

First published in 1949, *Felix* is released weekly during term time and is distributed around Imperial's London campuses. All students, staff, and alumni are welcome to contribute to the paper.



Would you like mice with that?

Cockroaches in Union dishwashers, mice in Library Café, pests are having a grand time at Imperial.

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AINI NOORALLY

News Writer
SAFIYYA AHMED

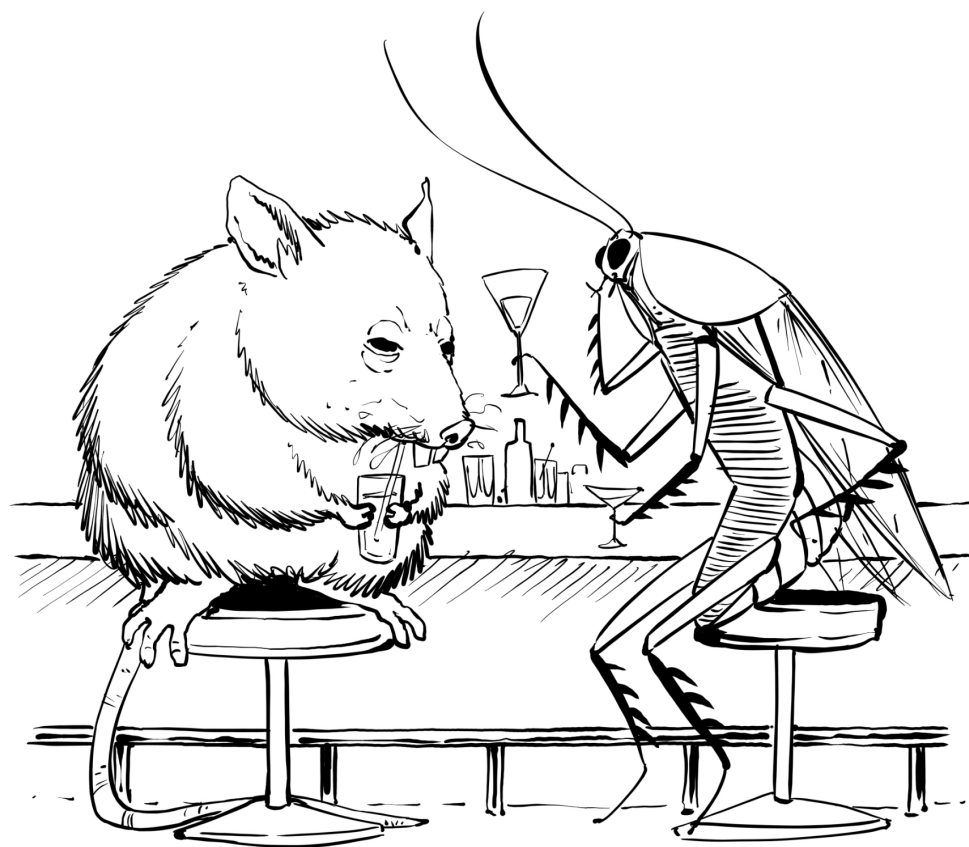


Illustration by Nico Torán for *Felix*

Pests are regular visitors to eateries, bars, and other facilities on Imperial's South Kensington Campus, according to students and staff at the College.

Videos show mice scurrying around Library Café at nighttime, and *Felix* has received reports of similar sightings in Kokoro, the popular Korean-Japanese food outlet on Level O of the Sherfield Building.

Last Saturday, staff reported seeing two dead cockroaches in a dishwasher at Metric, the nightclub run by Imperial College Union (ICU).

"We were preparing for the afterparty

of East Meets West [a student show run by Imperial Indian Society] when we saw them," a Union worker present on the night said. "We opened the dishwasher and saw two dead cockroaches."

ICU runs its bars independently, but a spokesperson for the student union said that it collaborates with the university on pest control adding: 'Partnering with the College and the Pest control provider Rentokil, we conduct fortnightly inspections throughout the premises. This ensures a proactive approach to managing any potential pest concerns.'

"We want to emphasise that no sightings have been reported in the kitchen or food areas, and we remain vigilant in maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene throughout our premises.'

Students say they have seen mice in labs and lecture theatres across campus. One Computing student said that a mouse clambered onto her in the Huxley building during a robotics lab session.

'A couple of us were sat on the floor checking where the robot was going,' she said, in messages sent to *Felix*. 'As I'm moving the robot → **READ MORE ON 4**

SEE YOU NEXT TERM!

This is the last issue of *Felix* for Spring Term. The paper will return on 10th May.

EDITORIAL

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NEWS

Union Council to vote on new Imperial logo

Union Council will vote on whether to lobby the College to address criticism of the new logo.
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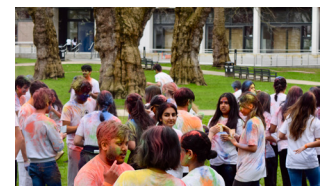
BOOKS

Audiobooks, awkward skims, and hanging in there

Audiobooks and a goodbye to Spring Term.
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SOCIETIES

HinduSoc's Holi celebration



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At *Felix*, we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to be in the know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore I, the *Felix* Editor, on behalf of the team promise that:

We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes at the College.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view, and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication.

Signed by:
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Editor-in-Chief

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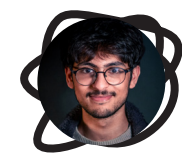
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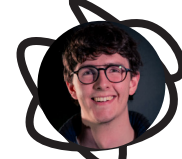
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EDITORIAL

Win £400 (and an end-of-term review)

And so another term nears its end. The run-up to Easter is a hectic period: coursework deadlines and exams beckon for most students, alongside mounting piles of tutorial sheets and hours of lectures.

I'd like to personally thank all of our contributors – writers, copyeditors, section editors, photographers, and more – who, during this busy time, have put in a monumental effort to keep the paper running.

It's been another eventful term for us here at *Felix*. We started with a series of stories on the appalling heating problems at Imperial, running the biblical-sounding headline 'Illness, fire, and fury'.

One important story that deserved more coverage was Imperial's announcement in February that it would stop accepting money for research that propagates fossil fuel extraction. In a win for student activists, the College also announced that it would determine its engagement with energy and fossil fuel companies

using the new Imperial Zero Index, a framework that performs annual assessments of energy-industry collaborators.

Reverberations from the tragedy unfolding in Gaza in the wake of Hamas's 7th-October attacks on Israel continued to feature in the paper. Only two weeks ago we featured the story of Nael Qtati, the Gazan alumnus appealing for support for the evacuation his family as the Israel Defense Forces prepare to invade Rafah. To date, Qtati has raised just over £4,000 towards a target of £30,000 that he says is required for the evacuation.

Last month, we reported on the news that Imperial College Union would push for more part-time work opportunities for students – an example of how Union Council can work to improve the student experience.

Undoubtedly, the biggest story to feature in *Felix* this term was the opposition to Imperial's new logo. Our original news report on the story has

received over 30,000 views online, and has been quoted in *Time Out* and *Times Higher Education*.

Win £400

Felix is running the Sophia Prize once again this year. At the end of Summer Term, we will pick out one outstanding, inspiring, and accessible article featured in the paper, that helps tackle climate defeatism and covers an economic, cultural, or scientific innovation that helps fight global warming.

All you have to do to enter is write a relevant article in *Felix*! The winner will be awarded £400 and will have their name featured in the paper.

While we're on the topic of climate, our Environment section is looking for one more editor to manage the section next year. If you'd like to apply, please email environment.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

That's all from us this term. Have a lovely Easter break, and all the best to those of you preparing for exams!

Letter to the Editor Re: Council Chair quotes Mao Zedong

Editor's note: Council Chair John Allan recited a quote in last week's President's Address, which he attributed to Mao Zedong. Allan's words were criticised in a letter to the editor in Felix Issue #1845.

Hi *Felix*,

There seems to be some confusion surrounding the quote attributed to Mao Zedong – "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" – in the latest issue of *Felix*.

As someone raised with a Chinese cultural background, I wanted to clarify that this proverb actually originates from a much older source.

The quote appears in the *Dao De Jing*, written by the ancient philosopher Laozi over 2,000 years ago. The specific passage, the sixty-fourth chapter reads: 'The tree that fills your arms grew from a tiny seed; the nine-story tower rose from a pile of earth; the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.' My thorough online research has not revealed any evidence of Mao Zedong quoting this proverb. (Interestingly, Xi Jinping has been known to use it.)

I want to be clear that I am not attempting to defend or justify any of Mao's actions. China's 20th-century

history, particularly the period under his rule, was undeniably tragic and left deep scars on the nation. My sole purpose here is to highlight the historical inaccuracy of attributing this quote to Mao. In fact, such misinterpretations can have serious consequences. Here is an example: the red traffic light was deemed as counter-revolutionary in the 1960s, because people were 'stopped' from the 'red', a colour representing communism.

I hope this clarifies the origin of the quote and the potential impact of historical inaccuracies.

Kind regards,

Angze Li



NEWS

Union Council to vote on Imperial logo motion next week

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Union Council will vote next Tuesday on a motion calling for Imperial to seek more feedback on its new logo before proceeding any further with its rollout.

The motion argues that Imperial's efforts to solicit feedback on its logo 'were not effectively [or] sufficiently advertised,' and that 'without pushback from the Union,' the university is 'unlikely' to solicit or apply any new feedback.

Imperial has faced widespread criticism after unveiling its new logo as part of a wider rebranding project. A change.org petition calling for its



The new logo on the facade of the City & Guilds Building in South Kensington. Rolando Charles for Felix

replacement has gained nearly 8,000 signatures, and the university's social media posts have been flooded with comments ridiculing the new design.

If voted through, next week's motion will mandate Union President Camille Boutrolle to lobby Imperial's brand team

to 'openly address the criticism of the new logo' and 'improve engagement and feedback collection methods'.

Responding to the criticism last month, Imperial's brand project team said that it would 'take any opportunity to hear what people think, to listen, and

to answer questions.'

The team said it provided project updates in a video, on its website, and through a series of emails. However, students and staff say they were not aware of the new logo until last week, because none of the emails explicitly mentioned the logo or contained images of the changes.

'Students feel unheard due to a lack of acknowledgement of the pushback,' says the Union Council motion. 'Imperial not addressing the wave of negative feedback is likely to have a lasting negative impact on students' trust in [the university].'

A brand project spokesperson said that the new brand 'articulate[s] Imperial's purpose and vision, our strengths and impact, while seeking to differentiate us in a crowded and competitive landscape.'

→ FROM P. 1: PESTS ON CAMPUS

back to the start position, I suddenly feel something warm on my hand and then my leg, but I thought nothing of it, put the robot down and sat back. Then I feel something fluffy between my knees, I look down, and it's a mouse right there!

'I jump and yell, my friends start yelling, meanwhile the mouse runs away, jumps into my friend's coat... and then vanishes into thin air.'

Other mouse sightings have been reported in the Abdus Salam Library, Senior Common Room, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, and Imperial College Business School. Rodents have also been seen in College-run student residences, including Beit and Wilson Halls.

'To be honest, I don't fully blame the College for this one,' said one EEE student,

speaking specifically in relation to the Library Café, which he said turned into 'a complete pigsty' at night.

'The café space is open 24 hours, and after the staff go home, that place can become a disgraceful mess in a few hours. Dirty tables, food, and scraps on the floor, just an incredible display of people completely disregarding the basic courtesy of cleaning up after themselves.'

He alleged that students 'throw rubbish on the floor' rather than in bins.

'I've seen mice chewing through bags of delivery orders left on the floor... it's almost no surprise the place is full of mice if people keep making it such a great place to live.'

Between 2017/18 and 2021/22, the College spent £848,160 on pest control services, according to its response to a Freedom of Information request.

The spokesperson for ICU said: 'At the Union, we take the well-being and safety of our spaces and venues seriously, and that includes addressing any concerns regarding pest control promptly and effectively.'

'We understand recent reports of rodent sightings have raised concerns, and we want to assure our community that proactive measures are in place to address any reported issues comprehensively.'

Imperial did not respond to requests for comment, but Felix understands that the Estates team is aware of and working to resolve the ongoing pest problems.

Additional reporting by Jamie John.

For more mouse pics and videos, follow us on Instagram (@felix_imperial). Go on, we know you want to.



A mouse in Library Café.

What ICU's Leadership Elections tell us about the student union

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Every year around this time, student social media is flooded with election chatter. Imperial students are swamped with follow requests from campaign accounts and Instagram stories endorsing one candidate or another.

Beneath the spectacle though, an important process is at work. Imperial College Union's (ICU) Leadership Elections determine which students run clubs, societies, and projects (CSPs), and the Union itself.

They are the most prominent set of events in ICU's calendar each year, and over the course of several years, can shape the student experience significantly.

Up for grabs are positions in the Union's Officer Trustee team (a group of five students who take a year out of their studies to lead ICU as paid employees); roles in the Union's representation network, which consists of over 600 elected student representatives; and committee positions for ICU's 400 or so CSPs.

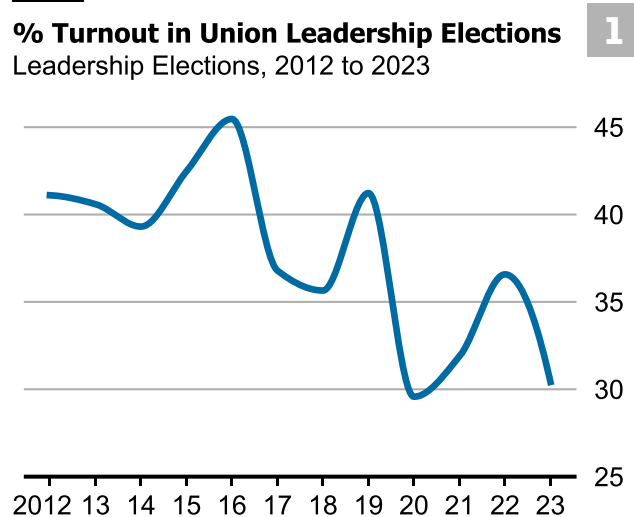
The elections are a test not only of the candidates standing for office, but also ICU itself. Election turnout can be viewed as a bellwether of student engagement with the Union.

In 2023, the most recent year for which figures are available, 30.4% of eligible students voted (see chart 1). Since 2012, turnout in ICU's elections has fallen by a quarter, but still remains well above national levels.

Last academic year, the National Union of Students (NUS), a consortium of UK-based student unions excluding ICU, surveyed 76 of its members. It reported that unions with 10,000 to 20,000 students – comparable to ICU – achieved an average turnout of 12.7%.

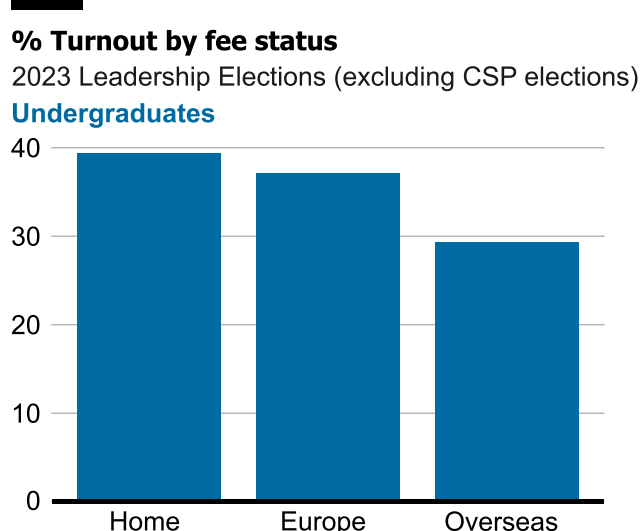
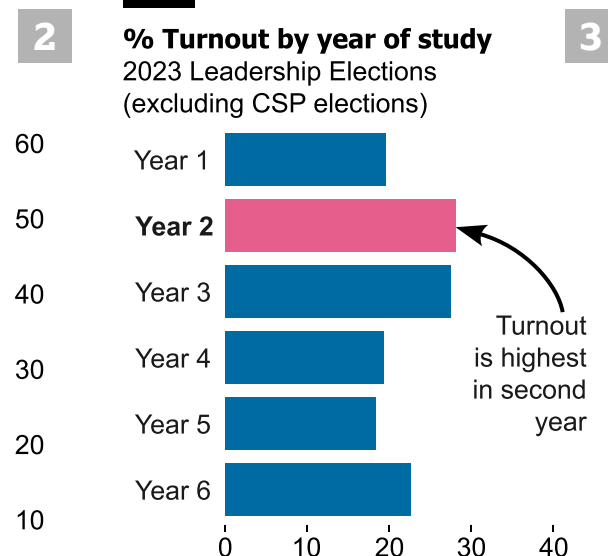
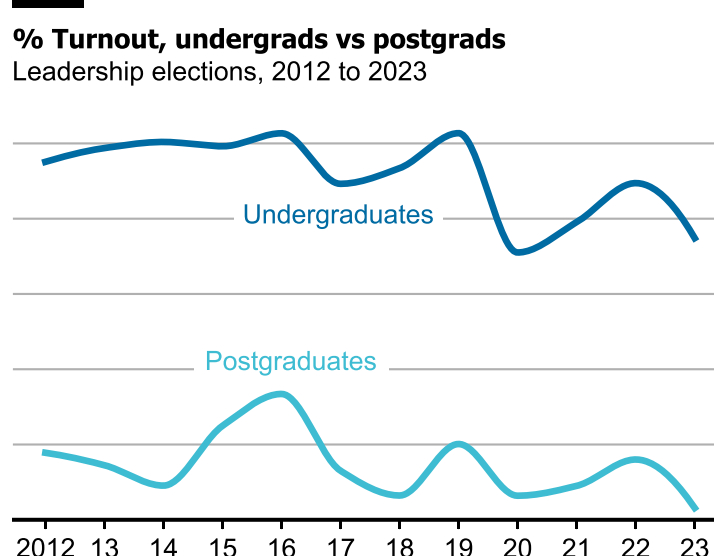
ICU election figures show that undergraduate students are far more engaged with the Union than postgraduates (see chart 2). Undergraduates are three to four times more likely to vote in the elections than postgrads, despite representing roughly equal proportions of the student population.

This has undoubtedly had its impact on Union politics. Nine of the past ten Union Presidents at ICU were undergraduate students before being elected to the role, and for the most part, made little mention of



Turnout is declining, but still beats other student unions around the country. Unions of a comparable size to ICU had an average turnout of 12.7% in 2023.

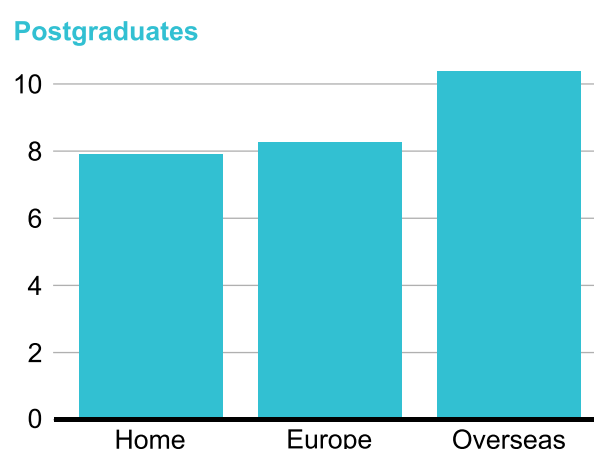
Postgraduate engagement is low...



postgraduates in their manifesto pledges.

Other universities such as UCL have a full-time sabbatical officer dedicated to addressing the needs of postgraduates. At Imperial, a volunteer-run Graduate Student Union (GSU) once existed, but was scrapped in 2022 by the only Union President in the past ten years to have been a postgrad themselves.

'The difference between UG and PG engagement and satisfaction with the Union, across a wide range of metrics, is stark – and unacceptable,' wrote then-Union President Lloyd James, supporting calls for a new system from a student-led working group. He said the GSU had 'a mixed track record' but had 'not achieved a significant overall level of impact on the PG experience'.



The GSU was disbanded and its functions subsumed into the central Union, with new postgraduate representative positions created. Under the new system, responsibility for postgraduates ultimately lies with two sabbatical officers, the Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare).

Last year's election turnout figures show that much remains to be done in order to engage postgraduates. Promisingly though, this year's Deputy President (Education), Yi Yang, says she has made postgraduate engagement one of her priorities, and has met with students and staff to initiate change.

The undergrad-postgrad disparity rears its head in peculiar ways when the → **READ MORE ON 6**

electorate is segmented by fee status (see chart 4). Among undergraduates, home students are more likely to participate in ICU elections than European or overseas students. Among postgraduates, the reverse is true.

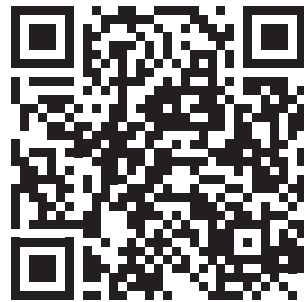
Turnout across the student body seems to peak in the second year of study (see chart 3). A sixth-year spike is visible in the data, but this is almost certainly due to Medicine MBBS students, who turn out in high numbers more broadly (see chart 5), and are enrolled on Imperial's only six-year course.

Percentage turnout for men and women is roughly the same, though the figure for other genders is much lower. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of students with 'other' or 'unknown' genders jumped from 83 to 679. However, the number who voted remained at around 20, similar to the previous two years.

By the time this article is published on Friday, the 2024 Leadership Elections will have concluded. On Friday evening, the

Union will announce its election winners, and on its website, will display this year's turnout. Pay attention to that number, because it could tell you something interesting.

If you'd like to stay informed, follow us on Instagram and sign up to our newsletter (see front-page QR code). The paper will not be published next week, but we will be sending all society members an election-special newsletter, and an accompanying article will be uploaded to the Felix website.

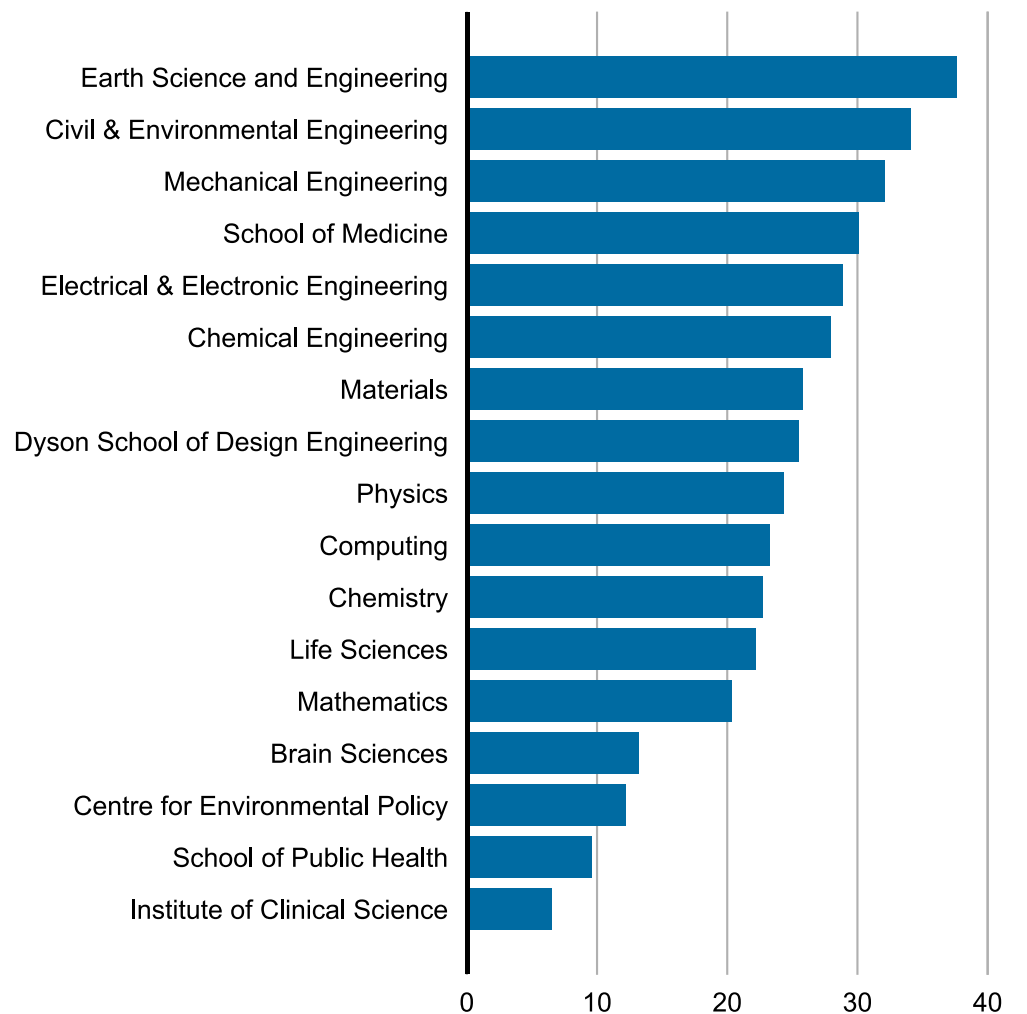


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% Turnout by department

2023 Leadership Elections (excluding CSP elections)

5



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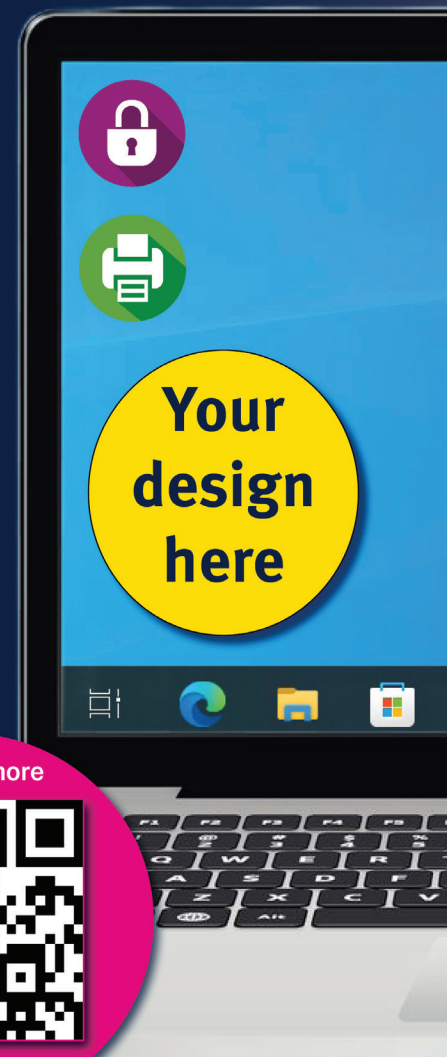
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SCIENCE

Exploring CRISPR-Cas9's breakthrough genetic therapy

Felix interviews Imperial PhD student, Quentin Smith, on CRISPR-Cas9's therapeutic potential and the significance of Casgevy approval.

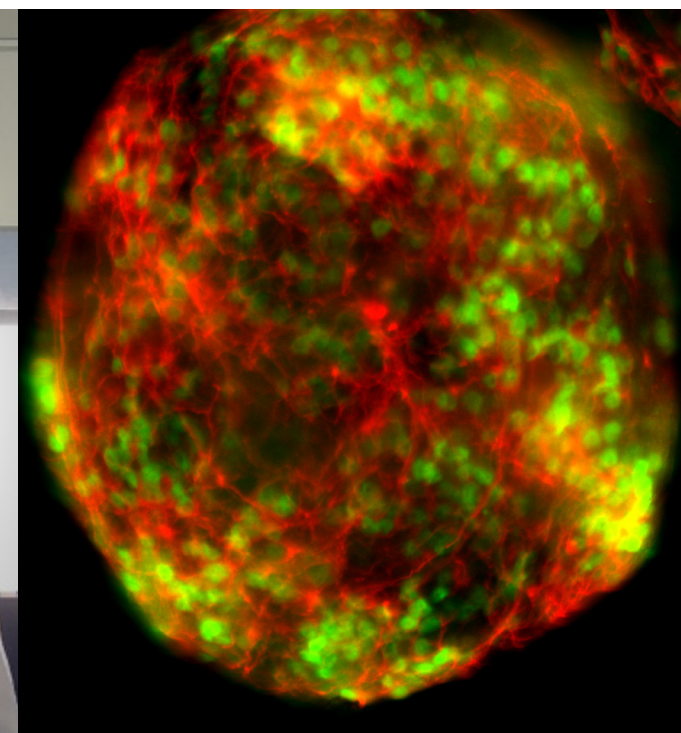
Science Writer
TEJAS GUPTA

In November 2023, the UK Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) became the first regulatory body in the world to grant approval to the CRISPR-Cas9 based drug Casgevy in the fight against sickle cell anaemia and β -thalassemia. This was the first drug based on CRISPR technology to be licensed for use in humans. In *Felix* issue 1844 on 1st March 2024, we covered Casgevy and the promise it poses.

This week *Felix* sat down with Quentin Smith, a final year PhD student at Imperial working in Prof. David Rueda's lab at the MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences (LMS). Quentin's research aims to understand genetic engineering technologies in greater detail and their implications in health and disease.

His research focuses on CRISPR-Cas9 and how it discriminates between on and off-targets.

Ever since it was engineered in 2012 by Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, whose work earned them the 2020 Nobel Prize, Cas9 has always offered great promise in genome editing and the potential to cure genetic diseases. However, up until now, using CRISPR-Cas9 in medicines has been too dangerous because it often causes off-target effects, where Cas9 binds and cuts DNA elsewhere than the desired locus. This undesirable cleavage can cause mutations and diseases worse than the original condition being treated.



Quentin Smith, a PhD student working in Prof. David Rueda's lab at the MRC Laboratory. He works on CRISPR Cas systems, which has been used to create a GFP-transcription factor fusion protein. T. Macfarlane, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Quentin Smith told *Felix* that his research “elucidates the molecular basis of why this occurs and provides rational on how to generate high-fidelity variants that mitigate this.”

Researchers not involved with the study have raised concerns that the trial of only 29 people, was not large enough to justify the licensing of the new technology. Smith, however, explained that “the amount of people who were treated and free from severe pain was quite stark - in the upper 90 percent range, which is rare to



Cas9 poses great promise in genome editing and curing genetic diseases.

see and may have led to the approval being granted.”

Sickle cell and β -thalassemia are inherited blood disorders. Persons affected with these disorders produce little to no haemoglobin, a part of the blood that carries oxygen around the body.

Casgevy is a medicine proposed to treat blood disorders in the body. It works by reducing the number of sickle cells in the body to a negligible amount.

The drug itself is an ex-vivo treatment that uses CRISPR-Cas9. Clinicians extract stem cells from sufferers of sickle cell anaemia and β -thalassemia. These stem cells are then cultured and transfected with Cas9 that targets the BC11A gene that codes for foetal haemoglobin. These cells are then reintroduced into the patient's body through intravenous infusion to allow them to grow and differentiate and express the corrected gene. Going slightly more into the nuances of the therapy, Quentin explained that the logic behind the genetic edits being made only to a few cells that are reintroduced and not to all cells present.

“The idea is that the transfected cells proliferate and divide and outlast the diseased cells, gradually replacing them.”

An important point to note in the approval of this drug, barring the fact that it is the first of its kind, is the data on which it was approved. Despite clinical trials having a high success rate, it has only ever been performed on less than 50 people. Many deem this to be insufficient and question whether it should have been granted approval on the basis of such a small study. Quentin commented that, “I agree that the numbers are quite low for clinical trials. I believe Casgevy is in trial phase three, which means they should have anywhere between 300-3000 people according to the Food and

Drug Administration (FDA)". Erring on the side of caution, he also noted that the clinical trials described patients being "free from severe pain", which is quite vague. Perhaps a better definition of what severe pain symptoms are would be beneficial in addition to the empirical data the regulatory body requires.

Many scientists have warned of the ill effects of unwanted genetic mutations caused by CRISPR based therapies. Based on his research, Quentin believes the benefits of using genetic engineering techniques do outweigh the risks. "This therapy allows the ability for you to cure many common and very rare genetic diseases."



To take this to the next level, there has to be a lot of work to create high-fidelity Cas9 variants to reduce off target effects.

The main downside of Casgevy are the off-target unwanted genetic mutations it may cause. Quentin comments, "these clinical trials from Casgevy and others haven't published any note on sequencing or char-

acterisation of these off-target effects. But we know from other studies, including ours, that these off-target effects occur genome wide, and there's been lots of development in detections of these off-target effects".



I agree that the numbers are quite low for clinical trials. They should have anywhere between 300-3000 people according to the FDA.

There are many different sequencing pipelines that can characterise off-target effects that don't happen often. There is major work underway to nail down these off-target effects and mitigate their effects. While they remain a large downside of the treatment, major work is underway to reduce their effects.

"There should be a push in the field to create a high-fidelity variants of Cas9. In order to take this to the next level, there has to be a lot of work to create high-fidelity Cas9 variants to reduce these off-target effects and then we can go with ease into treating genetic diseases without having so much to worry about.

"There's a bit of work on high-fidelity variance and typically the rationale behind that is through structural biology. Scientists have taken cryo-EM and X-ray crystallography structures of these Cas9 and CRISPR effectors in the presence of DNA which have on and off targets. They rationally design and create mutations between these proteins to create new high-fidelity variants which exhibit fewer off-target effects to the ones that they observe with the wild type variants."

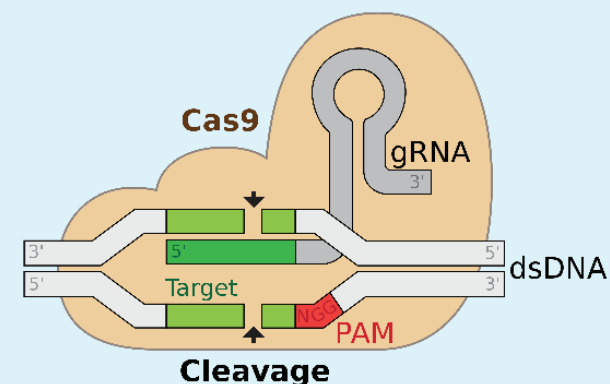
"This is the main way in which they create high-fidelity variance, but there are other ways as well. You can use directed evolution, where you evolve higher fidelity variants of Cas9 using a screening assay. Sniper-Cas9, a high-fidelity variant of Cas9, was created using an E. coli-based directed evolution method. So, it's mainly through structural biology or directed evolution methods."

While CRISPR-Cas9 is the most widely publicised method of gene editing in today's world, there are also other mechanisms of gene editing that exist. However, even though these other techniques of manipulating the genome exist, CRISPR remains the dominating technique. As Quentin explains, "zinc-finger nucleases and TALENs are both alternative gene editing techniques that work on similar architecture. They have DNA binding domains that recognise and bind to DNA and a FokI nuclease domain that cleaves DNA. However, Cas9 is quite superior because it uses an RNA guide, so you can work directly with complementarity between DNA and RNA."

As Quentin makes very clear, therapies such as Casgevy hold great promise, and the work on mitigating any ill effects these therapies may cause means that the road looks only smooth from here on.

Gene therapy with CRISPR-Cas9:

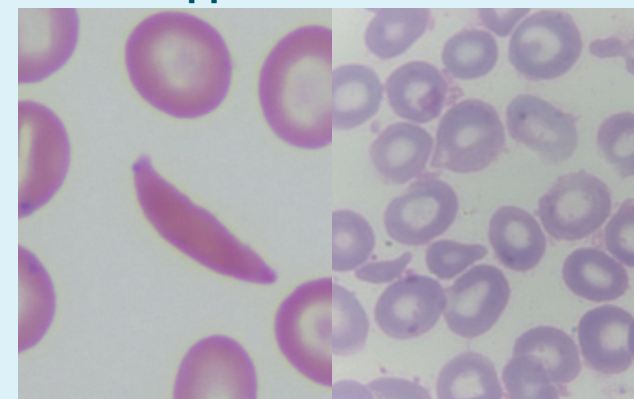
Mechanism of action:



Mode of mechanism of the CRISPR-Cas9 system. Marius Walter (CC BY-SA 4.0)

CRISPR-Cas9 is a revolutionary genome editing technology that allows precise modification of DNA sequences within cells. It utilises a bacterial protein called Cas9, which acts as molecular scissors to cut DNA at specific locations guided by RNA molecules.

Medical applications:



Sickle Cell (left) and β -thalassemia (right) disease under the microscope. Gregory Kato, Dr Graham Beards (CC BY-SA 4.0)

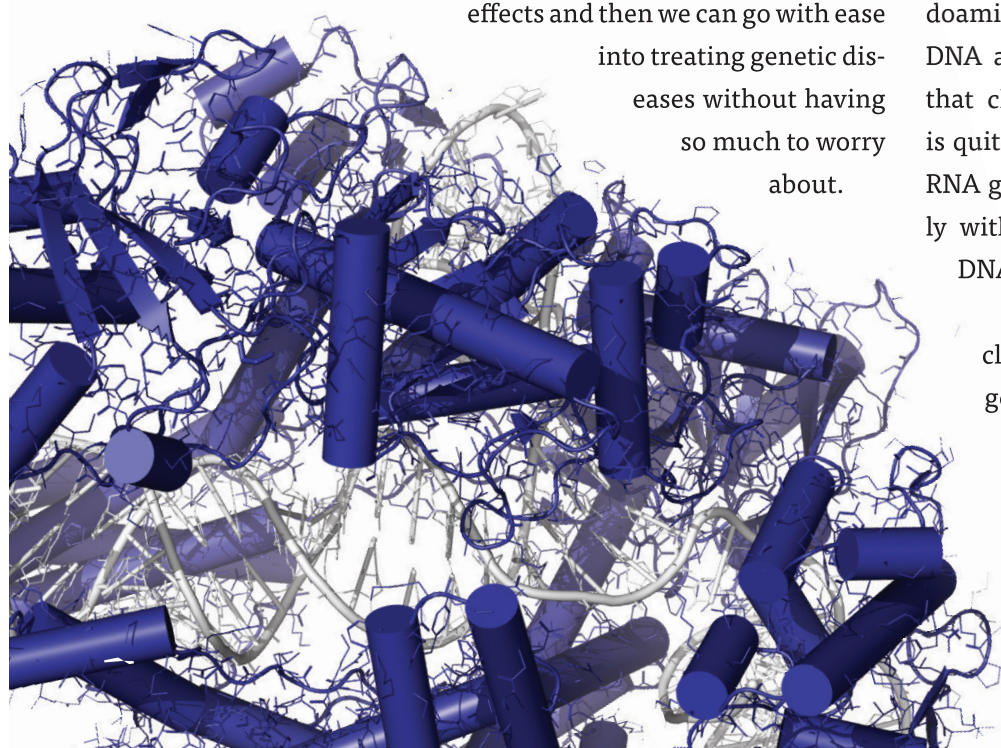
CRISPR-Cas9 can be used to correct mutations responsible for genetic disorders like sickle cell anemia and β -thalassemia. In therapies like Casgevy, stem cells are extracted from patients, genetically modified using CRISPR-Cas9 to correct mutations, and then reintroduced into the patient's body.

Regulatory approval:

The UK Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted approval for the CRISPR-Cas9-based drug Casgevy in November 2023, marking a significant milestone in the field of gene therapy.

Future Outlook:

Scientists, such as Quentin, are actively working on developing high-fidelity variants of Cas9 to reduce off-target effects and enhance the precision of genome editing for CRISPR to be used as an innovative therapy for a wide range of diseases.



BOOKS

Audiobooks, awkward skims, and hanging in there

This week in Books: audiobooks, and a goodbye to the Spring Term.

Audiobooks Editor

FIYINFOLUWA T. OLADIPO

A private affair starting from South Kensington station and ending at Victoria lasts 12 minutes. In this time, amidst the train of thought obscured by standing Londoners and masked by the commuter scowl, I'd have gotten far enough to replace the preconceptions of the book I was reading – a little motivation to continue, I suppose.

But ultimately, I would not have read enough to establish a proper sense of direction of what I was reading (and actually, what my motivations were to continue), right before I alight from the District Line, ready to focus on minimising the steps it takes for the interchange.

This traditional agreement of reading on the commute has served me over the years. It has helped to get through a number of smaller reads – *Lord of the Flies*, *The Bell Jar*, and *Sula* – and set the pace to conquer a number of larger ones – *Madame Bovary*, *White Teeth*, and *Moby Dick*. But the organised nature it takes on slightly disconcerts: as if some huge reading counter floats around in my head, and it becomes another thing to quantify, sand down, perfect, for what should be an enjoyable activity.

A segue. In a conversation the other day about tastes



Beliefs, tendencies to scribble, the tides of being put down, shut, and thrown away.

in books and the reasons for reading, two things came to me. First, I need to incorporate some lighter material into my palette: to this end, I will be taking to some more

casual book recommendations. But there was a solid solemnity that had built up over the years in my approach to reading.

It's not that I have reasons for reading different to most people. I do have the same reasons of enjoyment, enlightenment, fascination, entertainment, the list wraps around itself. I have viewed books through the particular symbolism of boundary stones parting our lives in its stages, reflecting our thought, attitudes, and otherwise growth in the world.

But university and coursework demands test such a view. At the current pace of life, I find more to put my mind to than down to read a single book. Assessments. Commitments. the angst of them. To equate reading in this list feels not only like a betrayal, but also turns reading into yet another task to do.

Hence, audiobooks. A great way to catch up on reading on-the-go, while grocery shopping, or Perfect while stalling time in between lectures. multitasking, and to have on in the background. And if it happens while doing some cleaning. And if it happens that the Tube is too crowded to have a book open in hand, audiobooks are the perfect convenience. This was not sponsored by Audible.

However, despite its solutions, and the rise of similar services of subscription-based audiobook platforms in recent years, it seems that there still exists a void created by the joys of handling paperback.

Moreover, I consider audiobooks more of an alternative than a true solution to the problem of scheduling reading time. Audiobooks exist as somewhat antithetical to the reading experience. I evidently regard

reading as a private pursuit, where transferred ideas confront the reader – beliefs, tendencies to scribble, the tides of being put down, shut, and thrown away – by actively reading someone else's words in their own voice. As your own words. Audiobooks carry a sort of sensation, by nature of their novelty – being able to listen to great novels dictated by celebrities, or having the power to speed up or slow down audio explicitly based on the 'Hours Left'.

However, at the end of the day, it's all kiwis and pomegranates. What it really comes down to is creating the time, atmosphere, and place for my style of reading, and being at peace with I can or can't read. University takes up time, it's the truth – and one not worth denying.

And so if you're finding it hard to get in the pages, or haven't had the chance to read anything non-academic this term, don't be hard on yourself! It's never too late to "come as you are," to make those little steps of progress towards your reading goals. Far from being just about self-interest, it feels as if reading is an act of service towards others, from wanting to see new perspectives; I find calling it an activity with a sense of underlying kinship helps me to be where I want to be with it.

I've started slow – purchasing (or using credits for) predominantly non-fiction. And it might be that I branch out to my first fiction audiobook (hopefully, a comedy – I mean it, I need the recommendations) soon. But I have started to appreciate audiobooks for what they are and for what they're worth: the ease of being able to listen to books.

So this week's news: asides from forgetting to celebrate World Book Day on Felix (!), I have started listening to audiobooks.

Imperial College Ho



20th June @ Infernos



Hockey Club Night



Save the date!

Felix

START SURVEY



DO YOU LIKE
TO TAKE
CONTROL?



CATNIP

Imperial kitchens slammed!! A 'classic ratatouille situation'

Sanitation Correspondent VIRGINIA WOOLF

The Library Café, Metric and FiveSix-Eight have all had their hygiene ratings downgraded after health inspectors found that all the kitchens were being run by intelligent rats.

The rats apparently worked together running the kitchen. Teams of rodents, who were listed as fake human employees, operated chopping, grating and cooking stations. Several human collaborators were also employed for public facing roles. These humans were controlled by rats sitting on top of their head who

pulled the human's hair to direct their actions, achieving remarkably high levels of fine motor control.

It is not clear how long the kitchens have been run by the rats but College sources have revealed that some of the fictional employees had been drawing a salary for over seven years.

Health Inspector Feb Senton called this a 'classic ratatouille situation' and told NegaFelix that he and his team see something similar every few months. "Ever since the Pixar film came out, groups of rats, led by charismatic leader rats, have been popping up in kitchens across the country".

Animal psychologist Bihail Muzadji

explained that "animals like rats are very vulnerable to being influenced by media and try to imitate what they see on the screen. The Dreamworks film Madagascar made the job of penguin keepers in zoos all around the world ten times harder".

Freed human collaborator Banna Zuckland told NegaFelix about the nightmare of her indentured service to the rats. "The rats didn't understand that I needed to eat and sleep much more than them so I was incredibly undernourished the whole time." Zuckland also alleged that the rats used her human frame as muscle to carry out criminal activities, robbing into cheese shops and attacking

enemy rat colonies.

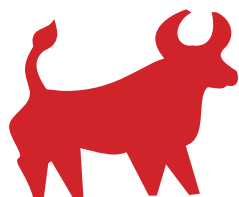
Spokespersons for both the College and the Union have expressed horror at the news, but assured reporters that they were sure the problem was an isolated incident and not a reason to be alarmed. Both spokespersons were congratulated by reporters at the press conference on having lost weight and for the very fetching tall hats that they kept on the whole conference.

The ratings were changed from 'in need of improvement' to 'in need of a lot of improvement'.



ARIES

This week your UEA boyfriend studying IR wonders why he hasn't got a JP IB spring week



TAURUS

This week your night out goes so poorly you have to go to church the next morning



GEMINI

This week you play smash or pass while voting in CSP elections



CANCER

This week it's time to lock in. There are so many TikToks you haven't seen yet



LEO

This week you use stolen lime bike clicking as white noise to get to sleep



VIRGO

This week your flatmate brings back a guy who is totally your type



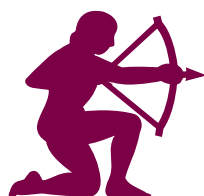
LIBRA

This week five short weeks separate you from feeling panicked enough to start revision



SCORPIO

This week you graduate from bedrotting to bedrotted



SAGITTARIUS

This week you've seen your situationship fewer times than you've seen Kate



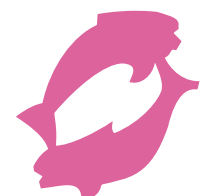
CAPRICORN

This week your overflowing recycling bin reaches the Goldilocks zone



AQUARIUS

This week you assure your friends that it was meant ironically



PISCES

This week your friend declares that they like the rebrand

SOCIETIES

Holi: a colourful festival for all

HinduSoc's Holi brought color to London during a grey day

Societies Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

HinduSoc's annual Holi celebration kicked off on Wednesday at 12:30 in the vibrant setting of Prince's Gardens, ushering in the festival of colors and the spirit of spring. Participants, both members and guests alike, were immediately greeted with complimentary white t-shirts printed with the event's logo and 'Holi '24'. They were then handed cups filled with an array of colored powders - blue, pink, yellow, and green. With laughter and excitement in the air, the garden quickly transformed into a canvas of hues.

When asked about the significance of Holi, attendees echoed "color," "spring," "togetherness," and "friends and family," encapsulating the essence of this joyous festival. One attendee, hailing from India, reminisced about the festive atmosphere back home, where the streets would come alive with celebrations. For some, it was their first experience of Holi; one HinduSoc member even brought her friends along, all of whom reveled in the festivities.

Creativity knew no bounds as participants indulged in playful exchanges of colored powder, bedecking each other's faces with thick streaks and turning white t-shirts into three-dimensional canvases. Occasionally, the pair of students would rush past you in a serious game of tag.

The event was impeccably organized, with the designated free-for-all area marked by red tape, a boundary respected by all attendees. Chaiiwala, a frequent sponsor of HinduSoc, kept spirits high with steaming cups of chai as refreshments throughout the festival. This was complemented by delectable offerings of pumpkin cake and vegetarian biriyani for only £2 at the stand, courtesy of the non-profit foundation Akshaya Patra, ensuring that no one was left hungry among the crowd of 200 attendees.

With tickets priced at a modest £8, the event offered an enriching experience to all students at Imperial College London. A heartfelt thanks to Rishi, the President of HinduSoc, for extending the invitation to Felix, enabling coverage and participation in this memorable occasion.



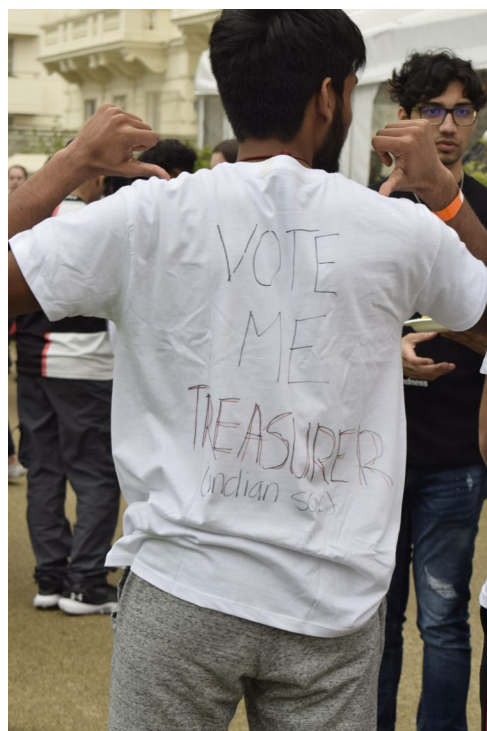
All the primary colors in cups Credits: Charlotte Probstel



Everyone in white t-shirts before the festival began Credits: Charlotte Probstel



T-shirts being distributed Credits: Charlotte Probstel



Some attendees using the event to promote their CSP campaigns Credits: Charlotte Probstel



Delicious food for the festival Credits: Charlotte Probstel



The festival bringing smiles Credits: Charlotte Probstel



A game of tag Credits: Charlotte Probstel



Attendees Credits: Charlotte Probstel



First-time attendee Credits: Charlotte Probstel



President Rishi (left) and Vice President Shlok (right) Credits: Charlotte Probstel



Staff not being spared from the color Credits: Charlotte Probstel



The crowd mid-festival Credits: Charlotte Probstel

Celebrating Neurodiversity: The Rise of Imperial College Union's Neurodiversity Society



Neurodiversity Society's Logo / Jordan Elliott

As Neurodiversity Celebration Week approaches, we take a look at the new groundbreaking Neurodiversity Society

Societies Writer
JORDAN ELLIOTT

Imperial College Union made a significant stride towards inclusivity with the launch of its first and only Neurodiversity Society earlier this year. Despite being in its infancy, the society has already amassed 68 members and shows no signs of slowing down. Its rapid growth can be attributed to the increasing recognition and understanding of neurodiversity among the student population. The society is likely to only grow bigger as we approach Neurodiversity Celebration Week, which runs from Monday 18th March until Sunday 24th March.

Neurodiversity is a concept that challenges the conventional notion of a "normal" brain. It acknowledges the natural variation in human brains and cognitive styles, encompassing a range of neurological differences such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and Tourette syndrome, among others. Neurodivergent individuals may face various challenges in society, but they also possess unique strengths and perspectives that enrich our world.

It is estimated that 15-20% of the world's population exhibits some form of neurodivergence. These conditions, including ADHD and autism spectrum

Societies Writer
SCARLETT KILFORD

disorder (ASD), are overrepresented in STEM fields. Unfortunately, neurodivergent individuals often face significant occupational exclusion. Only 22% of Autistic people in the UK are employed, compared to a disability average of 53% and an abled average of 83%. One study by Student Beans found that 25% of neurodivergent students agreed that their neurodivergence impacts the way they study or revise.

Until now, neurodiversity at Imperial has been somewhat hidden. The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) has been the primary point of contact for neurodivergent students, focusing mainly on the challenges associated with neurodivergence. Although DAS provides incredible support for thousands of students, the service rarely focuses on the positives of being neurodivergent. The Neurodiversity Society is intended to be a celebration of Imperial's neurodivergent student population.

The society's mission extends beyond providing a safe space for neurodivergent individuals, including those with formal and self-diagnoses. It aims to educate both neurotypical and neurodivergent individuals about neurodivergent issues,

raise awareness of these issues at Imperial, and advocate for policy changes. The society also supports neurodivergent individuals who may be experiencing difficulties due to their neurodivergence and those who believe they may be neurodivergent through the diagnosis process.

The society has an exciting lineup of events planned for this term to honour Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a global initiative that aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by schools, universities, and organisations. The week is dedicated to promoting acceptance, providing education, and celebrating the talents and strengths of neurodivergent individuals. By creating more inclusive and equitable cultures, it highlights the many advantages of being neurodivergent and empowers every individual. Ultimately, the goal is to change the narrative and help the world understand, value, and celebrate neurodiverse minds.

To achieve this, the Neurodiversity Society has an exciting array of events planned between Monday 18th March and Sunday 24th March. On Wednesday 20th March, they will launch their Siblings Scheme, where neurodivergent individuals are grouped to facilitate engagement and integration within the society. To celebrate the launch, the society will host its first PowerPoint Night,

where individuals give presentations about their special interests in a safe and fun environment. There will also be a panel discussion on Thursday 21st March, where speakers from Neurodiversity Society and Able@Imperial (Imperial's staff disabilities network) will share their experiences and insights into being neurodivergent. Throughout the week, a book stand promoting neurodivergent literature will be displayed in Abdus Salam Library.

Students can join the Neurodiversity Society on the Union website, follow them on Instagram @icneurodiversity-soc, or visit their linktree at https://linktree.imperial_ndsoc. The society will also be recruiting more committee members in the Summer Elections to help it grow.

The Neurodiversity Society at Imperial College Union is a significant step towards acknowledging and celebrating neurodiversity. It provides a platform for neurodivergent students to connect, learn, and advocate for change. Whether you're neurodivergent or not, getting involved in the society is a great way to contribute to a more inclusive and understanding community at Imperial.

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SEPTEMBER 2023

The Sophia Prize for Environmental Writing is awarding £400 to one outstanding, inspiring and accessible article that helps tackle climate defeatism and covers an economic, cultural or scientific innovation that helps fight global warming. ◆◆

The Sophia +
PRIZE
For Environmental Writing



Submissions will be judged by the Felix Editorial Board.
Email felix@imperial.ac.uk if interested.

2023

2024

SPORT

London United wipes the floor in floorball

Read as Kai, chair of Floorball society, reflects on the success of the cross-university team.

Sport Writer
KAI ZHUO

Have you ever heard of the electrifying indoor sport that's taking the world by storm? Well, buckle up because we're about to introduce you to the fast-paced and exhilarating world of floorball! Imagine hockey, but faster, sleeker, and played indoors – that's floorball for you.

Floorball has become a sensation in over 80 countries, particularly in Northern Europe. The best part? Anyone can join in on the fun! All you need are your trusty shoes and a floorball stick, which the club is more than happy to provide.

Currently, the Imperial Floorball club is part of London United, a dynamic group which brings together players from London universities like Imperial, UCL, LSE, and KCL.

Hold onto your sticks, folks, because London United is making waves in the University Floorball League (UFL). Since the inception of the league in 2019, the team has been on an unstoppable winning streak, clinching the title not once, not twice, but thrice! Yes, you read that right.

London United soared through the 2023/24 season with nine wins out of ten games and an impressive 51 goals. The crowning glory came after a weekend of intense fixtures at Queen's University Belfast on 2nd and 3rd March.

A round of applause for Samuel Gramata, the goal-scoring maestro with 11 goals and 8 assists, and a shout out to our Imperial players Murat Shafigullin and Tze Yang Tan who are the 2nd and 3rd top point scorers who led the team to victory.

If you are interested in trying out floorball, do drop us a DM or reach out to us at floorball@imperial.ac.uk. If you want to learn more about London United, follow [@londonfloorball](https://www.instagram.com/londonfloorball) on Instagram.

HOME TEAM	SCORE	AWAY TEAM
Durham University Floorball Club	0 - 3	London United
London United	2 - 0	York Vikings
London United	6 - 0	Nottingham University Floorball Club
London United	10 - 2	Queen's University Belfast
Nottingham University Floorball Club	1 - 9	London United
Oxford University	0 - 3	London United
Queen's University Belfast	0 - 8	London United
London United	4 - 1	Durham University Floorball Club
London United	4 - 2	Oxford University
York Vikings	2 - 2	London United

Floorball scores show London United's ten game winning streak Kai Zhuo



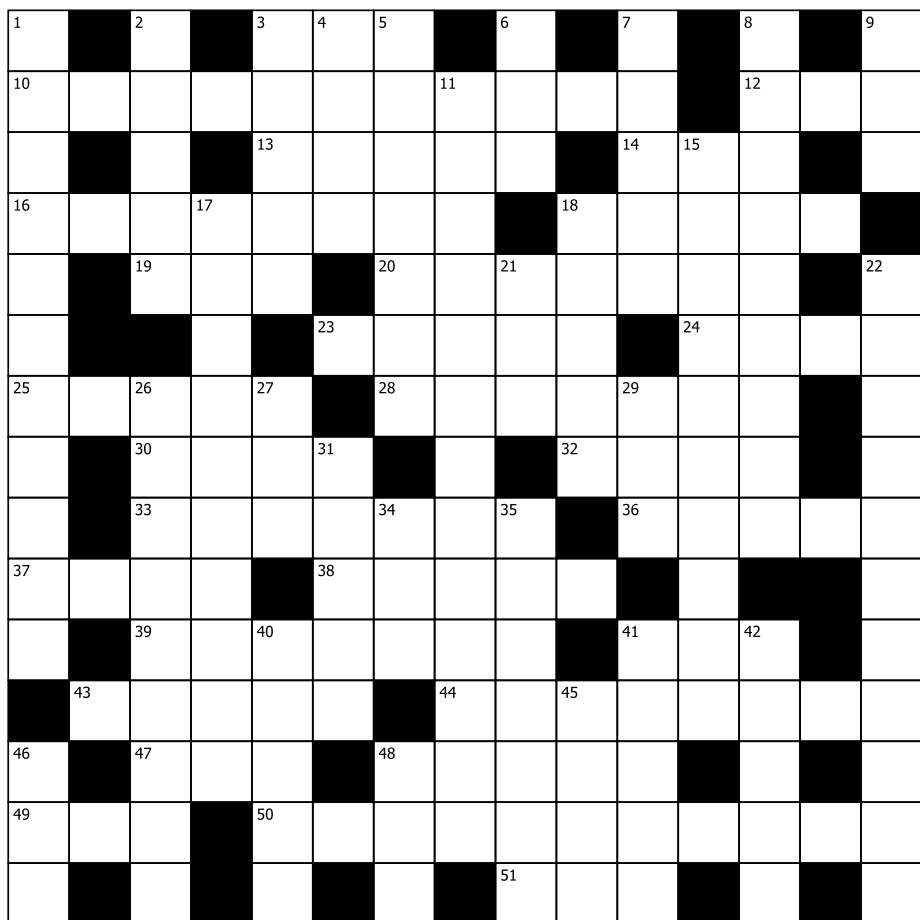
Clockwise starting from the top: UFL group photo with all participating universities, London United caught at spoons, London United's second win 22/23, London United's first win in 21/22, London United 3rd Team at their most recent win 23/24 Second photo: Kai Zhuo, rest: UKFF UFL

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
STANLEY SCOTT

CROSSWORD

Musicians at Court (3 pts.)



Across

- 3. Aspen leisure activity. [3]
- 10. A cut above the rest. [11]
- 12. Australian bird. [3]
- 13. Ogle. [3 2]
- 14. Military pilot with five or more duel victories. [3]
- 16. Clerk's duties, e.g. [4-4]
- 18. Big cats. [5]
- 19. English 3SG.M.POSS, as a glossing abbreviation. [3]
- 20. Bacterial disease. [7]
- 23. The beginning of a duvet-day, perhaps. [3-2]
- 24. '___ prius' as a Latin judicial term, or the Greek word for island. [4 7]
- 25. Medieval sword whose name is an anagram of a fashion magazine. [5]
- 28. How some like their pasta. [2 5]
- 30. Part of the brainstem. [4]
- 32. Turns on the waterworks, so to speak. [4]
- 33. It's between the vocal cords. [7]
- 36. Horsepower alternative. [5]
- 37. Small ornate container. [4]
- 38. Mum's sister, e.g. [5]
- 39. Scandinavian country, to its inhabitants. [7]
- 41. You might have one on Instagram. [3]
- 43. Kind of sea snail. [5]
- 44. Enough to feed the family, perhaps. [8]
- 47. Rage. [3]
- 48. Gwen Stefani claims she won't do this back. [5]
- 49. Tavern. [3]
- 50. Racing simulator videogame. [4 7]
- 51. Michael Jackson's often twice-sung exclamation. [3]
- 6. In computing, type of compressed file. [3]
- 7. Once more. [5]
- 8. Most little. [9]
- 9. Word following stomach or doodle. [3]
- 11. Noble pianist? [4 9]
- 15. Noble bandleader? [5 5]
- 17. Royal cornet player? [4 6]
- 18. Roads. [5]
- 21. '___-bit': tasty morsel. [3]
- 22. Royal rock band? [5 2 4]
- 26. What an oil blowout's doing. [9]
- 27. British Electronic music pioneer Brian. [3]
- 29. Without delay. [3]
- 31. House in *Game of Thrones*. [5]
- 34. Travel agency. [3]
- 35. Assassin's quality. [7]
- 40. Lamenting poem. [5]
- 41. Loud noise. [5]
- 42. Practical. [2 3]
- 45. Cerulean or phthalo, e.g. [4]
- 46. Eve's origin. [3]
- 48. Old crone. [3]

Down

- 1. Noble Calypso artist? [4 7]
- 2. Stockpile. [5]
- 3. Cooks in liquid. [5]
- 4. Phonetically, a fight-ender. [4]
- 5. Resistance to changes in motion. [7]

Cryptic across

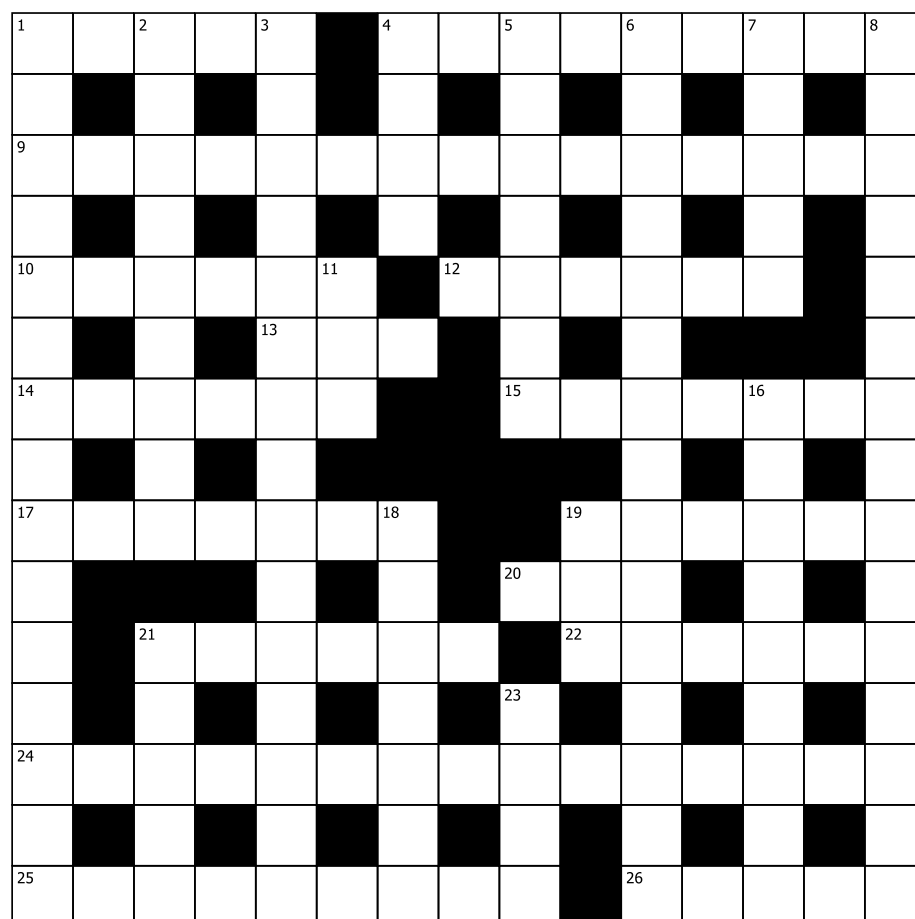
- 1. Oh, can you bring back the chip? [5]
- 4. Freud played with rats, the quack! [9]
- 9. Set at right angles: the organ. [10 5]
- 10. Being taken to court, made statement. [6]
- 12. Small amount of uranium stamps out primary accumulations. [6]
- 13. Suitable for a fine. [1-2]
- 14. Around a thousand veggies among these people. [6]
- 15. It's driven in amongst the rock with the bore tip. [7]
- 17. Publisher leased this year, and not conservatively. [7]
- 19. That is after the barbecue arranged for the guy. [6]
- 20. Have the first drinks but keep relaxed through them. [3]
- 21. Friend giving a hug to your elder. [6]
- 22. Emission from a vehicle is good in France. [6]
- 24. Miso ramen - either it gets fried or it boils. [9 6]
- 25. Through which one pays for one's sins? [6 3]
- 26. In a bad temper, screw up roadmap at beginning of long journey. [5]

Cryptic down

- 1. Place has shiveringly nightmarish tone. [15]
- 2. Soft creature's torture, or its safe space? [4 5]
- 3. Prepared to engage with a linguistic treatise, perhaps? [2 8 5]
- 4. I heard the chimney rose high. [4]
- 5. A lamb, so slaughtered for biblical figure. [7]
- 6. Programs which, in turn, decode reams? [8 5]
- 7. Church contributions? [5]
- 8. It could be described as green, yeah! [9 6]
- 11. Best practices for the operating system. [3]
- 16. Can our other roommate first get out of the habit? Then we can live with him! [9]
- 18. You're kissed audibly by the one with the white rose. [7]
- 19. Fly in an even rat race. [3]
- 21. Copy 1000110001100. [5]
- 23. I heard he does this to get into the fort! [4]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

(5 pts.)



SUDOKU

	2		5	4	6	7		
7		9		1	3		5	
	5				9	1	2	
8				2	4	3	6	
3			9					4
		4			5	8	9	7
6		2	7			5	3	1
5	3			6			7	8
9	7		3	5		6		

			3	1	2			5
2			6			7	9	
5	4							2
	8				1	3	5	6
	3		7	8	9			
1	2	4			6			
		2	8	9	7		1	
3		1				9		
7				5		6	2	4

	3				8		2	4
8	7		6		2	5		
			5		1		8	7
		1				4		5
6		4		2				
9		7					3	
				1		8		9
4	1			9		3	5	
7	9	8		6				1

4	1		8	9	7			
5		3			4	9		
				6		1		2
	7		6		2	3		5
1	3	5		7			2	
	4			3				9
9	8		4		6		3	1
			1	2	3	8	9	7
	2	1	7	8	9		6	

6	2		8	7				
	8			3		6		
	1					9	7	8
1		2					8	
7							5	6
4	6		9	8	7			3
			5	6	3	8		
3							1	4
	7	9	4		2		6	

2	3			7				
				1		9		8
					6	3	1	
		6	3	5				
		9	4			1		3
		5			8			4
	5	3					8	9
	7		6		5		2	
				8	7	5		

Medium (1 pt. each)

Hard (2 pts. each)

Extra hard (3 pts. each)

GROUPING GRIDS

elm	moose	stonebridge	balsa
upton	hangul	guppy	bat
maple	latin	sequoia	vole
green	wenge	kana	devanagari

How-to:

For fans of *Only Connect*! The sixteen clues in each of these puzzles can be placed into four groups of four, each with a connecting feature. To solve the puzzle, write these groups and their connections below! An example can be seen in last week's solutions.

mile	rumour	you	see
eye	ell	dirt	fathom
link	scan	queue	are
goss	view	clock	tea

Medium (3 pts.)

Hard (4 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

Bonus
(5 pts.)

mingus	star	mother	hejira
brother	terne	krave	benthivore
court and spark	monk	herd	abba
clouds	overground	blue	son

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

				Connections

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: Demon's goo (anagram, 2 words)

Submitted by Ivin Jose

How-to:

A cryptogram is solved by cracking the cypher in which an encoded phrase is written. The first few letter correspondences are given to you, and your job is to use your linguistic and logical skills, as well as your quotes knowledge, to work out the secret message. Bonus points for giving where the quote comes from!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Z	Q	Z	R	R	H	J	N	A	D	N	Y	O	D	Z	N	J	L	O	H	Q					

L	O	Z	R	A	N	E	C	O	S	Z	J	M	O	I	Y	A	R	O							

N	Y	O	E	I	O	L	O	O	Z	N	A	D	V	Q	H	K	N	Y	O						

Q	A	L	M	N	N	A	X	O	O	G	O	L	Z												

D	A	V	Y	N	A	D	V	Z	R	O	M	Z	D	V	A	D									

C	O	L	B	O	R	O	E	M	K	J	Z	L	O	D	H	H	D	O							

Y	O	Z	L	T	A	N	H	G	O	L	N	Y	O	D	H	A	M	O							

H	Q	N	Y	O	N	L	Z	Q	Q	A	S	C	J	N	A	N	I	Z	M						

N	Y	O	L	O	L	A	V	Y	N	O	D	H	J	V	Y										

(3 pts.)

Quote from: _____

(2 pts.)

MATHS PUZZLES

(5 pts. each)

Submitted by Charlotte Probstel

How many zeros?

Senior Kangaroo 2012 Q1

How many zeros are at the end of the number that is the product of the first 2012 prime numbers?

P-q pairs

Junior Mathematical Challenge 2018 Q16

How many pairs of digits (p, q) are there so that the five-digit integer 'p869q' is a multiple of 15?

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



REBRAND

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Aspenlads	95	25
2.	S&J	67	25
3.	Hursh&Jasmine	57	20
4.	Huxley's Hotties	54	23
4.	Louise Parchson	54	-
5.	Alvikash	22	22
6.	William West	21	-
7.	Brunel's Children	20	20

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest puzzlers,

As we stand at the precipice of this Spring Term, I shall keep this note short and sweet. It has been the greatest pleasure setting these puzzles for you all, and receiving such wonderful feedback and answers. I wish you all a fantastic Easter break, and am very much looking forward to providing more puzzles to you in the Summer Term. Until then, happy crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, calculating, comic consuming, and competing!

- Stanley

Last week's solutions



20+24 27+31. Six of this in the puzzle. [6 6]

Cryptic

I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER.
Y O Y I I I G P X B G M R G H X P X H

WHATSOEVER HAPPENS. TILL I
O E S L X P X H E S F F X D T L Y I I Y

DIE AND AFTER I DIE, AND
U Y X S D U S R L X H Y U Y X S D U

WHEN I FIND MY WAY OUT OF
O E X D Y R Y D U Q B O S B G M L G R

THE LAND OF THE DEAD I'LL
L E X I S D U G R L E X U X S U Y I I

DRIFT ABOUT FOREVER, ALL
U H Y R L S Z G M L R G H X P X H S I I

MY ATOMS. TILL I FIND
Q B S L G Q T L Y I I Y R Y D U

YOU AGAIN.
B G M S N S Y D

Quote from: *The Amber Spyglass*

Cryptogram (Blasphemy stagers)

blue	right	minke	sperm	whales
fin	Ende	fine	τέλος	'the end' in different languages
exquisite	first-rate	choice	excellent	excellent synonyms
up	down	strange	top	quarks

Medium grouping grid

low	raptor	nacre	pinus	anagrams of birds
soap bubble	opal	CD	butterfly wing	iridescent things
AD	BC	CE	BCE	era abbreviations
wolf	yam	bank	bowl	change one letter for dog sounds

Hard grouping grid

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk by **Thursday** to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard! Send them in by **Tuesday** if you want to see your points for this week in next week's issue.

SPORT

Snowboarding in spring

A skier's review
of snowboarding.



J, D, and I on the slopes in Austria T

Sport Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

The plethora of ski slopes in the Austrian Alps make it the best place to learn and develop skiing and snowboarding skills, as the slope run difficulties are not only blue, red, or black. In my opinion, some slopes are dark red; some, a light shade of navy; and some are just pink, an easy red. Taking a random week outside of the national school holidays in early spring to hit the slopes gives beginners a good chance to learn at their own pace, make mistakes on empty, wide slopes, and fall into mounds of artificial snow at comfortable, lukewarm temperatures of air. However, the impact of climate change causes temperatures of up to 10°C at 2000m elevation, exemplifying the current crisis that we have placed Mother Nature in. However, this shall be reserved for another article.

Last weekend, my friend D and I went to the Alps to learn how to snowboard. Our friends T and J became our teachers for three days. D knows how to skateboard, I do not; however, unlike him, I know the Alps and have skied before. Hence it would be interesting to see how we both would do on our boards.

Rotation and technique

Technically speaking, snowboarding takes the coordinate system of skiing and rotates it by 90°. To ski slowly or slide down the slope, skiers point their knees towards the left or right side of the slope. On the other hand, snowboarders 'heel' or 'toe' down the slope, with their torso facing towards or away from the mountain. When skiing quickly, the skier faces away from the mountain, curving slightly in a S-shaped manner. Snowboarders also form S-shaped curves, but their torsos face either side of the slope.

Both sports require a curved path on the snow: a flat board or ski whose face is directly on the snow will accelerate quickly, and the owner will lose control and crash.

Muscles

When I ski, I control myself with my heels; however, in addition, snowboarding also requires the toes for control, which was quite new to me. My toes hurt a lot when 'toeing' – facing the mountain. The snowboard put quite a lot of strain on my feet, tailbone, and core, while skiing strains the thighs and hamstrings more. Technically, I can assume both sports activate the quadriceps and the core; however as a first-time snowboarder, I found myself sore in places I did not expect, such as my shoulders and arms. This was probably from lifting myself off the

ground every time I fell.

Slopes and lifts

Snowboarders and skiers may prefer different slopes. Straight horizontal paths that connect two slopes can become a nightmare for snowboarders who lose momentum. They cannot accelerate as easily by propelling themselves with their sticks, hence they need to waddle down a short path or walk with their board in hand. Lifts are also less convenient for snowboarders than skiers, as they need to unbuckle and buckle their straps every time they get on a lift, which look as if they were designed primarily for skiers.

Tips

First, wear protection on your tailbone. J told us how he broke his tailbone twice while snowboarding. Secondly, do not wear a backpack. I found that mine would pull me down every time I tried to stand up. Thirdly, you will fall – a lot. You may also experience soreness in the back of your neck, as D did, due to whiplash from falling backwards. As a result, he spent a day in bed unable to lift his head.

I grew up skiing, yet I cannot wait to spend next winter season snowboarding. I mean, you already look cool just by standing on a snowboard.

Weekly Scores

Women's Rugby
wins 79-5 in final
BUCS match against
Portsmouth



Post-win selfie Jo Van Pelt

"Great way to end the season. We finished 3rd in our first year being promoted. What a great result to end a great season for us!"



Team photo after the match Ash Brandon



Photo with the winning scoreboard Sophie Roberts