

The Pupils' Voice

Your Right to Know

December 2022 - Edition 34

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What students want to hear and what students need to hear

Last school year there was a Wellbeing week organized by the pupils' committee to help raise awareness for students' wellbeing. This organized event involved professionals coming to our school and giving talks to all the different years about how they could improve their wellbeing. When it came to the S5s last year, this seminar sparked outrage...



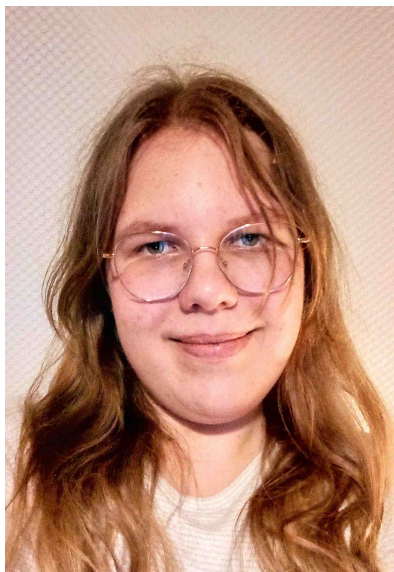
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Cineast Festival in Luxembourg

The Cineast Festival in Luxembourg is also referred to as the Central and Eastern European Film Festival. It is a film festival, held in October, which showcases all the new Eastern European productions of the year. The festival also offers several other events such as concerts and debates. Some lucky viewers may also meet the director of their movie who sometimes happens to be present. This year, there were several wonderful films, but these next movies were, in my opinion, the most compelling and exciting ones...



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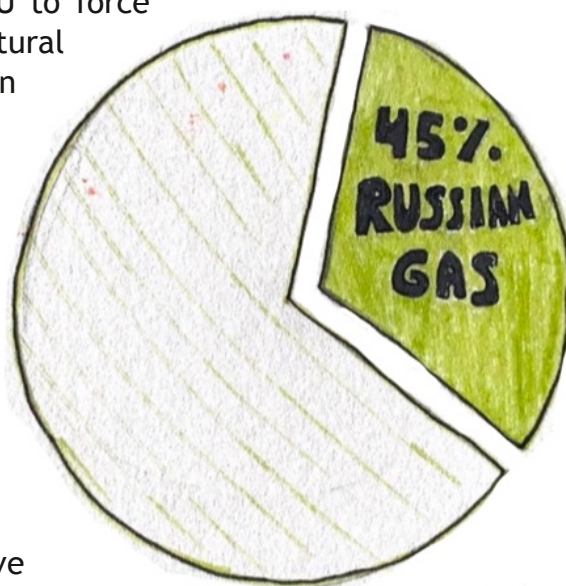
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Energy crisis in Europe

Why are we in an energy crisis and how are we going to manage?

Many factors have contributed to the looming energy crisis; low yields in wind energy production, the long cold winter in 2021 that made people keep their heating on for longer and the lack of investment in fossil fuels in recent years. The most important reason is of course the war in Ukraine.

In response to sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU to force Russia to end the war, Russia has cut off almost all natural gas supplies to the EU. The two main European pipelines that end in northeastern Germany, Nordstream 1 and Nordstream 2, have both been bombed, but the EU has stopped short of naming Russia as the culprit. This is a hard hit as Russian gas accounts for 45% of the EU's gas imports. This is used for heating houses, electricity production and in factories. Also, from December the EU will ban crude oil imports from Russia. Imports have already reduced by 35% with the US and Norway replacing about 80% of the 2.6 million barrels a day. The issue is, of course, that there is still a deficit because they're still losing 20%, so the prices have increased. Oil price increases cause the price of everything to increase because of the increased energy costs in transport and manufacturing.



What is the EU going to do about it?

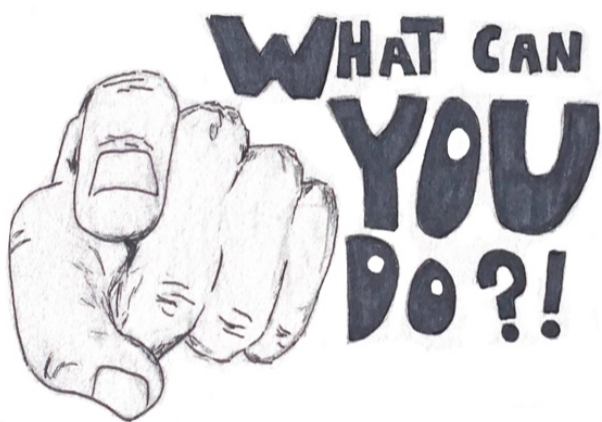
The EU has started to buy more liquified natural gas (LNG) from China as they have a surplus because of their still ongoing Covid lockdowns; if the lockdown ends Europe could be in big trouble. The other problem with this is that there is a high chance that some of the Chinese gas is coming from Russia, which is defeating the purpose of the sanctions. Interestingly, the EU hasn't placed sanctions on Russian gas, only on Russian oil.

What is Luxembourg going to do about it?

Luxembourg, like the rest of the EU has promised to reduce its gas usage by 15% by March 2023. One of the ways it's planning to go about this, is by reducing street lighting and limiting the temperature allowed in public buildings to 20 degrees C with a few exceptions such as hospitals and senior homes. Luxembourg is also providing aid for paying for diesel fuel gas and electricity for businesses that require a lot of energy such as freight transport, construction, and certain food production. They have also pledged to give 75m euro to individual households to help them deal with the increased cost of electricity and gas. This was a non-targeted initiative, meaning that everyone received it whether they were rich or poor. This could be controversial because it means that people who don't really need it still receive it. This is often done when giving subsidies in the short term, as the administration involved in figuring out who needs this assistance could be more expensive than giving it to everybody.



What can be done on an individual level?



Illustrations by Lucía Gavira (S6 ES)

Every individual person can help by saving gas and electricity, which means that the EU will not run out of its reserves and that the prices won't increase too much. For example, our school has reduced the temperature in the buildings by two degrees from 21°C to 19°C and the temperature in the swimming pool by one degree from 28°C to 27°C (to the delight of everyone who has swimming in winter). At home steps such as turning down the heating, taking (short) showers instead of baths, remembering to turn off the lights when you leave the room, using eco mode on your dishwasher and washing machine and unplugging your appliances when they're not in use are all small things that will help save energy in order to economize and help the planet.

Cliona Hickey (S6 EN)

Ioana Hárátau (S7 EN)

La Guerre de l'Ouest

Évènements et Opinions

Martin Stec (S6 FR)

Plus le temps passe, plus l'ampleur du conflit entre la Russie et l'Ukraine augmente. Le territoire et le pouvoir étaient déjà disputés entre les deux puissances Russes et Ukrainiennes bien avant le début de la guerre. Le but était de faire pression sur l'Ukraine et ses pays voisins européens pour ensuite débiter son invasion.

Le président Poutine est réellement convaincu que l'Ukraine fait toujours ou devrait faire partie de la Russie; il affirme qu'en raison de l'histoire commune, l'Ukraine devrait être réassimilée à la Russie afin de restaurer sa grandeur. Il renforce ses propos en mentionnant que l'Ukraine faisait partie de l'Empire russe, un État fondé en 1721 et dissous en 1917. L'Ukraine a d'abord tenté de déclarer son indépendance juste après la dissolution de la Russie impériale, mais elle n'a été véritablement reconnue comme son propre pays qu'après une nouvelle déclaration en 1991.

Afin de limiter les possibilités stratégiques du président Poutine, les membres de l'OTAN et d'autres alliés ont décidé de sanctionner la Russie, c'est-à-dire de bloquer les imports de la Russie et des comptes bancaires détenus par des oligarques (classe dominante liée au gouvernement en Russie). Les pays ont aussi déposé des plaintes contre président Poutine et son régime à l'échelle internationale pour ces crimes de guerre présumés. De plus, ces pays ont reçu beaucoup de retour négatif: « les sanctions détruisent notre économie plus que la Russie », « ce sera seulement le peuple innocent qui subira les conséquences ». Le point sur lequel tout le monde est d'accord, c'est que personne ne sait à quoi pense Poutine, ni comment il va agir.

Avec ceci en tête, les pays européens et les États-Unis, afin de protéger leurs alliés autour de l'Ukraine et de l'aider à gagner la guerre, fournissent de l'armement à l'armée ukrainienne. Ces pays disent qu'ils veulent se positionner sur « le bon côté de l'histoire ». Certains autres pays contredisent ceci. Ils proclament ne pas vouloir être impliqués dans cette « guerre froide créée par les Européens et les États-Unis », comme l'affirme le président chinois, Xi Jinping, au cours de son discours parlementaire le 17 octobre 2022.

Le président Poutine a déjà une longue histoire derrière lui: avec deux termes exécutifs, la durée de sa présidence est de 18 ans. Mais avant qu'il devienne président, il était un officier du KGB, l'institution autoritaire au temps de l'Empire russe. Le KGB était à son temps déjà redouté pour son comportement amoral et tactique. C'est avec ces connaissances que le président Poutine attaque les points critiques de l'Ukraine.

Son armée, par exemple, a attaqué la deuxième plus grande centrale nucléaire ukrainienne en septembre 2022. Cette attaque a provoqué une panne de courant temporaire en Ukraine. Récemment, une attaque ciblée contre le réseau électrique ukrainien a été lancée. Ces endroits sont tous les deux des points cruciaux pour la communication ukrainienne, pour l'armée, mais aussi le peuple d'Ukraine.

Cependant, ce n'est pas seulement la Russie qui participe à ces attaques: le pont qui relie la Russie et la Crimée, un point vital pour la Russie, a récemment été détruit par une explosion. Les autorités russes suspectent qu'il s'agit d'une attaque terroriste orchestrée par





l'agence secrète ukrainienne. De plus, le gazoduc sous-marin russe, qui est l'un des principaux moyens d'exportation de pétrole vers l'Europe, a subi des dommages après plusieurs "grosses" explosions, qui ont été confirmées par des séismographes suédois et danois. En attendant, il n'est pas encore clair qui aurait pu causer ces explosions.

Nous pouvons donc conclure que la guerre qui a commencé en 2022 est une suite de nombreux conflits territoriales et de pouvoir. Président Poutine déclare que l'Ukraine n'est pas un pays indépendant et appartient toujours à la Russie depuis l'Empire russe. Afin de limiter les effets de la guerre, les pays européens et les États-Unis ont provisionné l'armée ukrainienne avec de l'armement. Ils ont aussi, avec la contribution des autres pays Alliés, mise en place des sanctions contre l'État russe. Les opinions à ces sujets restent de même très diversifiés.

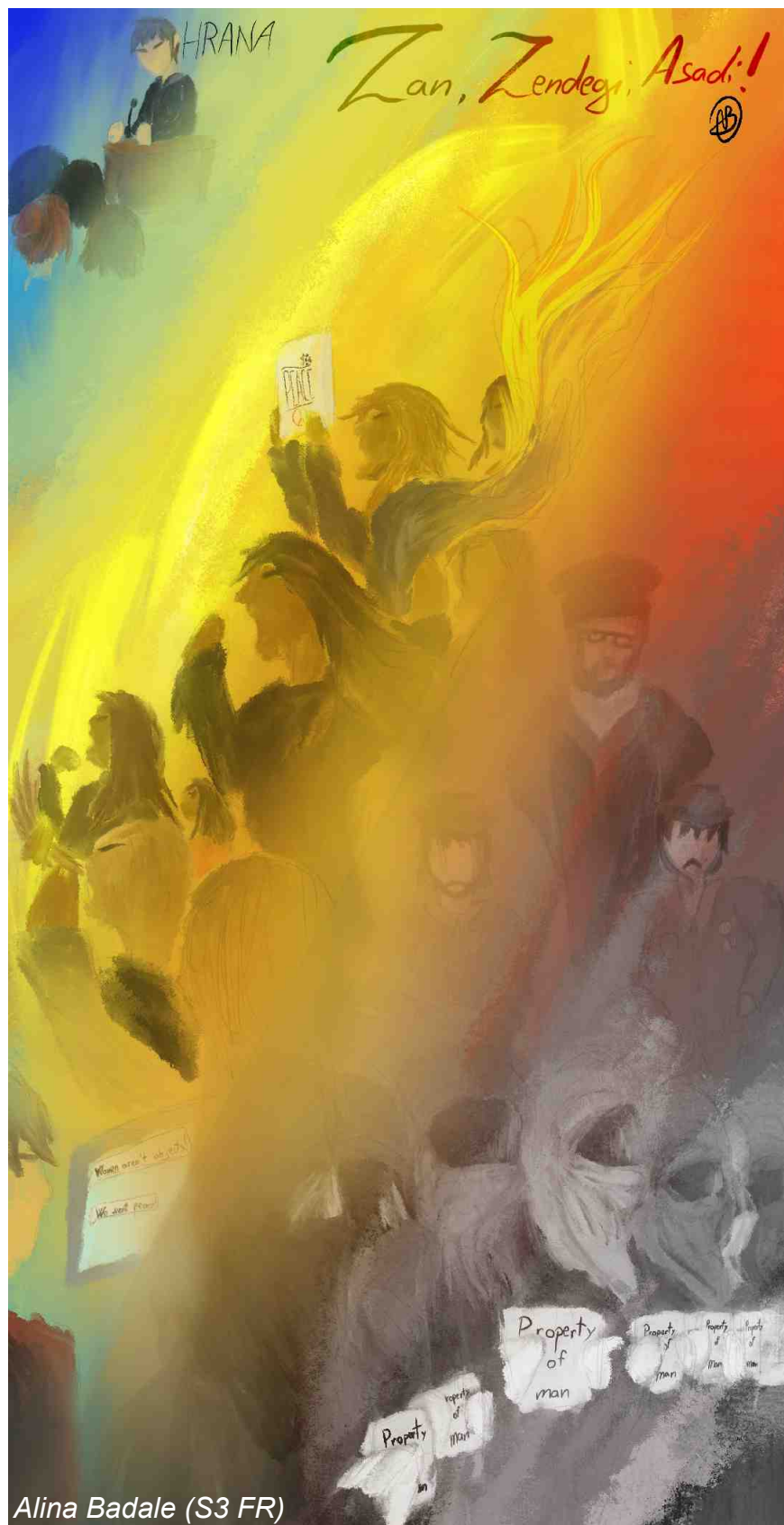
L'Ukraine et la Russie ont subi des attaques à des endroits critiques pour leur développement. Pendant que les Russes attaquent des infrastructures électriques de l'Ukraine, leurs points d'accès et moyens d'exportation de pétrole se font détruire, les coupables restant inconnus jusqu'à présent.

Warren Sternon (S6 DE)
Eleonore Andre (S7 ENB)

Zan, Zendegi, Azadi Women, Life, Freedom

Julia Dec (S3EN)
Aimée Dhonte (S5FR)

How the death of a young Iranian girl changed the face of a nation and its country



Alina Badale (S3 FR)

Mahsa

On the thirteenth of September, a young woman from north-western Iran comes to visit her relatives in Iran's capital - Teheran. The woman in question (Mahsa Amini) is wearing a headscarf - maybe a little looser than others in Teheran. Amini gets off the metro and is stopped by the Guidance Patrol (Iranian vice police). The officers accuse her of improper clothing: a loose scarf sliding off her head - her jeans, too tight.

Mahsa is put into a van, and versions of the subsequent event wander off. According to officials, Amini arrives at the police station, where she is given an hour-long lecture on the virtues of women in Islam - a "standard" procedure. There, however, she faints and falls into a coma - followed by assisting police officers, driving her to the hospital. The young woman's family and several witnesses, however, tell a different story.

Prior to this incident, Mahsa was completely healthy. However, under further examination, a supposed brain hematoma, (which was later detected and confirmed) was the result of the severe beating she was put through by the police. They had banged her head against the fender of the van several times.

On the sixteenth of September, Mahsa passes away, not waking up from her coma.

The Birth of a Rebellion

For the next two weeks, riots break out in major cities. At first, people demand those responsible for Mahsa's death be punished - but in the face of ever more brutal attempts to suppress the protests and silence of the authorities, the young rebels gain momentum.

For the past several weeks, the world has been witnessing the incredible courage of women in Iran: the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini sparked massive protests against the regime of the ultra-conservative Islamic clergy (ayatollahs), who compulsively control women's bodies, minds, and lives.

Journalists are arrested, telephone networks are jammed, and internet is censored in a desperate desire to control the narrative and conceal the government's atrocities. Despite this, the women in Iran are not yielding. Persian, Azerbaijani, and Kurdish women (many of them very young) are paying with their lives for freedom.

A Right to Self-determination

Women on the streets of Iran have been fighting not only for the memory of murdered girls, but also for the right to self-determination.

Their slogan is: "Zan, Zendegi, Azadi" - "Women, Life, Freedom".

As from the time I am writing this article (26/10/2022), at least 250 people have been killed in protests across the country: ~ thirty-two of them children. HRANA - the Iranian Human Rights Organization - estimates at least 12,500 protesters have been imprisoned.

Since the beginning of riots, in sign of civil disobedience, many young women are ostentatiously removing (even burning) their headscarves in public. In Iran, the "hijab and chastity" law requires all girls and women aged 9 and above to cover their hair and necks. This became compulsory in 1981, two years after the Iranian Islamic Revolution. Since then, the requirement of wearing hijab

is regarded by many as a symbol of the state's repression against women. Authorities argue that it is immoral for women to show their hair and necks, and as such, this part of women's bodies should be veiled.

Videos of Iranian women cutting their hair have flooded the Internet - some do it subtly, strand by strand. Others, shaving almost to the skin - regardless, one senses anger and determination for freedom in their eyes. They do it out of pain, out of a sense of helplessness in the face of what surrounds them, but also, to mark their right to determine their own choices about their bodies, appearances, and self-expression.

These protests united almost the entirety of Iranian society - struck by the unity of different generations, grandparents protesting hand in hand with their granddaughters are spotted. Young people lead the way, with elders following them.

Why should we care?

How, or why are we impacted by a rebellion taking place over 5,000 kilometres away from us? Certainly, there is not much we can do to directly help Iranian girls fight for their most fundamental rights.

Yet even our moral support would be priceless. Iranian women should know they are not alone - that people from all over the world have them deep in their hearts.

Even if protests are not immediately victorious, it is certain that their courage and perseverance will eventually change the world, one step at a time.

Finally, we should also remind ourselves how incredibly privileged are we, living in Europe, in Luxembourg - a developed country, which cares about basic human and women's rights.

We all should realize that our fundamental freedoms which we breathe, live, casually disregard and are fortunate to have every day, are only but a dream for others.

Double meurtre d'homosexuels en Slovaquie

La situation générale des LGBTQIA+ en Europe

Linda Wertlenová (S6FR)

Katja Skyly (S7DA)

Mercredi 12 octobre, deux hommes ont été abattus par balle devant un bar gay populaire au centre de Bratislava (capitale de la Slovaquie).

Les victimes étaient deux jeunes étudiants dont l'un qui travaillait à ce bar. Ils ont été attendus par le tireur une dizaine de minutes et se sont fait abattres un peu après 19 heures. La nuit du meurtre, la police nationale slovaque a réussi à identifier le suspect. Un jeune homme de 19 ans, Juraj Krajčík, fils d'un membre éminent du parti de l'extrême droite, qui n'a pas obtenu suffisamment de voix pour entrer au Parlement lors des élections législatives de 2020. La police a retrouvé son corps le lendemain vers 8 heures du matin, dans un parc pas loin du lieu de la fusillade. Selon les médias, peu de temps avant son suicide, il avait laissé des messages homophobes et antisémites sur son compte Twitter, affirmant qu'il ne regrettait pas ses actions.

Cette nouvelle a laissé la communauté LGBTQIA+ profondément en choc, et à la suite de cela il y a eu des manifestations. Plusieurs politiciens ont montré du soutien aux familles des victimes. Notamment la Présidente slovaque, Zuzana Čaputová, et le Premier ministre, Eduard Heger, qui s'est exprimé sur twitter et a décrit le tireur comme un "adolescent radicalisé". "Deux personnes ont été assassinées simplement parce qu'elles faisaient partie de la communauté LGBTI, c'est inacceptable", il a réagi en ajoutant : "Dans un pays libre et démocratique, les homosexuels ont le droit de vivre librement".

Ce n'est pas la première fois de l'année qu'on rencontre un cas similaire en Europe. Par exemple à Oslo, capitale de la Norvège, le tueur présumé a fait deux morts et 21 blessés près d'un bar gay la veille de la Pride. Malheureusement même en 2022, il reste de la haine envers les minorités partout dans le monde, même en Europe. En effet dans plusieurs pays européens tels que l'Espagne, la Suède, l'Italie et l'Estonie, des partis d'extrême droite ont ouvertement fait des commentaires désobligeants sur les personnes LGBTQI ou menacé leurs droits. Rome, Budapest et Varsovie sont très proches sur les questions sociétales, se rejoignant dans leur positionnement anti-islam, anti-immigration, anti-avortement et anti LGBT. « La droite européenne se renforce... Nous vaincrons les communistes, le gauchisme et le lobby LGBT - tous ceux qui ruinent notre civilisation », comme l'a lapidairement résumé le vice-ministre de l'Agriculture polonais Janusz Kowalski sur Twitter. Dans les pays de l'Est de l'Europe, les gouvernements peuvent parfois même passer à l'action. Comme la Hongrie, qui a adopté en juin 2021 une loi qui interdit la promotion de l'homosexualité et du changement de sexe auprès des mineurs. La loi est entrée en vigueur malgré l'opposition de l'Union européenne. Elle a été approuvée par 157 députés sur 199 sièges. N'oublions pas les pays tels que la Lettonie, classée 41ème sur 49 pays (juste devant la Pologne) du classement fait par l'ONG sur les droits des LGBTIQ+ des pays d'Europe et d'Asie centrale. L'an dernier en mai 2021 un homme homosexuel Letton 29 ans avait été



brulé vif par un groupe de gens. D'autres cas pourraient être cités, car chaque année de nombreux actes homophobes sont commis contre des personnes innocentes.

Comment pouvons-nous êtres des alliés à la communauté LGBTQIA+ ?

Même en tant qu'élèves, professeurs ou qui que ce soit d'autres nous pouvons changer le monde pour vivre dans un endroit meilleur par chaque petite action. Premièrement, il faut se renseigner le plus possible sur les différents termes utilisés et des enjeux liés à l'orientation sexuelle et à l'identité du genre. Il faut aussi

s'informer sur tous les sujets politiques et autres liés à cela. Deuxièmement, il faut intervenir si on est témoin de différents actes discriminatoires et donner l'exemple. Troisièmement, essayer de joindre les efforts de collectivités tels que des manifestations, collectes de fond, bénévoles... Chaque geste compte et peut aider la communauté LGBTQIA+. Ces exemples mentionnés peuvent aussi aider d'autres communautés discriminées. Pour conclure, aucune personne ne devrait être discriminée par la société ou sentir ses droits en danger pour son orientation sexuelle ou simplement pour ce qu'elle est.

What students want to hear and what students need to hear

Last school year there was a Wellbeing week organized by the pupils' committee to help raise awareness for students' wellbeing. This organized event involved professionals coming to our school and giving talks to all the different years about how they could improve their wellbeing. When it came to the S5s last year, this seminar sparked outrage.

Tuesday, 17th of May 2022, Denise Clarke, a psychologist and psychotherapist, gave the S5 year a talk about mental health and wellbeing. We were excused from our classes to go to the Salle De Fete for one period, to listen and hopefully learn from her speech. However, this project from the pupils' committee did not receive the positive feedback it was probably hoping for. Students reacted sarcastically and found Clarke unhelpful and naïve, which is interesting with her being a professional and them not. I recall her encouraging students to sleep enough, exercise and to eat healthily and a girl replying with "No, I want to be skinny," under her breath. This made me wonder why students were upset with a woman telling them how to make their lives better.

Clarke encouraged us to do what makes us happy, to take some stress away from school and overall be healthy to have the best mental wellbeing. Students scoffed as she mentioned ikigai - a Japanese concept for helping people find purpose and meaning. Students argued that school was making them unhappy, and they could not try to do things which make them happy and promote a healthy lifestyle, because then they would not have enough time to study for school. For example, when students feel stressed about schoolwork, Clarke recommended taking a break and instead going out for a walk in nature. This was met with disagreement, claiming that students did not have time for this, because of tests and homework. Therefore, school being the reason that they are not mentally healthy and well.



Lilieholm Malvina (S6 SVA)

So, why was Denise Clarke so wrong with her advice? Well firstly, she was not wrong with her advice. Everything she said was true and helpful, but only true and helpful to a small group of students: the ones who were mature enough to listen to the advice given and respect the one giving it. Most of the students tried to use their phone and ignored what she was saying, because they did not have enough emotional maturity to face the facts: they are responsible for their own wellbeing. Yes, it is a lot easier to blame the school for making them stressed and sad and it is a lot more difficult to face the fact that the way you plan and live your life is your responsibility and ultimately you are to blame if you are unhappy with how it is, but to students this was not true. They could not believe that this woman was telling them to stop using their phones so much.

Listening to this talk required a lot of maturity and respect, which very little of the students had. They know what they should and should not eat and how long is too much to spend mindlessly scrolling on social media, but they were possibly just too young to see that what Clarke told them was true. It is possible, however, that in S5 one should be able to see these things objectively and take responsibility for their lives. So, were the previous S5s just too immature and arrogant to listen to? That is also possible or maybe they just wanted something else from the school. Maybe they were waiting for a talk about how terrible the school system is and how teachers are awful and how their mum has no right to ask them to clean their rooms or that their dads just do not understand them at all.

At the end of the day, the talk that was given was what students needed to hear, not what makes them feel better about themselves. It rather makes them feel better about changing their habits. It is impossible to know what every student present thought, however, the students felt unheard because of their problems, but refused to listen to how their problems could actually be helped.

Loore Puusepp (S6 ENA)

Alexia Cosmatchi (S7ENA)

Sisters or Strangers?

The differences between the European schools of Lux 1 and Lux 2

To bring an interactive twist to her first article of the year, my fellow Lux 1 journalist, Emma Vowles, either to her advantage or disadvantage, met me. Together, we explored the differences between our schools by doing a day exchange.

I followed Emma's timetable. Quite naturally, I did not understand a word of Swedish biology, was absolutely baffled when she and her classmates pulled out computers and tablets in their L1 lesson (indeed, S5 students and above are required to have them for work matters), struggled less in her L2 German class, and stayed in the library whilst she took a history test.

When asked to describe their school, what came up most frequently amongst Lux 1 students was "prison," "juvenile detention centre," "asylum," "depressing," and "old". This especially applies to the school's crumbling exterior and its need for more scaffolding. Nonetheless, Lux 1's easy access by public transport makes up for it.

Regardless of the somewhat pejorative remarks about the school's physical appearance, its internationality was equally praised. The same can obviously be said for Lux 2, but both schools balance themselves out in terms of language sections.

Although the English, French, and German ones remain the most popular, Kirchberg also enrolls Dutch, Finnish, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish-speaking students. Additionally, it has opened SWALS Bulgarian, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian classes, and a Ukrainian section has been created that admits young Ukrainian refugees. The school's interior upkeep is relatively good too, apart from the inevitable vandalism in bathroom cubicles.

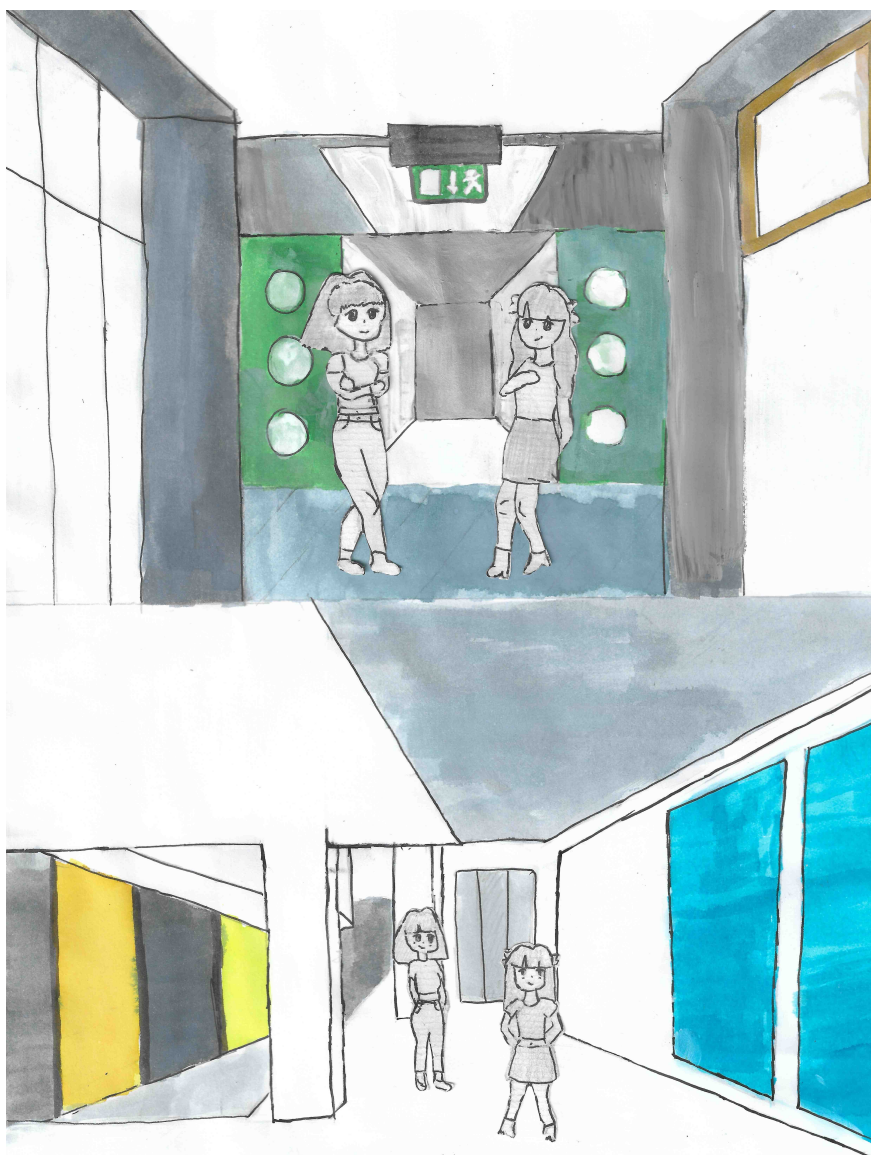
Provided a new pupil were to try to orient themselves alone around Lux 1, it would probably be confusing. Its layout is not as straightforward, or so it seemed in my experience. Lockers are scattered all over the place, and room numbers do not adhere to logic. There are two gym halls, and swimming lessons are taught at d'Coque. Due to the secondary building's big L-shaped architecture, five minutes between classes is barely enough to sprint from one end of the school to the other. School hours also slightly differ: the day finishes at 16h25, the twenty-minute break occurs after third period, and lunch, only during fifth and sixth.

Supplied by Sodexo, Lux 1's canteen has five food stands: the main meat or fish-based dish is served at Côté Bistro; Bowl tends to ramen; Pasta Roma is for Italian cuisine lovers; barbecues and burgers can be found at Street Food, and Natural has all vegetarians covered. Similarly to our own in Mamer, the Kirchberg cafeteria offers sandwiches, salads, pastries, drinks, and snacks. Prices average between six and seven euros depending on the starters and desserts added, and students use cards to pay. Unlike ours, the hall is equipped with microwaves for packed lunches to accommodate everyone.

What struck me most, however, upon entering the school's dining hall, was how deinstitutionalised it presented itself. Picture a food court in a shopping centre with soaring ceilings and windows. Not only that, but parked outside around the corner of the building on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the school has set up a food truck, whose unique menu items change daily. In both schools, the law of the jungle prevails during lunchtime. Still, I noticed less queue skipping in Kirchberg...

Concerning the mobile phone policy during the lunch break, students are not allowed to use their devices, let alone furtively glance at them to check the time. If caught by patrolling advisors, they will be confiscated.

Apparently, Lux 1's kitchens were also proud to announce that some of their fruit and vegetables are harvested organically and directly from the school's gardens.



Athanasia Fragkiadaki (S1EL)

The legitimacy of this claim is yet to be attested, though, since Emma reported never having seen them. Even so, aside from dubious vegetable patches and fruit orchards, Kirchberg has already developed and carried out many other sustainable initiatives. Back in June 2020, the school collaborated with Greenpeace and installed 1 500 photovoltaic panels on the main building's roof! Recycling bins and water fountains have been widely deployed around the school as well.

Overall, my exchange went swimmingly. It involved a lot of me striding off confidently in the wrong direction, earning a few "Who the hell is that?" along the way, marvelling at the amount of food choice during lunch, subsequently gaping at the fees. Emma and her friends were all very welcoming and were even so kind as to warn me against visiting the notorious B-sector lavatories- a much-appreciated piece of advice, despite their whereabouts being unknown to me.

In conclusion, both schools can learn from each other. They are microcosms of the European Union, and the two promote EU values which fight for peace, freedom, and cultural diversity.

Maeve Bouchez (S5 FRA)

Andre Eléonore (S7 ENB)

Thoughts About Vandalism

In our school, there has been a recent incident of vandalism in the boys' bathrooms. The school staff found signs and drawings on the walls and even toilets and sinks destroyed. I was called, along with the rest of the boys, to attend to a meeting where the school counsellors talked to us about the situation. All the speakers, representing either the school administration or the pupils' committee agreed that vandalism is wrong and that these incidents should not occur in our school.

When the meeting finished, I was pretty upset but also troubled. I've always thought that our school was a place where everyone respected each other. I remember when I was in primary school, there were similar incidents in the boys' bathrooms, but I believed the cause was that the primary pupils are too young and sometimes immature. I wasn't expecting such behaviors in secondary. I thought that kids in secondary were better and smarter than that. I believe that doing something like this is not funny and it doesn't make you seem cool. There are surely some talented graffiti artists who decorate cities with their art, but drawing on someone else's property without permission is unacceptable, even illegal. All these thoughts created two questions in my head: Why does vandalism happen and why is it a problem? I researched these questions and came up with some very interesting answers.

Why does vandalism happen?

Vandalism, namely in the form of graffiti, is everywhere, but why is that? It is wrong and, not to mention, illegal. It happens because of bad choices people make and, most of the time, vandals are just young people trying to look cool. Vandalism often occurs as a result of bad influence from friends. Friends are great but bad friends can get you into bad situations. Of course, no friend can force you to do an inappropriate act, but it is rather easy to get carried away. Sometimes strong emotions like jealousy, frustration and hatred can result to acts of vandalism. However, it is usually all about expressing opinions and ideas and seeking recognition. If this is the reason, vandalism is definitely not the right way to do it.

Why is vandalism a problem?

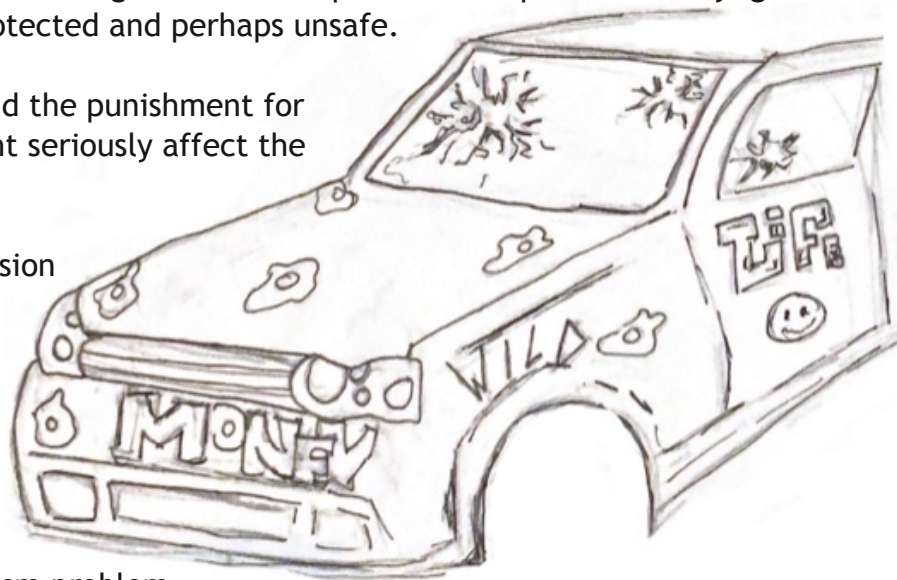
Vandalism can affect peoples' lives because it damages and destroys things they care about. Vandalism is a form of violence, a social problem and an actual offense. Even in the case of a seemingly harmless graffiti, there are serious consequences. There are three basic ones:

A) Financial: Repairing the damage costs money. In the case of a school, it means that in order to cover up graffiti, the school might have to cut out some other useful activities.

B) Social: Publicly viewable vandalism changes the atmosphere of a place. It may give the impression that the area is not well-protected and perhaps unsafe.

C) Legal: Vandalism is a real offense and the punishment for someone who has committed it, it might seriously affect the person's life and future.

A few years ago our school gave permission to pupils to use a wall for graffiti and drawings on the bottom floor of the building. The wall is pretty nice and I definitely think that it would be a good idea for the school to give students more chances to express themselves and show off their talent. This might not be a perfect solution to the vandalism problem but it might be a good start.



Gavira Fuster Lucia (S6 ESB)
Sortikos Maximos (S2 ELA)
Ioana Haratau (S7 ENA)

A day on the other side

Emma Vowles (S5 SVA)
Mia Tuason (S7 ENA)

I am sitting on the bus, feeling excited. It's 8.40 and I'm going to the European School in Mamer. Through the window, I slowly start to see a brown building appearing in front of me.

Visiting Mamer as a Kirchberg student – How is it?

As soon as the bus arrives, I grab my bag and go towards two girls, Aimée and Maeve who are waiting for me. We introduce ourselves and walk to the school. The first lesson is sports.

I'm quite nervous, as it will be with people I have never met, but at the same time, I enjoy meeting new people. We go to the gym, and I have already discovered a difference; you walk through the canteen in order to get into the main school building. I'm also surprised that the canteen and cafeteria are connected and are therefore open all day. Stepping into the building, we first see the swimming pool, it's quite small but practical, as it is on the school property and this is also different from Kirchberg. Ever since middle of Primary, I've been swimming in Coque. We quickly get changed and go into the hall. I look around and see another difference; they've got a climbing wall. I feel jealous but try to hide it. We play volleyball during the entire double sports lesson and then there is suddenly a break.

Another difference from Kirchberg, where the break is an hour later.

During the break, the girls show me their lockers and take me to their French classroom. The bell rings and the lesson begins, sadly, I don't know any French, so I'm sitting at the back of the class doing some homework.

45 minutes later, I prepare myself for the next lesson, but get interrupted by my friend saying we have lunch. I start to think, "Lunch? At 11.30 AM?" I'm used to eating lunch at one o'clock, so I'm not hungry, but we head to the canteen. Whilst standing in the queue, I realize that people use their phones. I curiously ask if it's allowed to use them during lunch, and Aimée says yes very confidently. Another difference that I quickly note down and once again, I feel jealous. I also notice that the food options are different from Kirchberg; they have no vegetarian option and they don't have any "Street food" option. During lunch, I ask some questions to Maeve and Aimée.:

What do you like about Mamer?

Both reply quickly that it's easy to access Mamer and the staff is helpful. They think it is easy to find the classrooms and that the courses are interesting. Last but not least, it's great to have Belle Etoile close to the school, and I must agree, having Auchan near me is amazing.

What do you want to see in Mamer in the upcoming years that hasn't been implemented yet?

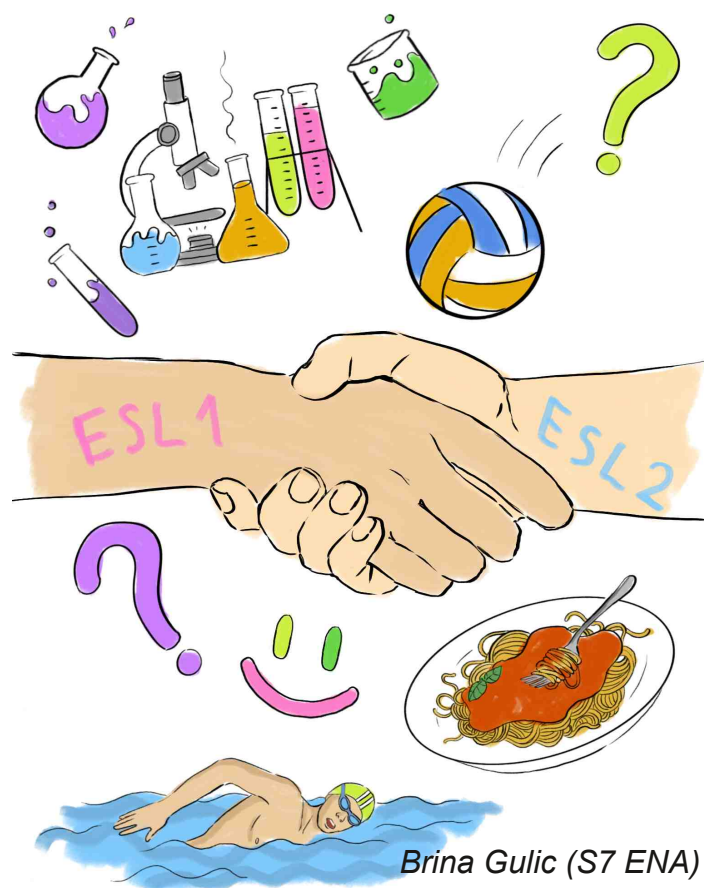
They reply that they'd like to see more greenery around the school, and that there should be solar panels installed.

The next lesson is Latin. I laugh a bit to myself, thinking it will be interesting to participate in a Latin lesson in French. Two things that I've never had. I take notes about my day and suddenly the bell rings. The school bell in Mamer sounds like you're at an airport,; very modern and completely different.

Next up is L3, German. Finally, a subject I have. I sit together with Maeve and I think about how the atmosphere is different from Kirchberg. I get

the feeling that Mamer has more space around the school but is smaller inside.

One lesson later, it's time to have two free periods. We study for a bit, and then me and Maeve decide to go out. When we walk, I notice similarities, such as the small library and the big music classrooms.



Brina Gulic (S7 ENA)

The last lesson is chemistry. I must say I would prefer to be in this class, even if it is in French, as we're actually in a lab. My class is too big to fit into our classroom, so we use a computer room. Despite the language barrier, follow the experiment and try to understand what's going on.

Suddenly the bell rings it's 16.30, I wonder if my watch is wrong, but Aimée explains that they end five minutes later than Kirchberg does. I pack my things, walk together with Maeve and Aimée towards the bus and thank them for a great day.

This day has shown me that even if both are European schools, there are many big differences: schedules, food, classes and much more. I'm happy to be a Kirchberg student but we could definitely learn things from Mamer!

Necessary vandalism:

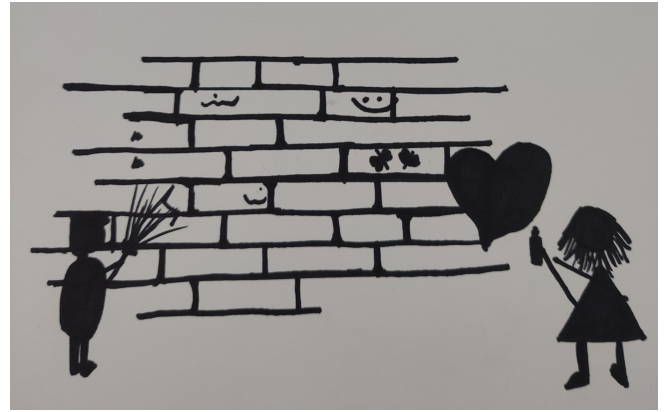
Taking action when the school won't

This isn't how first days at school are meant to go. Sharpie in hand, sitting on the shoulders of my friend, I found myself "fenestrating" (turning something into a window) a swastika on the BAC' 2013 poster. Upon the revelation that this symbol of hate was smeared using black acrylic paint, I was shocked to realise it has likely been there, for all to see, for almost 10 years now.

After doing a bit of research, I stumbled upon an early edition of the Pupil's Voice in which there was already an article created by Ioana Hárátau that was published in early January last year, highlighting the very same vandalism and neo-Nazi iconography that we have, sadly, had to cope with and adjust to. She warns the reader of the rise in "alt-right groups" and "anti-human rights propaganda" in school and elsewhere, which is designed to target impressionably young minds, making our school environment a perfect hunting ground for this hate speech. Understandably, students and teachers alike were shocked by this, and many brought it to the attention of the administration. They have acknowledged it but, despite the outcry, have done nothing about it.

This begs the question: how has our school gone 10 years with Nazi imagery, slogans, and acronyms plastering the murals, decorating the toilet stalls, much unwanted artistic features under the desks in the science classrooms? Do they deem this acceptable, or do they simply not care? Even though they have numerous, and not to mention talented, art students who would be more than happy to use their creativity to drown it out, their good will should be more than enough motivation to act.

However, I have little faith that those in charge, upon reading this article, will suddenly do something about it. Instead, I fear this article will just be added to the list of times someone has tried to enact change in this school, and has been ignored.



Lazaros Tsenekidis (S4 ELA)

The school has brought up the issue of vandalism, but they addressed it far later than they should have. On top of that, they did not talk about the issues surrounding the use of swastikas. This leads me to believe that the school cares more about property than the bigger issue of discrimination.

Consequently, the school called a meeting with all the boys to talk about the vandalism. The fundamental issue here is that, by labeling it a gender issue, you are insinuating that this is an issue only boys can create. Those in charge should have seen this as a learning experience for all, not just boys. It is ultimately pointless to make only one gender attend this assembly because the teachers cannot teach when half of their class is missing. Many teachers are outraged by this, and with reason. Additionally, by making this a gender issue, it could make it seem "cool" and "rebellious" to those who are committing said vandalism: as most people with neo-Nazi tendencies tend to also, surprisingly enough, be misogynists! As a result, this adds more fuel to the fire and creates more problems than there were originally. (Shocker!)

As Martin Luther King Jr wrote in a letter from jail: "One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws." So, I urge you, reader, brandish your permanent marker with pride, rally your classmates, climb on their shoulders, and write your favorite song lyrics, football players' names, poems, or physics formulae over the antisemitism. Let us (quite literally) take matters into our own hands and cure our school of the 10-year plague once and for all!

Bennett-Bywood Samuel(S4 ENC)

Lana Markulin (S7 ENA)

How to keep your inner Grinch away

A guide to activities to enjoy Advent!

Whether it is in movies, books or songs, Christmas spirit never disappoints! Advent is not only a specific month: it's a setting with the people you cherish, with activities you can't wait to engage in since the first school bell rang the end of summer. Here are a few ideas to make Advent this year year worth the wait, and as iconic as it can be!

1. Direct or imagine a Christmas movie script with a friend: every single year, new Christmas movies are released with the EXACT same plot twist: "Jessica cannot come home for Christmas because she works too hard. Will she be able to relax while she catches up with John, her high school sweetheart?"

Try and come up with a different or similar story line with a friend, making it simpler and more natural, or even more delusional and improbable.

2. Baking! One of the many perks of attending a European School is that you have many different friends who have many different nationalities! This Advent, organize a contest for the best Christmas treat from each country! Something else you could do in the kitchen is having a blast trying to recreate your friend's recipe that they translate many times beforehand into different languages, before coming back to English: you'll be left with steps that don't make sense!

3. Create Christmas cards or decorations by hand! DIYs are extremely fun to do! If you have time to kill, it's a must. You can find so many different ideas and levels of difficulty to keep you entertained while you wait for your Christmas cookies to cool down!

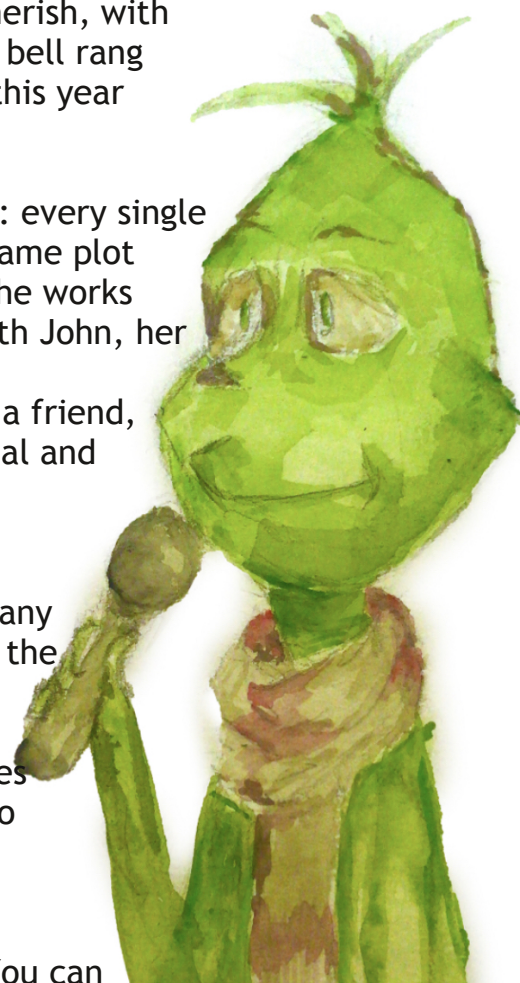
4. Luxembourg is not very famous for its great weather, and it's not very likely that you'll get your perfect snowy photoshoot this Christmas! Instead, opt for indoor activities such as ice skating, shopping, pottery, bowling or playing an escape game!

5. One thing that is always fun to do is organizing a Secret Santa with your friends or family. With a limited budget, enjoy finding or making a cute gift for a close one!

6. Christmas is a great time to give back to others. Sign up for volunteering with a friend, clean out a park near where you live, or ask neighbors to walk their dogs: doing it with someone is highly encouraging and makes it more fun!

7. Take some time off for yourself! Take yourself out for dinner, do your best skincare, watch your favorite show drinking your favorite drink! There's nothing wrong with treating or spending time with yourself.

8. Last but not least, a classic: karaoke! Nothing comes close to singing good old Christmas songs at the top of your lungs with someone special.



Ana Wallis (S2 FRD)

Most importantly, Christmas break is here for you to relax. It's here to congratulate you for your hard work: for finishing your exams, or just your semester! It's here for you to enjoy time with your friends, your family, and yourself! Merry Christmas, everyone!

Aimée Dhonte (S5 FRA)

Julia Dec (S3 ENC)

Cineast Festival in Luxembourg

The Cineast Festival in Luxembourg is also referred to as the Central and Eastern European Film Festival. It is a film festival, held in October, which showcases all the new Eastern European productions of the year. The festival also offers several other events such as concerts and debates. Some lucky viewers may also meet the director of their movie who sometimes happens to be present. This year, there were several wonderful films, but these next movies were, in my opinion, the most compelling and exciting ones.

Grandpa Goes South directed by Vinci Vogue Anžlovar - Slovenian

This is a heartwarming comedy about two best friends who haven't seen each other in years but who, nonetheless, decide to pack up and go on a road trip together. The main characters are two elderly musicians: one healthy but lonely, Vlado; the other suffering from cancer and longing for his lost love, Boris. Vlado knows that Boris doesn't have much time, so he decides to take him on a road trip to say a final goodbye to Neda, Boris's lost love. While escaping the hospital, they run over Esma, who is on the run after a failed mafia mission. She joins them and they embark on a funny adventure. The movie has easy dialogue and brilliant cinematography. It also encompasses Eastern European humor quite well.

R.M.N. directed by Cristian Mungiu - Romanian

This movie is a psychological thriller which the director has described as being a brain scan of the current political climate of Romania; more specifically of Transylvania, a region which has been under a consistent strain. The story follows a Roma-German Romanian as he returns from working abroad in Germany. He decides to become more involved in his son's life as he begins to realize how much he has missed while away. He reconnects with his former Hungarian girlfriend, who is the head of a bread company which begins to face criticism and boycott after hiring Sri-Lankan workers in order to gain EU funding. This is all happening in a very tense and divided Transylvanian village. The director represents the dynamics in such a village with intense accuracy and the dialogue we follow is in Romanian, Hungarian and German. Furthermore, it is a great psychological thriller focusing on one man's longing for control and power over his family and his fate, as he deals with extreme fear and distress. The movie ends in a brilliant cliffhanger which leaves the viewer astonished.

The Last Race directed by Tomáš Hodan - Czech

This is a brilliant drama focusing on the ski race of 1913 in which two famous skiers, Bohumil Hanč and Václav Vrbata, were found dead, frozen to death. This story is one that brings together sport and friendship, creating an atmosphere filled with emotivity and drama. This movie is based on a true story; a retelling of a real race which is often told differently by history. The director sets out to change how this story is told and wants to make sure that all the characters are included. The movie is wonderfully made and, although the ending is known to be tragic, the cinematography makes it seem even more so.



My Favourite War directed by Ilze Burkovska - Jacobsen - Latvian

This is an animated docuseries that follows the life of Ilze, a young Latvian girl living through the Cold War. This movie was included in the "Youth" part of the festival, aimed at younger audiences, as it is animated. There are several instances where we can see the director, whose story is actually being told. She decided to make this movie to document her life under Soviet rule in Latvia and the beginning of her discovery of Soviet propaganda. She recounts how she led the first years of her school life believing everything she was told and wanting desperately to defend and protect the state at all costs.

Then as she begins to grow up, she realizes the amount of propaganda that surrounds the state and the amount of corruption. She decides she no longer aligns with this state that she has loved all her life and tries to come to terms with very difficult choices in this regard. This movie is very relevant and very important, especially during our current political climate. The Cold War is often overlooked and there are many young people who can benefit from understanding this very important time in Eastern European history.

Overall, this year's festival was amazing and was filled with phenomenal movies which are worth watching even now, as the festival has ended. The festival will be happening again next year, so if you liked the selection this year, you should try to go next year as the movies will be just as great!

Ioana Haratau (S7 ENA)

Mia Tuason (S7 ENA)

No Joke!

Cultivate yourself in less than five minutes

Do you want to know something completely random? Something that you can bring up amid conversation, or keep in your back pocket?

Who knows? Sometimes it might come in handy... well, dear reader, if the answer is yes, you are in the right place...

June 1815, the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon's last battle - and sadly for him, not a completely successful one - the British forces completely crushed the French troops. Exiled on Saint Helena, in May 1821, Napoleon died. He was then buried in not one, not two, not three, not even four, not five, but six coffins that would fit into each other! One was made of soft iron, another of mahogany (too difficult of a word to remember, but one can always try), two others of lead, one of ebony, and the last of oak. One of the theories on why the Brits did this is that they didn't want Napoleon to rise from his grave. I don't know, do you think it worked?

Think about it. In the meantime, let's move on from battlefields, remote islands and skeletons to Glasgow, crime, and street lighting.

In the year 2000, in Glasgow, Scotland, the colour of street lighting in some districts was changed from yellow to blue for purely aesthetic reasons. Later, it had been found out that the number of crimes and suicides had noticeably decreased in the blue-illuminated areas - so much so that in Japan, police decided to set up blue street lighting in some neighborhoods, too. There are a few psychological reasons behind this blue light effect:

1. Blue is a calming colour
2. It is associated with police presence
3. It is unusual, so people will be more cautious in the area

Illustration by Ana R. Wallis

namdro cafst droman stafc
ramond fastc dramno tacfs
nodarm satfc modran satcf
radnom ftacs random facts
arnodm afcst modnar stafc
mordan catsf androm fatcs

Talking about crime, let me give you a lifehack that you might or might not need to use someday. If you ever find yourself in the middle of a crime investigation where you need to forge your fingerprints, find a koala.

We all know that monkeys are our closest living relatives. In the 1970s, the number of unsolved crimes in the UK was becoming a serious problem. The London police thought that perhaps criminals were using monkey fingerprints to confuse them - so, they tested chimpanzee and orangutan fingerprints. Don't worry, no monkey was found guilty of any criminal activity. Funnily enough, the police said that the naked eye cannot distinguish a chimpanzee fingerprint from a human one.

This little tale was picked up by the Australian police - they feared that koala fingerprints may have hampered their criminal investigations. It turns out that even under a close inspection with a microscope, a koala's fingerprints are almost identical and impossible to distinguish from our own. Scientists don't know the reason behind this yet!

Dear reader, from graveyards to Australian koalas, you just learned three very random facts. Let's hope they are helpful.

Angelina Tzankova (S5 FRA), Ed. Julia Dec (S3 ENC)

Here they are...

by Ana Wallis

Dad Jokes

How do celebrities stay so cool?
They have many fans.

How can the NASA safely send astronauts
to the sun? Send them at night.

What did the ocean say to the
beach? Nothing - just waved.

Why are elevator jokes so classy & good?
They work on many levels.

How did the kids from stranger
things
clean up Hawkins? Dustin'.

What do you call an angry cow and an angry
goat ? Two animals in a BaAaAaaAd
MooOood.

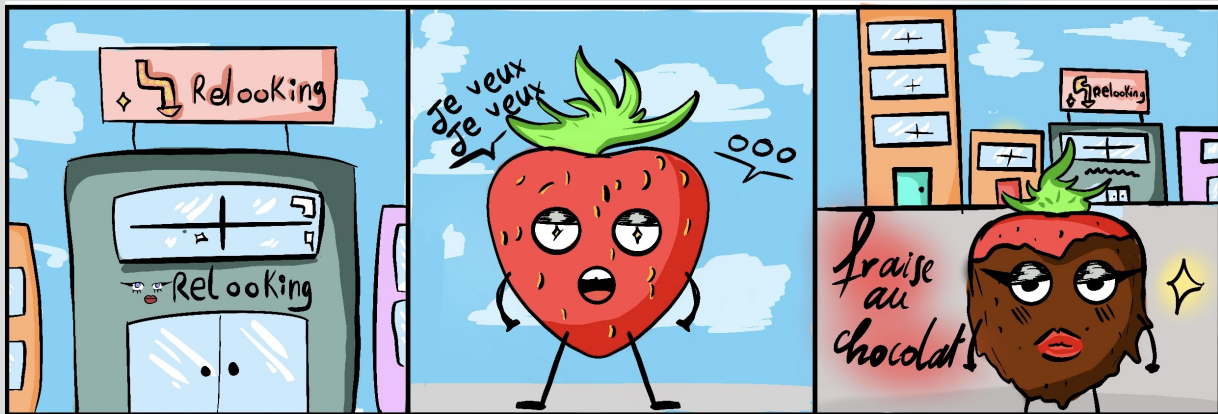
Comics



Dana Hlaváčová



Andrei Ionescu



Alexandru Zeciu

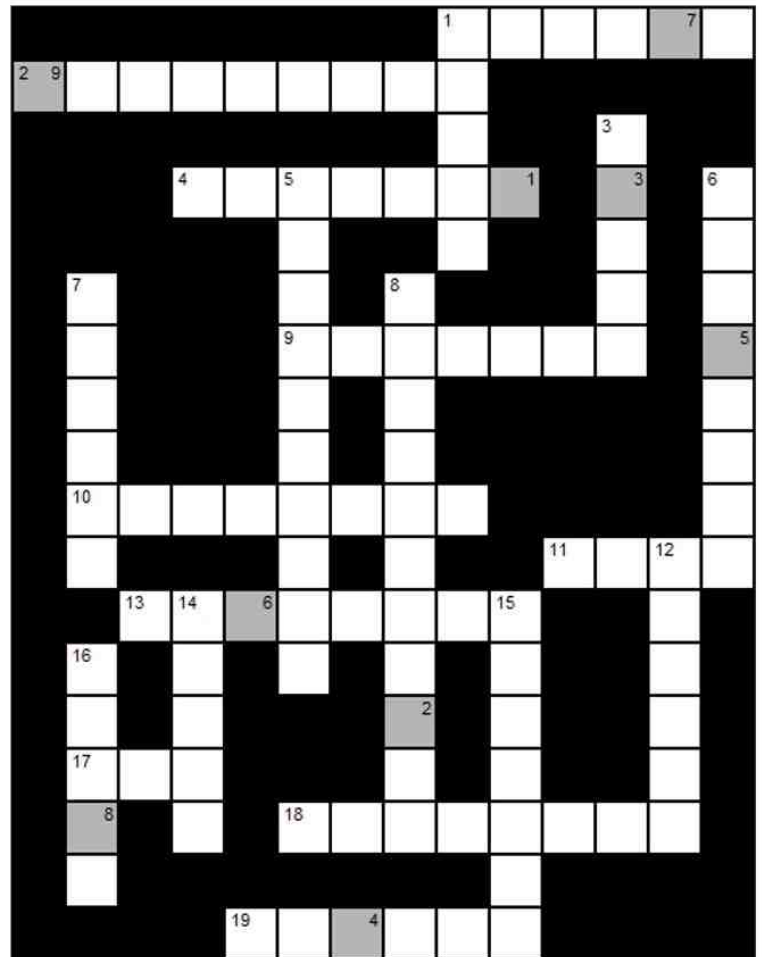
Crossword

Across:

- 1 How Santa laughs
- 2 Where Santa lives
- 4 Country in Europe that produces the most Christmas trees
- 9 Through where Santa enters your house
- 10 A company that contributed to the image of Santa
- 11 Abbreviation of "Christmas", based on the Greek letter χ (Chi)
- 13 The month of Christmas
- 17 On December 24, it's Christmas ____
- 18 What every letter to Santa must include
- 19 Reindeer pull Santa's ____

Down:

- 1 "Last Christmas I gave you my ____"
- 3 You wish someone a "____ Christmas"
- 5 A famous Christmas ballet
- 6 These are put under the tree
- 7 He stole Christmas
- 8 The first song played in space
- 12 Filled with chocolate, ____ calendar
- 14 The helpers of Santa
- 15 ____ the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- 16 A Christmas tree is ever ____



Solution:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Tip: It's the Luxembourgish word for Santa Claus pronounced "Clees-yen".

December 2022 Horoscope



Aries: Be cautious around people you don't trust very much and beware of making useless promises. Your relationships with family and friends

will be protected by Jupiter. Don't be, however, annoyed with them because your frustration won't solve anything.



Gemini: Do not complicate things unnecessarily. The simplest solutions are sometimes the most effective. Saturn will bring your more sensible

and comforting side come out. This will make your entourage happy, as they complain a lot about your coldness.



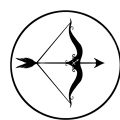
Leo: If you are under pressure, simply remain attentive to what's happening around you and, when the time comes, you will be offered some good advice.

Your family will frustrate you, but remember, they're allowed to make mistakes, they're as much human as you.



Libra: Always try to find the right balance between useful questions and provocation – words can hurt. Once you find this, people will like you much

more and your life will brighten up. Remember: don't be too harsh with your family and friends, don't risk hurting them.



Sagittarius: Do not react to provocations. Remember that words weight silver but silence weights gold. Pluto will make you extremely irritable

and frustrated, and you will be easily annoyed by your friends and family. Don't let this ruin your relationships, be patient with your loved ones!



Aquarius: Prioritize your family relationships. It is your source of warmth and comfort. You fight for great causes, and you are ready to make

the earth tremble for them. However, try to carefully distribute your enthusiasm.



Taurus: Do not expect happiness to be served to you on a silver platter: you have to work for it. Your familial relationships will be delightful and natural, thanks to the careful eye of Pluto.



Cancer: Cultivate the art of dialogue instead of thinking that you are smarter than your neighbour (even though you probably are). If you feel alone, you are

highly encouraged to meet people with the same interest and start conversations with them.



Virgo: Trust only the people you hold in your heart and don't let anyone change your mind. Jupiter has smiled at you from the sky: your family life and your social will be brilliant.



Scorpio: Try to always keep your composure if you were to face bad luck. Thanks to Venus, you have some bright time ahead of you. However, you are

advised to be more careful with your health. Don't overwork yourself, take some time off!



Capricorn: Be more positive and don't think too much about the bitter thoughts that come to your mind. You wish for happiness of your loved ones. Great

news! Your wishes will be met with appreciation from your loved ones, and this will create a comfortable environment.



Pisces: Put order and keep only the essentials in your school and private life. Your familial relationships will be influenced by Jupiter. Your older

relatives will try to find any way to support you, including financially. Be wary of Pluto, which will make you question your relationships and not trust your loved ones.

CRUSHES;

what are they?

Have you ever had the feeling like your heart is about to beat out of your chest or butterflies fluttering in your stomach as you meet the gaze of your crush, wondering why you are feeling this way? Apparently, it's not as random as you might think it is. The science behind having a crush is kind of complicated. Neurobiology is very complex, but to simplify, this is what happens.

What's the actual science behind having a crush?

The hypothalamus, a small structure deep within your brain, controls and stabilizes the hormones in your body. It releases 4 main types of hormones when you have a crush: dopamine, serotonin, cortisol and norepinephrine. You may have already heard of dopamine and you may think, "Isn't that the molecule that is in many drugs?" and you would be correct. Dopamine is responsible for allowing you to feel pleasure, motivation and satisfaction; this is why you may feel the need to see your crush. Having a crush is so deeply rooted in your brain that you might subconsciously think about them to get that slight boost of dopamine. To briefly define what the other hormones are: serotonin is a mood stabilizer, cortisol is a steroid that is released when you're stressed, norepinephrine is a hormone that increases alertness and attention when in a stressful situation (or fight-or-flight).

How is this all related? It all ties in because when you meet or even think about your crush, serotonin levels drop as cortisol rises, which in return releases dopamine, which produces norepinephrine. In other words, the hormones that make you all jittery and

anxious are high, the hormones that stabilize your mood are low. So, how does this affect your day-to-day life? You may notice a change in priorities, have intrusive thoughts or feel more energetic. For example, you might have homework due next day, but you decide that it's better to text them at late hours. You may even feel motivated to go to school just to see your crush pass by in the hallway. However, it's not the same for everyone: some people might feel the need to talk to their crush at every instant and annoy them with question, and others might feel like they need to distance themselves and not talk to them.

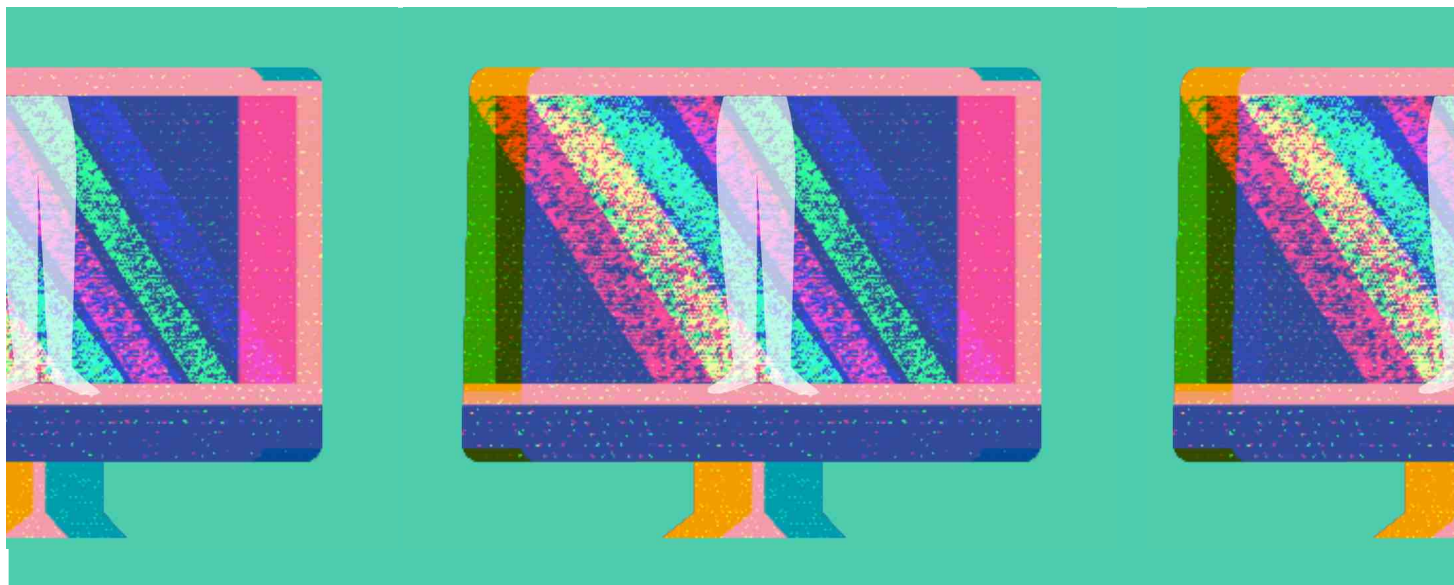
In conclusion, falling in love is not as "in your head" as it seems. Many things happen that we might think are unrelated, but nothing ever happens randomly. It's interesting to think that your brain is so in control of your body, but is it really fully in control? Is falling in love really as straightforward as some chemical reactions in your brain or is it just "right time, right place"?

Mari Bakhtamyan (S4 ENC)

Lana Markulin (S7 ENA)



Lazaros Tsenekidis (S4ELA)



Laura Fioretti (S7FRB)

HOW YOUR SCREENTIME AFFECTS YOUR FUTURE

In a world where technology has become a big part of our lives, we tend to spend a massive portion of our time on screens, affecting our productivity, health, and future.

We are lazy. We are conditioned to be lazy by the comfort we are offered. The technology we have gives us entertainment for hours, with practically no effort required from us. We never have the time to be bored, with our mind always focused on the never-ending flow of information from social media and entertainment platforms. Our attention span is decreasing every day. Studies have shown that not only does this excessive screen time affect physical well-being, causing poor sleep quality, worse eyesight and increased risks of obesity and diabetes, but it also affects mental health, leading to higher levels of stress and anxiety, and could lead to depression.

We tend to become less productive, less focused and less motivated on our personal projects, because working efficiently seems so hard and takes so much time for ever so slight results, compared to online platforms that provide us instant gratification and dopamine, effortlessly. Social media apps, video games, streaming platforms, and websites are all competing against each other for our screen time, designing the most addictive and gratifying

services they can to extract our data. And it works; the average teen spends over 6 hours daily on screens. We'd think most apps we use are free; they are not. We are paying for them with the most valuable currency we have: our time.

Let's take a low average of about 6 hours of daily recreational screentime. That's 42 hours per week, 180 hours per month, and 2190 hours per year. That's 91 days. That's a quarter of a life. Imagine all the books that could've been read in that time. Imagine all the new skills that could've been learned in that time. Imagine the results if that time had been used to workout. Time is the most valuable thing we have, and it is one of the few ones we have some solid control over; and there are more productive ways to spend our time than on videogames, social media, or other entertainment platforms. Sooner or later, we will be forced to change this lifestyle, and it would be for the better. It is time to take back control again and turn this weakness into a strength.

Often, the best source of motivation to change is ambition. Dreaming big, dreaming of any kind of success in life, be it wealth, fulfillment, happiness, recognition, or any other kind of achievement, should provide us with the will to put in the necessary effort to reach those goals. Once we have the motivation, we'll have to do the necessary work to reach our goals. Now we should ask ourselves this

one question: who's more likely to succeed in life, Person A, who spends the majority of their free time on addictive videogames and social media for instant gratification and short-term entertainment, procrastinating on their projects, or Person B, who uses their free time optimally to work out and stay fit, to perfect their skills, to study or to read, and to put in the work they know is necessary to achieve their long term goals, trying to improve and become the best version of themselves? If we'd pick Person A as the most likely to succeed, we'd probably be lying to ourselves; it might be time to take our future into our hands and try and become a Person B on our own.

Change is tough, especially when it's change from an easy, comfortable lifestyle to a way of life that might start as less gratifying, and harder to maintain. However, it is worth it; a healthy lifestyle, connected to our work, nature, passion, and people around us, without any addictions, is a lifestyle worth striving

for. But it won't be possible to jump into such an ideal right away, because change is not easy, and starting too hard might just lead to giving up a week later. It is therefore important to take it easy at the start and add progressively more and more difficulty so to be able to succeed in each task, while still improving over time. When it comes to long-term goals, they can't be expected to be reached immediately, but that's what makes them so rewarding.

To conclude, it is obvious that we spend too much time on screens and in the digital world, which negatively affects almost every part of our lives, but we are the ones in control, and it is up to us to produce the effort and put in the work necessary to quit this lazy lifestyle and strive for a more healthy, productive, and fulfilling one.

Martin Stec (S6 FRB)
Linda Wertlenová (S6 FRA)

WARUM EINWEG VAPES SOFORT VERBOTEN WERDEN MÜSSEN

Die versteckten Gefahren hinter den bunten Geräten

Einweg E-Zigaretten gelten als neuer Trend unter Rauchern. Ihr Hype ist schon seit 2018 zu verzeichnen, doch die Nachfrage steigt exponentiell. Auch durch soziale Medien werden Einweg Vapes gefördert und gelangen somit in die Hände von Jugendlichen. Doch was steckt eigentlich hinter den bunten Geräten und wieso sollten sie sofort verboten werden?

Im Jahr 2004 kamen die ersten E-Zigaretten auf den Markt. Dabei handelte es sich um Mehrweg-Produkte, also E-Zigaretten, die man nach der Verwendung wieder auffüllen konnte. Am Anfang waren sie recht unbeliebt, doch 10 Jahre nach ihrer Veröffentlichung hatten die Vapes schließlich ihren Durchbruch. Sie sind mittlerweile zu einer gängigen Alternative unter Langzeitrauchern geworden und bringen viele Vorteile mit sich: Anstatt verbrannten Tabak einzusatmen, inhalieren die Dampfenden vorgefertigte Stoffe, die deutlich weniger lungenschädlich sind. Nach einer Studie aus Großbritannien ist das Dampfen sogar zu 95%

gesünder als das konventionelle Rauchen; die Langzeitfolgen sind noch unbekannt. Allerdings sollte man das Dampfen nicht verharmlosen, denn chronische Dampfer haben, genauso wie Raucher, auch gesundheitliche Beschwerden. Viele Stoffe, die in Tabakzigaretten ungefährlich sind, werden nämlich durch das Verdampfen krankheitserregend. Beispielsweise ist das in Vapes enthaltene Propylenglykol beim Schlucken harmlos, reizt jedoch die Mund-, Nasen- und Augenschleimhäute, wenn es eingeatmet wird. Ein anderer Stoff, Formaldehyd, der in großen Mengen in E-Zigaretten enthalten ist, ist sogar krebserregend. Nicht zu vergessen ist das Nikotin, eine süchtig machende Substanz, wegen der so viele Raucher und Dampfer ihre Gewohnheit nicht loswerden können.

Zurück zur Geschichte: Einige Jahre nach dem Erfolg der E-Zigarette bemerkten die Hersteller eine Marktlücke. Das Produkt war – im Vergleich zur klassischen Zigarette – sehr unpraktisch. Um E-Zigaretten Nutzer zu werden, musste man in ein 30

bis 100 Euro teures Gerät investieren und sich mit den auffüllbaren Substanzen, den sogenannten Liquids, befassen. Außerdem stellte sich das Herumtragen der E-Zigarette als ziemlich umständlich heraus; man musste sie schließlich immer dabei haben. Der Aufwand, der dahintersteckte, war für viele gelegentliche Raucher einfach zu groß. Für Anfänger waren die aufladbaren Geräte sowieso nicht gedacht. Und so wurden die Einweg E-Zigaretten entwickelt. Das schlichte Design, die bunten Farben und die enorme Auswahl an Geschmäckern überzeugte viele Nichtraucher, mit dem Dampfen anzufangen. Sogar etablierte Dampfer, die schon ein Mehrweg-Instrument besaßen, stiegen erwartungsvoll auf die Wegwerf-Variante um. Der Trend der Einweg E-Zigaretten stieg somit im enormen Maße, allein in den letzten zwei Jahren erhöhte sich der Verkauf um mehr als 200%.

Zurzeit ist die beliebteste Einweg E-Zigarette die „Elf Bar 600 Disposable“. Diese findet man in diversen Geschmacksrichtungen, wie Apfel-Pfirsich, Zitronenkuchen oder einfach Cola. Für 10 Euro ist das Gerät alles andere als günstig, trotzdem wird es millionenfach verkauft. Ein Einweg Vape besteht – ähnlich wie ein Mehrweg Vape – aus einem Plastikrohr, einer Verdampfungseinheit und, erschreckenderweise, einem aufgeladenen Lithium-Ionen-Akkumulator. Ja, richtig gehört, in jeden Vape ist ein kompletter Akku verbaut, meistens 550 mAh stark und mehrere Hundertmale aufladbar. Allerdings fehlt bei den Einweg Vapes die dazugehörige Ladeelektronik, die einem das mehrfache Benutzen des Akkus ermöglicht. Das Wegwerfen der Strom-speicher ist demnach sehr umweltfeindlich, vor allem weil sie aus seltenen Erden bestehen. Diese müssen in einem hochkomplexen Prozess aus Mineralien herausgelöst werden und hinterlassen dabei giftige und manchmal radioaktive Abfälle. Der ökologische Fußabdruck der Einweg Vapes ist also enorm. Ob man eine Einweg oder Mehrweg E-Zigarette wegwirft, spielt dabei keine große Rolle.

Allein in Großbritannien werden zwei Einweg Vapes pro Sekunde weggeworfen. In einem Jahr könnte man mit der angesammelten Menge an Lithium bis zu 1.200 Elektroautobatterien fertigen. Ein weiterer Grund zur Sorge ist, dass nicht einmal

die Hälfte der Nutzer die Dampfgeräte fachgerecht an den entsprechenden Sammelstellen entsorgt. So landet der Großteil der Vapes im Haushaltsmüll oder einfach auf der Straße.

Das Abgewöhnen der Einweg E-Zigaretten würde jedoch nur den wenigsten leichtfallen. Einige Dampfer können täglich sogar einen ganzen Vape konsumieren, was mit 30 bis 40 normalen Tabakzigaretten vergleichbar ist. Immer mehr Jugendliche werden auf die stiftartigen Dampfgeräte aufmerksam, nicht zuletzt, weil viele Influencer sie in ihren Videos benutzen. Demzufolge bieten viele Hersteller auch nikotinfreie Vapes an, die allerdings nur begrenzt vor den gesundheitlichen Risiken schützen. Ebenso sollte man sich vor gefälschten Vapes in Acht nehmen, wenn man explodierende Akkus und illegale Zusatzstoffe vermeiden will.



Fazit: In unserer klimabewussten Gesellschaft haben Einweg E-Zigaretten einfach nichts zu suchen. Natürlich haben elektrische Zigaretten viele Vorteile, diese sind jedoch auch in ihrer umweltfreundlicheren Variante, den Mehrweg E-Zigaretten, vorzufinden. Der Verpackungsmüll, zusammen mit dem Plastikrohr und den noch zu benutzbaren Akkus, werden skrupellos von Millionen von Menschen auf der ganzen Welt weggeschmissen. In einer Klima-krise, gegen die wir mit harten Mitteln kämpfen müssen, ist solches Verhalten sehr gefährlich und äußerst kontraproduktiv. Es bleibt also nur zu hoffen, dass alle Beteiligten auf dieses Problem aufmerksam werden und die Einweg Vapes schnellstmöglich in Vergessenheit geraten.

Helena Karczewska (S6 DEB)

Nina Mulder (S6 DEA)

Quel est l'impact de la crise Covid-19 sur la vie sociale?

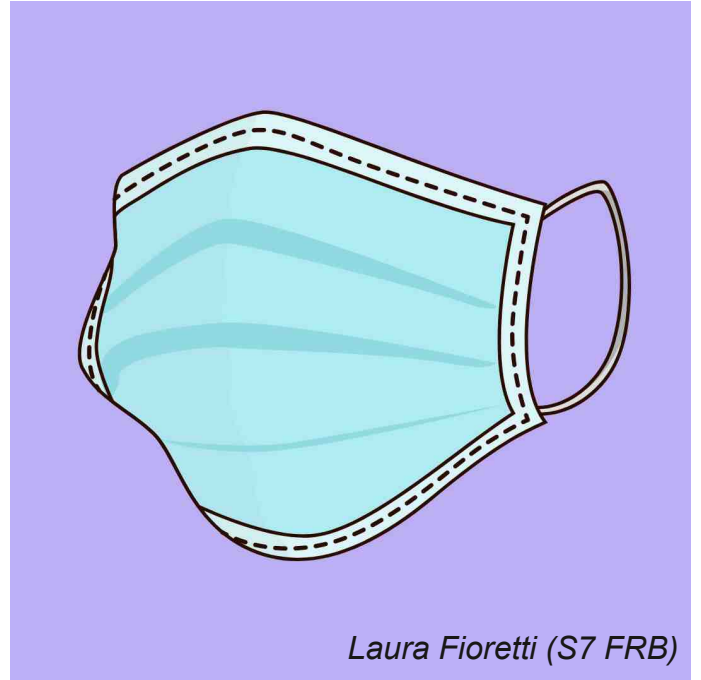
Les fragilités du monde révélées durant la pandémie.

La crise sanitaire a laissé des traces dans notre société en forme de fossés profonds que nous allons devoir reconstruire ensemble. Pourquoi ne peut-on pas dire que cette crise était uniquement sanitaire ? Quels étaient les autres enjeux en question ?

La crise Covid-19 était une crise importante qui a perturbé tout le monde quand elle a fait son entrée au début de l'année 2020. Depuis, beaucoup a changé. Ce n'était pas seulement une crise sanitaire, c'était également une crise "révélatrice" pour souligner l'ampleur des inégalités sociales, la fragilité de la paix sociale, le déficit de savoir-faire des autorités publiques et la confiance en la science. Le "monde d'après" est laissé avec des fossés profonds, nous obligeant à faire face à une reconstruction de la société. Comment est-on arrivés là et quels en étaient les enjeux les plus importants ?

Confrontées à la situation d'urgence sanitaire, les autorités publiques ont pris des mesures sans tenir compte des inégalités sociales présentes partout. En effet, les groupes situés en bas de l'échelle sociale, notamment les personnes aux revenus les plus faibles et les immigrés d'origine extra européenne ont été les plus touchés par la pandémie. Des études montrent que le ralentissement, voire l'arrêt, de l'activité dans certains secteurs de l'économie avait eu les conséquences sur l'emploi et les ressources financières les plus marquées sur les personnes se trouvant dans des situations professionnelles instables ou de précarité économique et sociale.

En outre, les inégalités de sexe ont été plus accentuées pendant la crise. Les femmes, étant alors obligées à rester à la maison au lieu d'aller au travail, se retrouvaient premièrement en charge des tâches domestiques. Durant le confinement, les femmes étaient plus engagées dans l'éducation des enfants à domicile tout comme pour les



Laura Fioretti (S7 FRB)

besognes à la maison.

En plus, les travaux menés contre les inégalités des femmes ont été mis à côté et moins en priorité lors de la pandémie, ralentissant le procès d'égalité entre hommes et femmes.

Pendant la pandémie, les frontières entre information et désinformation, entre savoirs profanes et savoirs experts et entre science et non-science sont devenues floues. Elle a parfois été décrite comme une pandémie de désinformation, notamment sur les réseaux sociaux. Constamment, des faits scientifiques sans sources définies étaient diffusés. Les jeunes, recevant la plupart des nouvelles à travers les réseaux sociaux, étaient exposés aux intox et désinformations. L'importance des incertitudes créées par cette pandémie a causé de nombreuses controverses, plaçant les scientifiques et les experts en opposition aux contributeurs souvent anonymes. Cela n'a pas seulement rendu la confiance en la science difficile mais a aussi créé des problèmes et conflits dans plusieurs différents aspects.

Un de ces conflits était le grand débat entre les pro-vaccins et les anti-vaccins.

Lors de l'arrivée des vaccins contre le Covid-19, que beaucoup de personnes pensaient allait nous permettre de voir la lumière au bout du tunnel, le sol a été éclaté et encore un fossé est apparu. Les pro-vaccins se sont retrouvés sur un côté et les anti-vaccins de l'autre. Parfois, des relations familiales et amicales ont été rompues, priorisant ce débat sans fin. Les argumentations et discussions en ligne étaient nombreuses, devenant parfois violentes. Même des scientifiques prenaient parti du mouvement anti-vaccin, rendant le conflit encore plus agité. Ce conflit n'est dans plusieurs cas

toujours pas résolu, la question du vaccin étant encore assez actuelle.

La crise Covid-19 a laissé des marques profondes dans le Monde. On a dû gérer une crise sanitaire d'une grande importance en même temps de découvrir la fragilité de beaucoup d'aspects. Des choses qu'on pensait être fiables, certaines et stables étaient en réalité le contraire. Ceci était deux années difficiles, mais remplies de réalisations et de leçons. Nous sommes à présent en courant des points fiables de notre société et des défis auxquels nous devons faire face dans le futur.

Alice Alsterholm (S6 SVA)

Linda Wertlenova (S6 FRA)

Are carbon offsets effective?

As the global climate crisis worsens, increasing attention is being paid to carbon footprints. This refers to all carbon dioxide emissions related to individuals' or firms' activities. Footprints include everything from the direct emissions of fuel burning in manufacturing to the emissions caused by radiators. They are a way to quantify one's impact on the environment and there is constant demand for ways to reduce them. One of the possible solutions is carbon offsets. Offsets are units of carbon removed from the atmosphere, which polluting firms and individuals can buy, therefore neutralising their emissions. The carbon offset market is projected to be worth up to \$50 billion by 2030, so, are they a viable measure against global warming?

First, a further explanation of how offsets work. There are organisations/firms that sell carbon credits, which correspond to an amount of carbon removed from the atmosphere. The amount varies, as buyers can usually input how much carbon they wish to offset. The offsetting can be done, for example, by planting trees (removes carbon) or by keeping trees that would have otherwise been cut down (avoids adding carbon). The aim of the credit is to neutralise the negative effects of carbon emissions. After this, the credits are no longer

usable. Other projects include investing in renewable energy, waste management or establishing recycling projects.

Based on this, offsets seem great, and they do have several benefits. Firstly, they get highly polluting industries, such as oil and aviation, to address their emissions. For example, oil giant Shell has invested \$26 million in reforestation and preservation of natural areas. This shows how offsets can help the environment in several ways. Keeping forests from being cut reduce carbon in the atmosphere and maintain biodiversity in the area. Tree planting, one of the most popular offsets, is quick and cheap, so it can be faster than industry-wide change. The fact that offsets are tradeable may encourage investment since offset providers could make a profit (though many invest it into further environmental protection). Of course, credits must be certified by licenced third parties, such as the Verified Carbon Standard, to be reliable. Yet, if they are certified, they help the environment in many ways, efficiently and even provide profits. It seems like a win-win solution, and firms parade it as such, but the story is unfortunately not as simple as that.

One common criticism is that, amid worsening climate change, offsets halt bigger change. Offsets can also decrease firms' motivation to change their operational models, since they can

buy their way out of consequences. Money spent on offsets could have been spent on renewable energy, et cetera. Not only this, but they have problems in the way they fundamentally work. Firstly, it is difficult to prove that a project would not have been done without the purchase of a credit. For example, how can we say for sure that a wind farm would not have been made without the credit, or that an area of forest would have been cut down? Additionally, it is difficult to quantify the effect of the credit. Creating more efficient waste management systems will be beneficial to the environment, but exactly how much carbon they will save can be hard to estimate, and still harder to divide into sellable portions.

Even if the offset removes carbon, the effect's permanence is another issue. Take tree planting. As trees grow, they capture carbon, which they hold until their death, and upon decaying most of the carbon resettles into the ground. The problem is that, often, trees planted/saved as offsets are cut down a few years later, which releases the carbon. So, the offset only delays the emission, instead of preventing it. Even if trees are saved in one area, or one area moves to renewable energy, the harmful operation can always just move, which means that the emissions have not been reduced, their location has only been changed. A credit may also have been resold as another offset despite already being one, or double-counted, so emitting additional carbon. One problem specific to trees is that offsets are usually done by planting fast-growing trees like oak. However, planting only a single variety, especially in an area which did not have them before, harms biodiversity. A solution to this is natural reforestation, letting trees grow themselves, but it takes longer.

The main difficulty of offsets is for verifying third parties to see whether projects are long-term, genuinely avoid or remove emissions, and do not sell more credits than the amount of carbon they are offsetting. According to a 2016 EU study, in 85% of the projects they evaluated, the purchased offsets could not be seen as having an additional reducing effect on carbon emissions, and many projects overestimated their effects.

To conclude, carbon offsets are not an absolute good or evil. On one hand, the way they are currently managed, especially the lack of regulations and effective monitoring, means that many projects have little real effect on emissions.



Lilieholm Malvina (S6SVA)

Yet, we are at a point where just reducing emissions is not enough and we need to both reduce carbon and remove some from the atmosphere. Offsets cannot fix the issue on their own, but they can be part of a move toward a safer, more stable world, along with renewable energy, more focus on public transport, reducing consumption, reducing waste and other measures.

Regarding firms purchasing offsets, stricter regulations should be set to limit the amount of emissions allowed, with harsher punishments. Offset projects themselves need more regulations, to make sure they have an effect, but this will be a lengthy process. The key takeaway is that anybody who wishes to purchase offsets should do research on the available platforms, to make sure they are legitimate.

Another thing to remember is that addressing the climate crisis needs to have several measures, because the issue is too large, too far-reaching, to not have everybody participate in helping.

Anni Myllymäki (S7 FIA)
Alexia Cosmatchi (S7 ENA)

The Greatest Sunflowers

Anna Karzel (S5 FRA)

Aimée Dhonte (S5 FRA)

When talking about sunflowers, one would think about the flower, bright and yellow, which follows the sun. However, even though they are not the most famous ones, the greatest sunflowers are the ones depicted on the paintings of Vincent van Gogh: the painter of sunflowers.

Did his Sunflowers help bring hope and sun into Vincent van Gogh's life?

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most renowned painters in the world. This Dutch painter is notoriously known for cutting his ear off. But that isn't and shouldn't be the only thing he is famous for. His works were expressive, his use of colour is considered very emotional, and his brushwork was exceptionally distinct. All this heavily contributed to the art world, as these striking aspects of his works influenced art movements like Expressionism, Fauvism, and early abstraction. Despite everything van Gogh is praised for, he became famous only after his death. During his life, van Gogh sold one single painting and he relied on financial support from his brother, Theo van Gogh. His life was accompanied by depression and episodes of acute psychological distress (this includes anxiety, intense fear or helplessness, dissociative symptoms, and avoidance behaviours). It is safe to say that his life was sad, which is very ironic, since his most well-known paintings - the sunflowers - are so bright and so joyful, a total opposite of van Gogh's life and personality.

Vincent van Gogh wanted to be known as the painter of sunflowers. His dream came true, as he is famous for his paintings of sunflowers in a vase. Vincent even wrote to his brother once stating that his 'trademark' is a sunflower and that he 'owns' it. He actually made multiple versions of this painting, each of them slightly different.

Vincent painted those with only three shades of yellow, one reason for this being experimentation with colours and the second being that the colour yellow was meant to illuminate van Gogh's dark days (as he suffered with depression). "Sunflowers"

communicates gratitude, as Vincent wrote. They held a special significance to van Gogh, since they were painted during a rare period of optimism, and they are considered as a symbol of happiness.



Badale Alina (S3 FRB)

Sunflowers can nowadays be found in all corners of the world, from Philadelphia, through Amsterdam, London, and Munich, to Tokyo. The most known painting is located in The National Gallery in London, suffered not a long time ago a huge shock. The painting is the fourth version of the sunflowers, from August 1888, with an estimated worth of 86 million euros. On October 14, 2022, two activists from 'Just Stop Oil' threw tomato soup on the Sunflowers and then glued themselves to the wall. 'Just Stop Oil' demands that the UK ends their reliance on fossil fuels, and they urge the UK government to start investing in renewable energy. Thankfully, the painting was protected with a glass screen and only the frame suffered from damages.

In conclusion, Sunflowers constitute an essential part of art history. They also held a special place in the heart of a sad and lonely artist, being a symbol of happiness and bright days. Sunflowers were something van Gogh – who had nothing – considered always his own. Society should follow in Vincent's footsteps and look for small everyday things and find joy in them, because sometimes, it is the only place where joy can be found.

Academic intelligence- what is it?

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to have overall better grades than you, no matter the amount of effort you put into your work and revisions? And why it's so hard for you to achieve a certain academic goal, while other people seem to manage it with half the amount of effort?

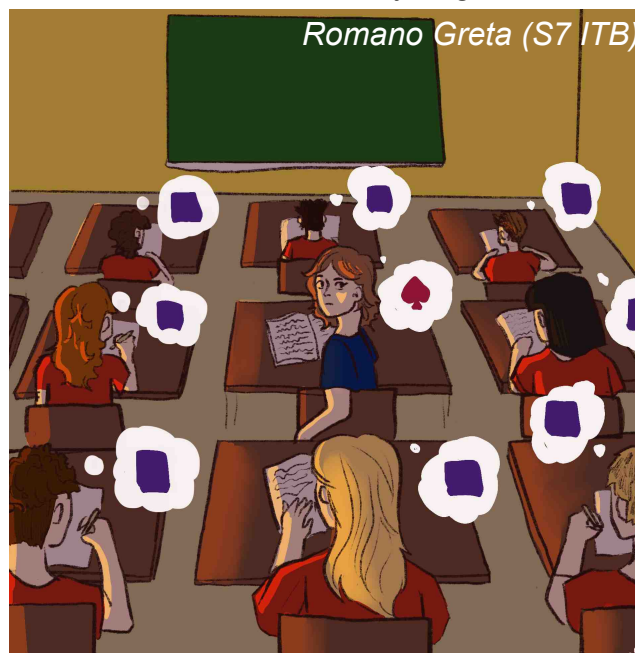
A lot of students go through this, but they are never told the reason why they're struggling so much, partly because most people just straight-up blame them for being lazy or not putting enough effort into their schoolwork. Those reasons are far from the truth; lots of times, students that don't do well in school turn out to have many strengths and be very intelligent in many other fields – just not academically. But what does being “academically intelligent” mean?

Academic intelligence is defined by all the skills that a person may have that are important for their success in a school environment. These skills usually include strategic thinking, collaborating in group work, time management, and more – all of these are traits a student may have that can help them get better grades and a better work ethic. People who are academically intelligent have a bit of an advantage as they are the ones who manage best to fit the school's standards because they tend to naturally be able to complete academic tasks and receive good grades without having to make too big of an effort.

The reality with most schools in the world is that, because they and their purpose for their students are purely academic, they don't really care if a student is academically intelligent or not as long as the student gets good grades – meaning that they won't go out of their way to make sure a student knows that it's okay to be intelligent in a way that doesn't quite fit academic standards and that they might have bad grades in school because of it.

This gives those types of students quite a disadvantage because they will always have to put more effort into their work than other people do in any academic environment.

To conclude, I believe it's very important in all academic environments for teachers to acknowledge and spread the fact that not all students face the same level of difficulty when completing a test or assignment and that they shouldn't be penalized for it. Not being academically intelligent adds not only more effort to your routine, but also stress – a big part of this stress can also come from the fact that this “disadvantage” is so rarely talked about and accepted in school environments, which naturally makes the affected students think that they are alone battling this “problem”. The solution would be to make sure students know that everyone's mind has a completely different way of working and that it's okay to feel like they can't manage to fit into this academic mold, no matter how hard they try.



Andrea Powell Azorin (S5 FRA)

Maeve Bouchez (S5 FRA)

Electric Cars

Carla Gilotti (S6 ESA)

Maeve Bouchez (S5 FRA)

Nowadays, the use of electric vehicles is increasing in many countries, even though fossil-fuelled cars still predominate. Electric cars present both advantages and disadvantages, such as the price of these types of vehicles, the change they would bring to the economy, whether they are or are not respectful towards the environment, the marketing, etc.

"Biofuels are not the solution to the climate crisis but a threat to both climate and biodiversity. We must stop investments in the biofuel industry and invest in new mobility concepts without

combustion engines instead", says Peer Cyriacks, the deputy director of nature conservation at the NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH).

Vehicles that use fossil fuels have many disadvantages. The biggest and main problem is that they are very polluting. Not only regarding global warming, but also for us humans: it is not good to constantly be surrounded by dangerous and contaminating gases that contain harmful substances.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing?

A study was made where a reporter asked people if they would rather live in a city where there are cars with either electric engines, or internal combustion engines. People were most likely to say that they preferred vehicles that ran on electric motors. The reason for this is that they do not produce carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO and NO₂) or any other toxic substances. Furthermore, petrol cars are very noisy. In short, electric cars are better for the environment and much quieter than cars that use fossil fuels.

Indeed, electric vehicles create a much "cleaner" and quieter environment in a busy city. Most people's "ideal" city is one where you can enjoy the nice weather and go on a walk in nature, where it is nice and quiet, with no cars that produce poisonous substances. Thus, electric cars seem to be a great solution.

On the other hand, we must bear in mind that electric cars also have their disadvantages.

An example would be their price. Electric cars are much more expensive, and the suppression of fossil-fuelled cars would bring a drastic change to the economy. Another big problem is to constantly have to recharge the electric battery of the car. On top of that, there is a lot of energy consumption whilst they are charging.

Jarod Cory Kelly, an energy system analyst at Argonne, says that the manufacture of electric



vehicles generates more carbon than combustion-engine cars. In addition, other groups also argue that electric vehicles are not necessarily cleaner or greener than fossil-fuelled cars.

At first glance, electric vehicles sell themselves out to be better than what they really are. In other words, by not releasing polluting gases into the atmosphere, they appear to be more environmentally friendly, when in reality, their production, battery and charging produce enormous amounts of greenhouse gases that negatively affect the environment.

In conclusion, electric vehicles are not what companies make them out to be with their advertisements. Unfortunately, in one way or another, all types of cars pollute. Moreover, we must beware of society's "tricks" and marketing deceptions, as they convince us to buy and believe in their products. After all, it is better to use other means of transportation. This is an easy way for us, students, to help. Try to come to school by foot, bike or bus. Luckily, in Luxembourg, public transport is free, so we have no excuses!

Pupils' Committee ESL1

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!



We are looking forward to making this another school year that the students can look back on with joy, and to representing our European School Luxembourg 1 students.

We are happy to have started the year with a variety of events and activities! Right in October, our 16+ students were welcomed to a Halloween party in cooperation with ESL2, and just recently, we had the pleasure of organising the Christmas disco "Santa's Dancefloor" for our S1-S3 students.

Through spirit days we have celebrated events and occasions together with our entire school. In the past few months, we have already been able to organise some of these days, such as the "Halloween Dress Up Day", where the students dressed up in costumes to celebrate Halloween together. In addition, with the help of the "Blue Day" within the framework of World Children's Day in cooperation with UNICEF Luxembourg, we were able to draw attention to children's rights and the situation of young people worldwide. This year, we aim to on organise even more spirit days to dress up and celebrate together!

Defending students' interests

After months of our engagement, we are happy that menstrual products are now finally available in the bathrooms of the B and E blocks on the ground floor, which are regularly refilled by our members. As last year, we are increasingly advocating for student mental health, such as hiring more psychologists, creating an in-school "Well-Being Council" to make students' voices heard in this key area and more mental health awareness and training for teachers. Increased inclusion of our Ukrainian classmates and the recruitment of Ukrainian-speaking teachers has been a priority for us in discussions with the administration.

Improving career orientation and guidance

In the beginning of the year, the Pupils' Committee worked towards enhancing the orientation sessions in S5 by organising presentations from S7 students. Many students signed up to help, and they were able to share their own experiences and advice on the subject choices, helping the S5 students to make one of the most important choices in secondary school.

An eventful year ahead of us

We are looking forward with much enthusiasm to more months of events, such as our annual talent show Luxfactor, Euronight, a 16+ party with all the other European schools, a Second Hand Sale, a Prom for S4-S5, a new edition of the Well-Being week and much more!

We wish you an enjoyable and successful year!

The Pupils' Committee

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Pupils' Committee ESL2

A word from your presidency

Dear students, welcome inside our heads.

For this edition of the Pupils' Voice, we have decided to present the Pupils' Committee in a slightly different way because, after all, I'm sure you all know who we are by now. If not, let us explain it to you: The Pupils' Committee (PC) represents the interests of the students during meetings with the school administration, and are the ones who make life at school more pleasant and easier for all, thanks to certain projects such as the "feminine hygiene project", the improvement of the canteen, and all the events organised like spirit days or parties.

However, out of sheer whim, we do not wish to write another dull article outlining our goals for the coming year or what has been accomplished. Given that this article is being written very last minute, don't expect a literary masterpiece, but you can be sure that you won't regret this reading: a little discovery of the two people who represent you.

Hello guys, we are Siméon Peltier (S7FRA) and Inès Ojja (S5FRA), respectively president and vice-president of the 2022-23 PC, and again, welcome inside our heads.

When I, Siméon joined the PC again in S5 after a two-year break, I met Inès. I was told she did a better job than me at her age, I cannot lie, I was a bit jealous. But after working closely together, I found out she wasn't all that bad!! After two years of supporting each other, we have not only become amazing friends, but also become the representatives of this year's PC presidency.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who trusted and supported us by voting for us, and we promise not to let you down. Feel free to come talk to me (Siméon) about anything – I'll always be here for you all (for love declarations, please contact our secretary general – Vittorio Belleri).

Concerning Inès, God how can I explain... she's a prodigy. She was elected vice-president at 14, and I can assure you that she was fully prepared to take on this role. She's the best vice-president I could dream of, so thank you little one. Thanks to you, I will leave this school knowing the PC is in good hands.





This year is special. We are celebrating very important things such as the 10th anniversary of the school, but also the joy of being able to have events ranging from parties to sport tournaments with no COVID restrictions whatsoever.

Please fasten your seat belts, the plane of fun is about to take off. We'll do everything we can to make this year and all the following years unforgettable. This is only the beginning of the new decade, and we can assure you that the Pupils' Committees will keep getting better and better (even though it isn't easy to top the past ones!!). Get ready for all the partying, fun spirit days, competitive sport tournaments, the creation of clubs and associations, and more!

We unfortunately need to cut this article short, definitely not due to the time constraint..., so on behalf of the entire Pupil's Committee, we wish you a merry, merry, merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

**See you next year,
Siméon and Inès**
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 @pupilscomesl2

The Pupils' Voice

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