

# THE CITY HERALD

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# STARMER'S NEW GOVERNMENT SPARKS A NEW ERA

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LABOUR'S HISTORIC LANDSLIDE VICTORY. KEIR  
STARMER BECOMES THE 58TH PRIME MINISTER.

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The voting is over, and the results are in: Labour has won the general election in a decisive victory.

This election marks a significant shift in the UK's political landscape. The Conservative Party, which had been in power for the past 14 years, suffered its worst-ever election defeat. In contrast, the Liberal Democrats celebrated their best election results in a century. However, the night belonged to the Labour Party, which achieved a landslide victory, securing over 400 MPs. As a result of this overwhelming win, Labour is set to form the next government, with their leader, Sir Keir Starmer, becoming the UK's new Prime Minister. In his victory speech, Starmer expressed his gratitude and commitment to change, stating, **"You voted for it, and now it has arrived. Change begins now."**

The UK Parliament comprises 650 MPs, and political parties aim to secure at least 326 MPs to achieve a majority.

This majority is crucial for passing new laws and governing effectively. In the UK's electoral system, citizens do not directly vote for the Prime Minister. Instead, they vote for their local MP, and the leader of the party that gains the majority typically becomes the Prime Minister.

Starmer comes across as a quiet, experienced man, who speaks of values and of being a socialist (*though the public are unsure if he is, or if that's a good or bad thing*). He can justifiably say he has a more authentic working-class background than many of his predecessors.

We do know that Starmer only became a member of parliament in 2015, so, at 52, was a latecomer to politics. He has spent the entirety of his political career in opposition. Yet Starmer's time in parliament has been more intense than most. He was deeply involved in Brexit, and then led his party during the pandemic. As leader of the opposition, he saw two



Prime Minister Keir Starmer giving his first public speech outside No.10 Downing Street. July 2024

prime ministers removed in quick succession. Now, he has taken down a third. It has been claimed that he is a man on a mission.

There will be pressing domestic issues over migration, public service funding, the NHS, the state of education. Abroad, there is a *"stormy world"* from Gaza and Ukraine to the US election. The true test of PM Starmer is yet to come.

What do you think he will bring to Britain? We want to hear your ideas; [herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)

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# girl power

## WOMEN IN POLITICS TRANSFORM STARMER'S CABINET

Keir Starmer's new cabinet is set to make history with the highest number of state-educated and female ministers ever. In a landmark appointment, Rachel Reeves has become the first female Chancellor of the Exchequer, breaking centuries of tradition and setting a precedent for future governments. This move underscores Starmer's commitment to gender equality and the inclusion of diverse voices at the highest levels of government.

Despite these advances in gender representation, the new cabinet sees a decline in ethnic diversity compared to previous administrations. According to research by the thinktank British Future, a record 89 minority ethnic MPs were elected to parliament overall. However, in Starmer's government, David Lammy, the new Foreign Secretary, will be the only black cabinet minister.

This highlights a significant disparity in ethnic representation at the cabinet level, even as the overall number of minority ethnic MPs has increased.

The first Labour cabinet in 14 years will also feature only two ministers of Asian descent. Shabana Mahmood, one of the UK's first Muslim female MPs, will bring her pioneering spirit and dedication to her role. Joining her is Lisa Nandy, who has been a vocal advocate for social justice and community cohesion. Both women are expected to bring invaluable perspectives and experience to the cabinet, contributing to a more inclusive and representative government.

Angela Rayner, a prominent figure in the Labour Party, has also been given a key role in the cabinet, reflecting Starmer's recognition of her leadership and dedication. Her position will be crucial in shaping

policies and driving the party's agenda forward. While the increase in female representation and the inclusion of state-educated ministers are significant achievements, the drop in ethnic diversity within the cabinet presents a challenge for the Labour government. The party will need to address this imbalance to fully realize its commitment to representing the diverse fabric of British society.

As Starmer's government takes shape, the focus will be on how these historic appointments translate into policies and actions that benefit all citizens. The true test of this cabinet's success will lie in its ability to deliver on promises of equality, representation, and social justice. With the eyes of the nation upon them, Starmer's cabinet has the opportunity to set a new standard for inclusivity and effectiveness in governance.





# ARE THE SIX WEEKS STILL RELEVANT?

Historically, summer holidays are believed to be from the Victorian era where the long break was needed so children could work in the fields. Alternatively, the TES (Times Educational Supplement) has argued that it was actually the unions' fight for eight-hour working days and legal holidays that encouraged the long breaks so children could spend time with their families. Whatever the reason, these long holidays are well established in the school calendar.

Children and young people see it as a break between year groups, coming back to school in September a little older, a little wiser and refreshed for the new year ahead. Children also have time to do summer activities which schools do not always offer, a way to expand their experiences and make friendships with new children. Parents enjoy the long break to spend time as a family and it's a break from the normal routine of work and school. If you don't have children, you'll notice the roads are incredibly quiet during rush hour!

Children need a break from school. Teachers need a break. Parents need to spend time with their children but is the long summer holiday an outdated concept? Could we instead redistribute the six weeks throughout the year and cap the summer holidays at four weeks? Schools could have more freedom to decide how they organise their school year which will mean that breaks are more evenly spread out, and parents will have more flexibility when they go away on holiday. Could schools offer optional state-subsidised activity camps in the school holidays that can help parents logistically as well as giving children a great experience? All this would involve a major rethink about how we operate the school year - but maybe, just maybe we should drag school holidays out of the Victorian era.

What do you like about the school holidays? Do you like the six week break or would you prefer to break it up a bit? Let us know  
[herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)



**BREAKING**

**NEWS**



# FALLING FOR FAKE NEWS

Knowledge is our greatest tool when facing difficult challenges. Unfortunately, misinformation is often prevalent during times of concern. Staying informed is crucial, and it's important to talk to your kids about current events and how they can learn to make critical evaluations about what they see and hear while correctly identifying valid sources for their information. Fact versus opinion. In today's world, it's incredibly easy for people to share their opinions with others using social media as an open microphone.

Everything we read online is not necessarily true. A person doesn't have to have any qualifications

to share a status update or like a post, and it can be helpful to remind ourselves of this when trying to filter out information that isn't credible. Social media is a powerful tool, but these platforms also make it easy to amplify biased opinions and false statements. Unless it's coming from an official government agency like the Department of Health.

It's best to take everything you read on social media with a grain of salt.

**Don't be duped by fake news. Use this to help ensure you don't get duped!**

**Currency:** Is the information current? You will click on a story and notice that the date was from a few months or years ago, but your "friends" are acting outraged as if it is happening in the moment.

**Relevance:** Have you looked at a variety of sources before selecting this one?

**Authority:** who is the author/publisher/sponsor of the news? Do they have authority on the subject? Do they have an agenda?

**Accuracy:** Is the information supported by evidence? Does the author cite credible sources? Is the information verifiable in other places?

**Purpose:** What is the purpose of this news? To outrage? To call to action? To inform? To sell? This can give you clues about bias.

# Breaking the stigma

Mental health used to be almost a secret that some people felt uncomfortable about. But gradually, we've begun to open up and shed those outdated notions.

So, why is this change happening? And how can we help accelerate progress in this area?

Mental health stigma refers to negative attitudes and beliefs that society or individuals hold towards those with mental health conditions. It's like a label that makes people treat those with mental health challenges unfairly, often because they don't understand the problems those individuals are facing.

Looking back in history, mental health stigma has been around for a long time. In the past, people with mental health conditions were often isolated or treated poorly because others were scared or confused by what they didn't understand. Sadly, this meant that many people didn't get the help or support they needed. Understanding and breaking down this stigma is important so that everyone can get the respect and care they deserve.

Social stigma happens when people in society look down on someone because of something about them, like having a mental illness. Self-stigma is when people feel ashamed or judge themselves because they have these problems. Institutional stigma is when organizations, like schools or companies, treat people unfairly because of their mental health challenges. Each type can make life harder for those dealing with mental health challenges.

Stigma can have a big impact on people with mental health challenges. When they feel judged, they might be scared or embarrassed to look for help, which can make their problems worse. This kind of negative thinking can also hurt their self-esteem, making them feel bad about themselves. Plus, it can make friendships and family relationships harder because of misunderstandings or fear. So, fighting stigma is really important to help people feel safe to get help and feel good about themselves.



We are fortunate enough to have our own support system at school called The Hive. This is an information and advice hub that has taken the hard work out of searching the internet for you.

The Hive contains links to websites, such as ChildLine, Thinkuknow, YoungMinds and many more. Your Child will be able to access a wealth of resources, including informative videos and information sheets on the following topics:

- Abuse and safety
- Bullying, including cyberbullying
- Family issues
- LGBTQ+
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Online Safety
- Sex and relationships
- Sexual abuse and sexual harassment

You can also contact the Hive directly using our dedicated email address:

[hive@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:hive@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk)



# SUMMER HOLIDAYS

CREATED BY HARRY ELLIOTT



I can't wait  
for the summer  
holidays!



I'm going to do  
so much in the  
holidays!

**IN THE  
SUMMER  
HOLIDAYS...**

**WEEK 1**



GET OUT OF  
MY ROOM!!!

**WEEK 2**



**WEEK 4**

Here is  
a 2 hour  
video on  
mario  
kart!



You don't  
even like  
mario kart



**WEEK 6**



What a great  
summer!!  
10/10



**THE  
END!**

# teachers Pet

An addition to The City Herald that seems to be a crowd favourite is where we get to meet our teacher's furry friends. In this addition, we get to meet Mrs Wright's dog. If you would like to see a teacher's pet or you know a teacher that would love to share - please let us know [herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)

Maryam: What is your dog's name and what breed and gender is it?

**Mrs Wright: His name is Ronnie, and he is a working cocker spaniel.**

Maryam: What does your dog enjoy doing?

**Mrs Wright: Ronnie loves people and other dogs, so whenever he is around others, he just loves it! Oh, and food, he LOVES his food!**

Maryam: What does your dog enjoy playing with?

**Mrs Wright: Playing with toys, this can include soft teddies and tennis balls.**

Maryam: Is there anything else you like about your dog or what you find special about him?

**Mrs Wright: He is such a soft natured dog. He always lays down when he meets other dogs. This tells the other dogs that he is submissive and not a threat to them.**



## Ronnie


## FACTS ABOUT COCKER SPANIELS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

1. Cocker Spaniels are intelligent dogs that love to please; they are easy to train but can become over-excited or distracted, so make your training sessions short and fun to keep their attention!
2. They love mental stimulation and to be kept busy, so playing games like agility or flyball will keep them well occupied and use up some of that energy!
3. In 2004 researchers successfully showed that dogs could identify cancer by scent alone. The English study used six dogs and a Cocker Spaniel called Tangle had the best success rate - after training Tangle was able to correctly identify cancer 80 per cent of the time



# DUALITY OF HUMAN NATURE

Kowshik Karthikeyen | Y8

A person is walking away from the viewer through a dark, rocky cave. The cave's interior is dimly lit, with the walls showing rough textures. At the end of the cave, there is a large, bright opening that creates a strong silhouette effect on the person walking towards it. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

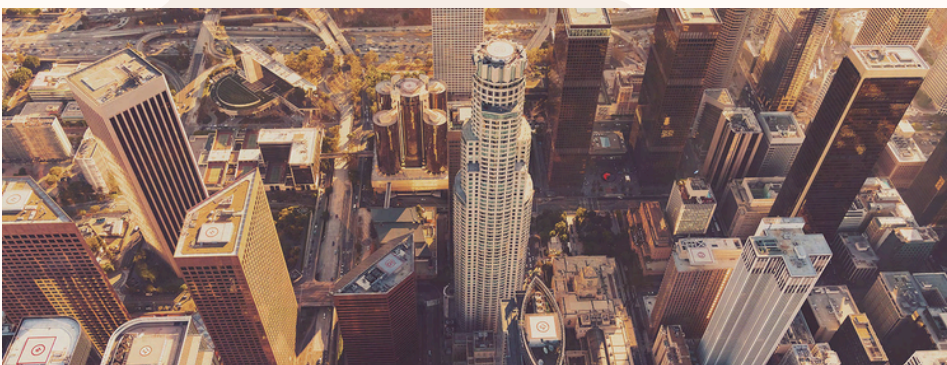
He was me but opposite.  
I was day, he was night.  
I was light, he was dark.  
We were the same but different.  
However he can't exist without me, I cant  
exist without him.  
He has to die for me to live.  
I have to live for him to die.  
He is nice on the inside but pure evil on the  
outside but he says I am joy on the outside  
but mischief on the inside.  
No matter what happens he is my best friend  
I am his enemy.  
No matter what happens he is my enemy I  
am his best friend.  
No one can possibly hurt us.  
Even God or the devil cause we were the God  
and the devil.  
He doesn't smile. I don't mourn.  
He is up I am down.  
He is left I am right  
He is the moon. I am the sun.  
We are not different. We are not same.



# human geography VS PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Human and physical geography helps us understand how people and nature interact. They show us the ways in which society is shaped by its surroundings. The intricate patterns of landforms and ecosystems provide us with a holistic understanding of the world we inhabit.

Human geography is fascinating through the way it explores how people interact with their environments and create diverse cultures and societies. Human geography deciphers how human activities shape landscapes, influences economies around the world and affect social structures. Human geography also helps us to understand why cities develop in certain areas, how migration patterns form and the ways cultural practices spread across the globe. This field helps us appreciate the rich variety of human experiences and how our world is interconnected.



Physical geography is captivating through the way it examines the natural features of the Earth and how they shape/change our environment. It explores mountains, rivers, climate patterns, and ecosystems, helping us to understand the processes that form and change landscapes over time.

We can learn about the naturalistic features of our planet, for example, earthquakes, volcanoes and other weather patterns. This field helps us appreciate the beauty and complexity of the natural world and the vital role it plays in sustaining life on our planet.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

UNDERSTANDING THESE ASPECTS OF GEOGRAPHY CAN INSPIRE ACTION TO ADDRESS VARIOUS CHALLENGES.

### CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Participate in or support conservation projects aimed at preserving natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Advocate for the protection of endangered species and ecosystems. Write to your local MP to share your views.

### CLIMATE ACTION

- Reduce carbon footprints through lifestyle changes and support for renewable energy sources.
- Engage in and support initiatives aimed at combating climate change at local, national, and global levels.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Advocate for improved disaster preparedness and response strategies in vulnerable regions.
- Support organizations that provide relief and aid to communities affected by natural disasters.

By addressing these questions and taking action, we can contribute to a more sustainable and interconnected world, appreciating the rich tapestry of human and natural landscapes.





**“Everyone should have access to the books that they love,” TikTok said in a statement. “We are thrilled to be widening access to books and encouraging an enjoyment of reading with the National Literacy Trust.”**

Everyone tells us that social media shortens our attention spans. But according to latest research carried out the National Literacy Trust, the video sharing platform TikTok has inspired a new generation of young people to pick up a book.

So to make good use of the initiative on TikTok, they have partnered up with the UK’s National Literacy Trust to place bookshelves in areas identified as lacking in literary provision.

Twenty ‘BookTok Bookshelves’ will be placed in youth clubs and community centres in Birmingham, Blackpool, Bradford, Doncaster, Manchester, Middlesborough, Newcastle, Nottingham, Peterborough, Stoke and Swindon. Books will be paid for by TikTok and chosen by volunteers working at the National Literacy Trust whose research shows that **9% of people aged 5-18 (8.6%) don’t have a book of their own at home.**

If you have any recommendations that you think we should put on our own BookTok Bookshelf - email [herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk).

# POWER OF READING

JASLEEN K | Y7



Reading is a time-consuming activity, whether it is enjoyable for some or more like a chore for others. However, there are many beneficial effects that come along when you read frequently. Many people believe reading is useless and a waste of time with the amount of innovative technology being created, yet these people are missing crucial parts important for the brain and skills that can be used for later in their lives.

When you are on social media there are many things to read about that may be interesting to you such as articles, news stories or even just posts. Nevertheless, these pieces of writing have educated your brain to use the technique called 'skimming and scanning' which has reduced your attention span. Fortunately, reading does the complete opposite. When you are reading and immersed into a book or novel, it requires a sustained focus as we visualize the surroundings and settings, try to understand the feelings and actions of certain misunderstood characters and when we focus on complex and interesting plot lines. Books are vastly complex which means our brain is forced to resist unnecessary distractions to keep engaged and focused on the book sitting in front of us.

“  
ONCE YOU LEARN  
TO READ, YOU WILL  
BE FOREVER FREE.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

”  
Different books have different meanings, intentions and themes which means two books can never be the same as they are all unique in their own ways. Having said that, there may be a book that's meanings we don't agree with, but we are still expected to understand the writer's views and opinions. Thus makes us better thinkers as our mind now has a vast amount of opinions on a certain topic which means we are able to express different views to find out what we agree with particularly more. Books may have a certain quote or phrase which does not make sense straight away, but when we analyze and try to understand the true meaning our mind finds out there are many unique ways to express and show the same meaning.



# Sympathy

ALLAMA IQBAL

PERCHED ON THE BRANCH OF A TREE  
WAS A NIGHTINGALE SAD AND LONELY  
"THE NIGHT HAS DRAWN NEAR", HE WAS THINKING  
"I PASSED THE DAY IN FLYING AROUND AND FEEDING

HOW CAN I REACH UP TO THE NEST  
DARKNESS HAS ENVELOPED EVERYTHING"?

HEARING THE NIGHTINGALE WAILING THUS  
A GLOW-WORM LURKING NEARBY SPOKE THUS

"WITH MY HEART AND SOUL READY TO HELP I AM  
THOUGH ONLY AN INSIGNIFICANT INSECT I AM

NEVER MIND IF THE NIGHT IS DARK  
I SHALL SHED LIGHT IF THE WAY IS DARK

GOD HAS BESTOWED A TORCH ON ME  
HE HAS GIVEN A SHINING LAMP TO ME

THE GOOD IN THE WORLD ONLY THOSE ARE  
READY TO BE USEFUL TO OTHERS WHO ARE





# Sympathy

ALLAMA IQBAL, A POET YOU MAY NEVER HAVE HEARD OF BEFORE BUT SOME OF MY FAVOURITE POEMS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY HIM. ALLAMA IQBAL WAS A MUSLIM POET, PHILOSOPHER AND POLITICIAN WHO WROTE SO MANY BOOKS AND POEMS. ALLAMA IQBAL SHOW HIS DEVOTION TOWARDS ISLAM BY LINKING SO MANY OF HIS VERSES WITH THE QURAN OR SOME OF THE HADITHS\* OF THE PROPHET (PBUH).

THE PHRASE "GOD HAS BESTOWED A TORCH ON ME. HE HAS GIVEN A SHINING LAMP TO ME " REFERS TO THE CREATOR OF THE WORLDS GIVING GUIDANCE TO HUMANITY ON HOW TO LIVE ONE'S LIFE AND ATTAIN LIGHT THAT WILL HELP IN THE OTHER REALM AND ILLUMINATE ONES PATH IN UTTER DARKNESS. I

F YOU LIVE THE LIFE IN SUBMISSION TO YOUR CREATOR, YOU BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO OTHERS. "THE GOOD IN THE WORLD ONLY THOSE ARE READY TO BE USEFUL TO OTHERS WHO ARE PERCHED ON THE BRANCH OF A TREE." THIS COUPLET LINKS TO THE COUPLET BEFORE AS IT SIGNIFIES THAT IF YOU LISTEN TO HOW YOUR CREATOR WANTS YOU TO BE THEN YOU WILL BECOME A TORCH TO LEAD OTHERS. THE WORDS "PERCHED ON THE BRANCH OF A TREE" REPRESENTS THOSE WHO ARE NOW STARTING THEIR LIFE AS THEY HAVEN'T BECOME A TORCH YET (A ROLE MODEL). THE WORDS "A GLOW WORM" ALSO LINKS TO THE COUPLETS BEFORE BECAUSE A GLOW WORM LIGHTS UP ITS OWN AREA THIS LINKS TO OUR GOOD DEEDS BECAUSE OUR GOOD DEEDS WILL ILLUMINATE OUR GRAVE JUST LIKE HOW A LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATES THE PATH FOR SAILING BOATS AND SHIPS.

THE WAY THIS POEM RESONATES WITH ME IS THROUGH HIS DEVOTION TOWARDS ISLAM. THIS MAKES ME WANT TO LEARN AND EXPLORE MY RELIGION EVEN FURTHER. IT GIVES ME THE INSPIRATION THAT WE ARE ALL REALLY ONE COMMUNITY AND WE CAN PROVIDE SOLACE AND SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER.

\*COLLECTION OF TRADITIONS CONTAINING SAYINGS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD WHICH, WITH ACCOUNTS OF HIS DAILY PRACTICE (THE SUNNAH), CONSTITUTE THE MAJOR SOURCE OF GUIDANCE FOR MUSLIMS



# THE CITY HERALD

G17 TUESDAYS | 3:20-4:00PM

# RECRUITING NOW



**G17 TUESDAYS**

**3:20-4:00**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
WRITE FOR THE CITY  
HERALD, GET IN TOUCH  
WITH MISS MIRZA**

**[mmirza@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:mmirza@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)  
or [herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk](mailto:herald@tcolc.aspirelp.uk)**

