overwhelmed by destruction and loss.

It’s not enough to feel sympathy and scroll on. Just as we teenagers and young adults use our social platforms to entertain ourselves, we must also try to educate ourselves — and take action. “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” (Proverbs 31:8). We must open our eyes to suffering, raise awareness, pray sincerely, and support the charities working tirelessly to offer aid.

This crisis has gone on too long. No matter our religion or background, we cannot remain indifferent. The Middle East deserves more than pity — it needs our compassion, our

action, and our willingness to educate ourselves and others.



Picture Caption: Women in Gaza face hardships and emotional turmoil during the Palestine war.

Miss S McGowan

## Our Young People Deserve Better

As a teacher at St Bernard’s, I am constantly reminded of the values we strive to instil in our students — compassion, justice, and the sanctity of human life. But these values feel painfully tested when we witness the violence unfolding in Gaza, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, Amhara.

The news is littered with daily news of Gaza and Israel, where children are dying, homes are levelled, and communities live in fear.

Political and religious divisions have turned into devastating conflict. Iran and America’s involvement only adds fuel to a fire that already threatens to consume more lives. In Ukraine, cities are bombed and families shattered, as the war with Russia drags on. Devastatingly, the lost lives of the children in places like Sudan and Ethiopia rarely even make the news. I see the impact of these stories on the faces of the girls I teach — they ask, “Why does this keep happening?”

And I don’t have the answers. But I do know that war is *not* inevitable — it is a choice. War is a failure of dialogue, of empathy, of leadership. Pope Francis reminds us that “war is a defeat for humanity.” I echo that truth in every lesson where we discuss history, ethics, or literature.

What do we teach our students if the world ignores the very principles we ask them to live by? We tell them to listen, not shout. To forgive, not retaliate. To value every life, not just those that resemble their own. And yet on the world stage, power and pride too often silence peace.

Our young people deserve better.

They deserve a world that chooses negotiation over violence, where leaders are peacemakers, not warmongers. As educators, our role is not just to teach about the past, but to help build a more just future. I feel privileged to know the young women we teach today will very likely become the leaders to reshape our world into one where we prioritise love and the lives of every child over all else. Through the St Bernard’s community, I do find the hope that peace might prevail.





Raina Shaik (Year 7)

## India's Tragic Plane Crash



Picture Caption: The devastating aftermath of the Air India plane crash.

When we hear about plane crashes, we might think they attempted to prevent them. But in this case, they didn't even get the chance to.

On 12th June, at 13:39, Air India's AI171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, took off from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, heading to London Gatwick. It crashed less than a minute later. Tragically, 241 innocent passengers and crew lost their lives.

Among these passengers, many were either visiting family or settling in England permanently; their dreams were shattered. But one, Viswashkumar Ramesh, was sitting in seat 11A and said he "waited to die."

Miraculously, he was the only survivor.

He got up and walked out of the battered airplane. How did he survive? We don't know the answer. Like most people, he had family—unfortunately, his brother was on the plane too, and like the others, he was not saved. Viswashkumar will carry this traumatic experience for the rest of his life.

After all this, there is more. Since the plane exploded, it landed in the canteen of a medical college, and 35 people passed away according to official figures. The true number may be higher.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the plane caught fire, and as a result, all the bodies were unrecognisable. This must be devastating for all the family and friends involved. As their loved ones have passed, all they want is for them to rest in peace. We will keep these grieving families in our hearts.

At Gatwick, relatives awaited what they thought would be a normal reunion, but that was a long way off. This heartbreaking news has left the world speechless. Stocks in Boeing dropped, lives were lost, and the area was deeply affected. Please stay safe, and appreciate the people and things around you, especially your family. Thank you for reading.



Picture Caption: Are mounting tensions in Ukraine and the Middle East escalating towards another world war?

Assumpta Ononogbo (Year 9)

## WWIII: Bonafide or a Big Fat Lie?

With the state of the political climate, is war truly inevitable?

WITH the start of 2025, the world has seen several events unfold and heighten: the Israel-Palestine war, the Russia - Ukraine war, Trump's rise to power in the United States, and, most recently, the Iran bombings; many find themselves taking to the Internet with one, single thought on their minds: is the next world war inevitable?

This question has led to several theories, and absurd amounts of morbid humour, with several minds throwing their ideas into the wind for speculation.

However, despite the anxious masses, rampant theories, experts say otherwise: There might be no World War. At least, not in the way many think it will be.

Some experts, like Jason Puck (RUSI), believe that conflicts in the Middle East are unlikely to result in any major wars, as they historically end when global superpowers intervene, making a global

outbreak from that region highly unlikely. Furthermore, they also argue that strategic delegation and negotiation between world powers would also play a vital role in preventing a mass outbreak of war.

However, some do argue that despite the unlikelihood of an outbreak, there are patterns like the preceding world wars that, if not mitigated and managed carefully, could accidentally start what would be the largest war yet. Any slight miscommunication, misfire or misunderstanding could shatter the delicate political balance in the world.

Despite these conflicting opinions, however, there seems to be a consensus: the likelihood of a nuclear world war breaking out is highly unlikely. This is because any nuclear fallout between any two or more conflicting countries would lead to mutual destruction to both sides, hence making it an unlikely consideration if a war were to break out, as world leaders would more than likely opt for a cyber or trade war.





Dumsy Ogbuefi & Dara Bakare (Year 8)

# The Jack Petchey Awards

What’s all the fuss?



Picture Caption: Our winners of the Jack Petchey Awards earlier this year.

Let’s be real — most of us have heard of the Jack Petchey Awards, but not everyone knows what they actually are or how they work. So, what exactly are the Jack Petchey Awards?

The Jack Petchey Awards are a recognition scheme founded by Sir Jack Petchey for young people aged 11–25 in London and Essex. The award isn’t just about academic excellence; it also celebrates those who make a difference in their school community or are simply inspiring all-rounders.

Each winner receives £300 to spend on something that benefits the school. Past winners have used the funding for trips to Thorpe Park, Colchester Zoo, and Chessington, or for things like new art supplies, sports equipment, or projects to make school spaces more inclusive.

One of the best parts of the scheme is that it’s usually students who nominate each other. Rather than teachers deciding who deserves recognition, the awards encourage peers to highlight one another’s efforts and achievements.

A huge well done to this year’s Jack Petchey winners for their commitment and for going the extra mile in all they do. Shout-out to Chloie De Jesus and N’kunga Naphtaline in Sixth Form; Cataleya Brem, Abigail Cauchi, and Charlotte Tyler in Year 7; Sophie Poth and Gabriella Mabaleka in Year 9; and Rebecca Lilley in Year 10.



Congratulations again to everyone involved — your hard work and positivity have not gone unnoticed!

Charlotte Tyler (Year 7)

# Liturgy

Liturgy at St Bernard’s



Liturgy is the form of worship and religious practice followed by a group of believers. Knowing that St Bernard’s is a Catholic school, you might assume we simply do the usual things — like attending chapel and saying prayers. And don’t get me wrong, we do! But there’s so much more, and that’s what makes the liturgy at St Bernard’s so special and spectacular.

If you take a moment to read this article, I’ll give you a little insight into one year of liturgical life at St Bernard’s — from the perspective of a Year 7.

First of all, St Bernard’s offers a wide range of responsibilities within form time. One of these is the role of *Liturgy Prefect*. This important job includes leading the “Theme of the Week” reflections, where our form groups come together to read from the Bible and reflect on the week we’ve had and the one to come. The liturgy prefect also helps with charity events, leads form competitions, takes part in chapel services, and so much more!

This year, the Year 7s also had the opportunity to go on our annual retreat. We visited the beautiful Aylesford Priory in Kent on the 8th and 10th of October. It was an amazing experience where we grew in faith, developed teamwork skills, and explored leadership — all through a peaceful and spiritual setting.

Another highlight of the year is the way we celebrate Advent and Christmas. Each week leading up to Christmas, we light the traditional Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ. The candles are placed at the bottom of the wooden staircase, and each lighting is marked with a meaningful and beautiful ceremony.

These are just a few of the many phenomenal ways liturgy is woven into the life of our school. At St Bernard’s, liturgy is not just something we *do* — it’s something we *live*.





Daniela Copus (Year 9)

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

A review of the Royal Shakespeare Company



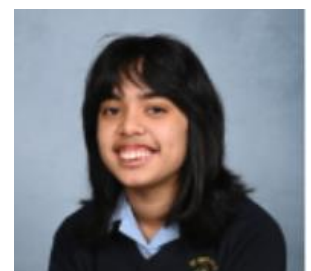
Picture Caption: The incredible set and costume designs from the Royal Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

I would go back to Barbican to watch this production a million times, if I could, until I ran out of money and ice cream cups. I think it was genuinely the best thing I've ever experienced. I say "experience" because it was more than a play that I was watching – from the lights to the costumes, to the set design; it even

had live music on either side of the stage. I could see the band playing, and it added so much to the atmosphere.

This wasn't typical Shakespeare either; it was accessible, engaging, immersive, and the story was very easy to follow. (Nothing against Shakespeare; it's just not always so easy- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* usually takes a lot of focus, and re-reading) It also helped that the casting was perfectly done, with Mathew Baynton starring (*Horrible Histories* and more), and you could tell how eager the entire cast was to perform their role. Each felt distinct, and even the supporting characters had.

There was never a dull moment, even a glance up was met with colourful hanging paper lanterns which genuinely shocked me when they were lowered for the first time, along with the lights and music to accompany them. The staging was quite simple, without murals or intricate backgrounds, but it did so much. It wasn't just the stage that felt like a forest- it was the entire theatre. I went to see this in January, but I'm still laughing at moments at random points in the day, months later, and I don't think I'll ever stop. I wasn't expecting it to stick with me the way it did, but it showed what theatre can be when it pulls you in completely, and that's what this show did.



Keavy Dodd (Year 12)

## A Collection of Reviews

Reviewing *Wicked* and *Moana 2*



Within the past year, there has been so many films released whether in the cinema or directly onto streaming services. Whether it is a concert film such as Olivia Rodrigo *Guts* World tour (12) or a superhero film such as *Thunderbolts* (12) or even an animated film such as *Moana 2* (PG) this year has had a mixed bag of films.

'*Wicked: Part one*' is the first film I will be reviewing. I saw this film in the cinema, a week after it opened and my initial thoughts were "this is the right cast", with everyone being cast perfectly. Whether that's Ariana Grande as Glinda or Jonathan Bailey as Fiyero they were made for the roles. This film is about two girls Glenda and Elphaba at Shiz University and the unlikely friendship that forms between the two. This film with a runtime of 162 mins and an average rating of 3.9 stars out of 5 stars on Letterboxd, *Wicked* was accepted as a good adaption of the award-winning musical '*Wicked*'. Full of 'Popular' songs such as Defying gravity and Popular. Overall, an incredible musical theatre film.



Picture Caption: *Moana 2* and *Wicked* both hit cinemas in November of 2024 and have since grossed over £1.7 billion at the box office.

My second film is '*Moana 2*'. I saw this film in the cinema 2 weekends after it came out, my first thought being "what is the plot?" This film is about Moana going on a voyage to find the lost island of Motufetu and break its curse. The soundtrack to this film is written by Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear. This film cast Auli'I Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson with a runtime of 100 mins and an average rating of 2.8 star out of 5 on Letterboxd.

Happy film watching.





Brielle Minta &amp; Zuzanna Kiszeycka (Year 10)

## More Than Silence

A review of *Solitaire* by Alice Oseman

Picture Caption: The front cover of *Solitaire* by Alice Oseman, illustrated by the author herself.

Tori Spring, the protagonist of Alice Oseman's *Solitaire*, is one of the most realistic and intriguing teenage characters in contemporary Young Adult fiction. She is often sarcastic and deeply apathetic, at times Tori is both infuriating and relatable. She embodies the confusion and exhaustion of growing up in a world that feels complicated, making her resonate powerfully with readers her age.

From the outside, Tori seems detached from everyone around her except her brother Charlie. She spends most of her time blogging, avoiding social interaction, and highlighting the "pointlessness" of life. But beneath her sarcasm and apathy lies a girl quietly struggling with depression and a sense of disconnection from those around her.

Oseman crafts Tori's character as a misunderstood teenager. Her interactions with Michael Holden helps her realise there's more to life than silence and isolation which help too present *Solitaire*'s main message that there is more to life than unhappiness. Holden helps her reveal her glimpses of hope and determination that make her more than just a pessimist, she's a young person determined to find something that truly matters.

"I just want someone to tell me that this whole thing, this life, isn't just some random accident. That it means something."

Overall, Tori's journey in *Solitaire* shows the messy, non-linear process of navigating mental health, identity, and the challenges of adolescence. Her character reminds us that it's okay not to have everything figured out, and that finding moments of connection even at our lowest is essential to healing. I recommend *Solitaire* if you enjoy Young Adult fiction, coming of age stories and authentic mental health portrayal.



## School Events

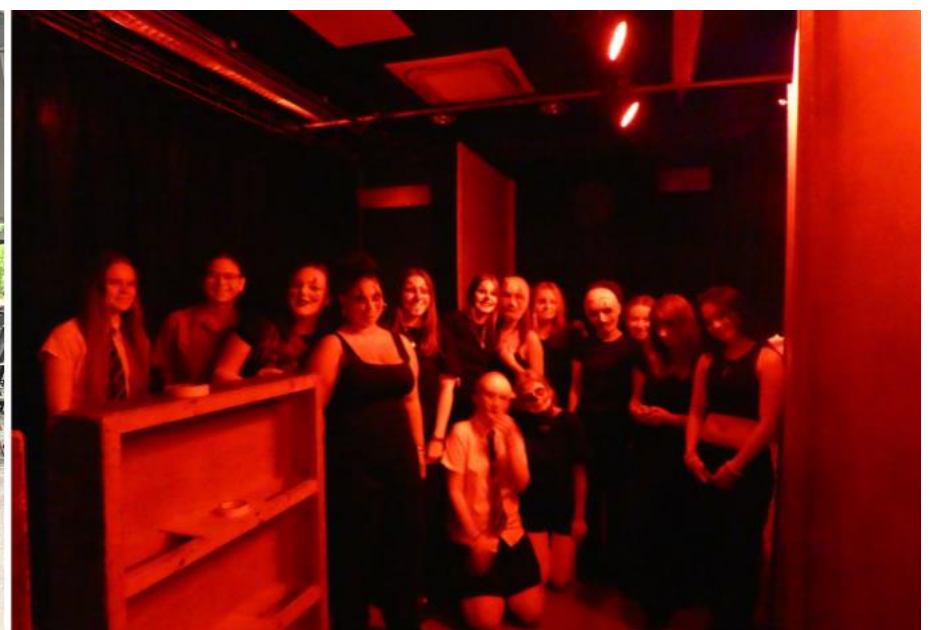


Picture Caption: Sports Day at Garon





Picture Caption (Above): School events from top left to bottom right: Summer Soiree, Sports Day, Sports Day, Greece Trip.



Picture Caption (Above): School events from top left to bottom right: Student Leadership Conference, Year 12 Haunted House, SVP Ice Bucket Challenge, Fun Day.





Picture Caption: School events from top left to bottom right: Summer Fete, Gala Ball, Culture Week, Fashion show.

## Student Editor Introduction

### Welcome to *The St Bernard's Stylus*



Effie Doherty, Student Editor of *The Stylus*

We have a very exciting issue for you this half term. As we come closer to the end of the year, we at *The Stylus* have had a recap of the year. In this issue we have excellent articles about plays, books, charity events, modern world issues, and so much more! Whilst reading these articles, it really sheds light on what is happening in our world today.

I am so proud of all the writers, teachers and everyone who assisted with the first ever edition of *The Stylus*—thank you! I hope you enjoy reading and learning through *The Stylus*. We certainly enjoyed creating it

On behalf of all of our budding journalists: Thank you,

Effie Doherty

Student Chief Editor of *The St Bernard's Stylus* — with pride, purpose, and a passion for telling your stories.

Welcome to the first edition of *The St Bernard's Stylus*, the newly rebranded St Bernard's Journalism Club newspaper. We are proud to present this entirely student-led publication, created with passion and purpose to reflect the vibrant life of our school community. This termly newspaper has one central aim: to share the voices, achievements, and reflections of our students with the wider St Bernard's family.

Within these pages, you'll find a variety of features that highlight the core values and activities of our school. We report on the amazing charity work carried out by students and staff, showcasing the generosity and commitment of our Catholic community. We also reflect on the school's liturgical life and our continued journey of faith, as well as the ways our Catholic ethos continues to shape and inspire everything we do.

As a creative community, we are especially proud to review the arts — not only those celebrated publicly, but also the outstanding artistic and musical talents of our own students. You will find thoughtful responses to current affairs, written with the maturity and integrity that defines St Bernard's learners. From exciting school trips and performances, to sports tournaments and unique extra-curricular adventures, *The Stylus* celebrates all that makes our school experience so enriching and memorable.

This project would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of our Chief Student Editor, Effie Doherty, who has worked tirelessly to learn how to run a newsroom, manage deadlines, and edit articles to a professional standard. Her leadership has helped bring our shared vision to life and set a high standard for future editions.

We are especially excited to announce that next year, we hope to enter the BBC Young Reporter competition, providing students with even more opportunities to develop their journalism skills on a national platform.

We anticipate this to be the first of many exciting editions of *The St Bernard's Stylus*, and we hope it becomes a cherished space where student voices can flourish, inform, and inspire. Thank you for reading, and welcome to our journey.

Miss McGowan Staff (and supporting) Editor of *The St Bernard's Stylus*