

# THE CITY HERALD

FOR THE STUDENTS. BY THE STUDENTS.

## DO TEENS CARE ABOUT ABOUT THE WORLD MORE THAN EVER?

Walk around school and you'll hear students talking about climate change, protests, new laws, and TV shows. Teens today are more aware of what's happening in the world and they actually want to do something about it.

Social media definitely plays a role by making news and opinions easy to access, but it's also deeply personal. Issues like climate change, exam stress, jobs after school, and fairness in society make politics feel real and urgent for us. In fact, recent research found that most young people believe politics affects their everyday lives and that living in a democracy matters to them.

One of the biggest changes on the horizon is that 16 and 17-year-olds will soon be able to vote in all UK elections. Including the general election – something that hasn't happened before across the whole UK.

This change is part of a new law introduced in Parliament in early 2026, and it's expected to take effect by the next UK general election, which must be held no later than August 2029.



We asked students around school what they think:

**"I think teenagers care because what happens now will affect our future more than anyone else's.**

**Climate change, jobs, fees – these matter to us." – Student A, 16**

**"Getting the vote at 16 is huge. It means adults have to listen, because they can't ignore half the generation anymore."**

**Student B, 15**

Not every teen feels the same way. Some young people say political debates can be boring, or that they're unsure where to start. But the fact that students are talking about it shows a shift. They're not just watching from the sidelines—they want to be heard.

The real question now is whether adults will meet that energy halfway. Teens are ready to engage, ready to vote, and ready to speak up – but being listened to and taken seriously is what matters most.



# THANK YOU!

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO FRIENDS OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER COLLEGE (PTFA) FOR SPONSORING OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, THE CITY HERALD!**

**THE PTFA IS OUR PARENT TEACHER FRIENDS ASSOCIATION AND A REGISTERED CHARITY (NO. 1210642) THAT SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL TO THRIVE. THEIR SUPPORT HELPS PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, EXPERIENCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENHANCE OUR STUDENTS' LEARNING.**

**STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS CAN FOLLOW THEIR WORK ON INSTAGRAM @FRIENDSOFTCOLC.**

**This item was  
funded by:**



# MEET THE FIRST CO-COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Madeenah and Maryam



BY JOSHUA IY10-

For the first time in the history of the school, there are not one, but two college captains leading the student body. Madeenah and Maryam, friends for 12 years, have completed their first two terms in office. We caught up with them to find out what they have been working on, their experiences, and their plans for the future.

Q: What is it like being the first co-college captains, and why did you choose this role?

Madeenah and Maryam: It is something no one has ever done in this school before, so it is a very exciting opportunity. Two people can achieve more than one, and since we have been friends for 12 years, we make a strong team.

Q: What updates do you have since taking on the role?

Madeenah and Maryam: We have joined the prom committee, created some revision tips for students, and have been helping out in the prayer room.

Q: What are your plans for the future to help the school?

Madeenah and Maryam: We are hoping to bring vending machines into the school. This would make snacks and drinks more accessible for students during breaktime and lunch. We think it could also help reduce queues at the canteen and encourage students to stay hydrated and energized throughout the day.

Q: Why do you think you are good role models?

Madeenah and Maryam: Two is better than one! Having been friends for 12 years, we have a strong bond, which shows what real friendship looks like. We also strive to lead by example, showing respect, responsibility, and empathy in all our interactions. By supporting each other and working as a team, we hope to inspire others to do the same.

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring college captains?

Madeenah and Maryam: We would say, go for it. You never know where it will take you, and it also looks good on your college CV.

Q: What one rule would you like to add or change?

Madeenah and Maryam: There are not many rules we want to change, but we do want to refine the system overall. We would also like to introduce a pyjama day.

Q: How will you balance exams and your responsibilities as captains?

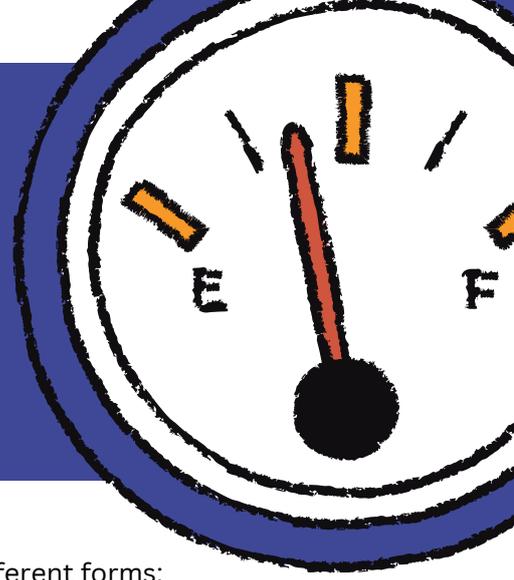
Madeenah and Maryam: There is a balance because there are two of us. It will be easier to adapt, and we can compromise when needed.

Q: Who is the best out of the two of you, and why?

Madeenah and Maryam: Leadership is a mix of both of us. Together, we make the team strong.

Madeenah and Maryam have shown that working together, being good friends, and putting in effort can really make a difference at school. As the first co-college captains, they are doing something no one has done before and are inspiring other students to get involved, look out for each other, and try new things.

# RUNNING ON EMPTY?



## Why Some Countries in Asia Are Rationing Fuel?

Right now, people in several countries across Asia are being asked to ration fuel. This means they're being told to use less petrol, diesel, and gas, and sometimes even limit how much they can buy. But why is this happening, and should people in the UK be worried?

Let's break it down.



## What's Happening in Asia?

Countries like India, Pakistan, and Thailand have recently faced fuel shortages. There are a few reasons for this:

1. Rising Global Prices – The cost of oil on the world market has gone up, making it harder for countries to import enough fuel.
2. Unrest in the Middle East – Conflicts and political instability in some oil-producing countries have disrupted supply, pushing prices up worldwide.
3. High Demand – More people driving cars, using electricity, and needing gas for cooking means supplies are stretched.
4. Supply Problems – Sometimes fuel can't reach cities because of transport issues or local production problems.

When this happens, governments sometimes ask people to limit fuel use to make sure there's enough for essential services like hospitals, buses, and emergency vehicles.

Rationing can take different forms:

- People are given limits on how much petrol or diesel they can buy each week.
- Some cities might close gas stations on certain days.
- Governments encourage people to share rides, use public transport, or switch to bicycles.

It's not just about cars. In some countries, cooking gas or electricity can also be rationed.

## Could this happen in the UK?

The short answer: probably not right now, but it's worth understanding why.

- The UK has lots of fuel reserves and access to imports from Europe.
- UK supply chains are generally stable, and the government can manage shortages before they get serious.
- However, during emergencies, like the 2021 "fuel crisis," there were temporary shortages at some petrol stations, showing that local problems can happen.

So while you're unlikely to see full fuel rationing in the UK, it's still important to think about saving energy. Simple things like cycling, walking, or using public transport help everyone.

Fuel is not unlimited, and shortages affect everyone. When countries ask people to ration fuel, it's a reminder that:

- Energy use has real consequences for the environment.
- Global events, like conflicts in the Middle East, can affect countries far away.
- Small changes in daily life, like walking or biking, can make a difference.

For now, the UK is safe, but watching what happens in Asia helps us understand how connected the world is.



# C'est Non! France Scrolls Out Social Media for Under-15s



French lawmakers are making a big move to protect kids online. They have voted for a law that would ban children under 15 from using social media. The idea is to stop social media platforms from taking advantage of young people's attention.



The draft law also talks about banning smartphones in schools, but our school has already done that, so what? For us, it's normal to focus on lessons without phones buzzing in our pockets. The French law still needs to be approved by the Senate, which could happen as soon as next month.

President Emmanuel Macron strongly supports the bill. He said, "The emotions of our children and teenagers are not for sale or to be manipulated, either by American platforms or Chinese algorithms." Basically, he wants to make sure tech companies don't use tricks to keep kids hooked.

France isn't alone. Countries like Denmark, New Zealand, and the UK are thinking about similar rules. Australia already became the first country to ban social media for under-16s in December.

Not everyone agrees. Chris Sherwood, from the UK's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, says banning social media outright punishes teenagers for tech companies' mistakes.

On the other hand, research shows that banning phones in schools can actually help students. A study in India found that grades improved in classrooms without smartphones. Daisy Greenwell, a UK campaigner for "Smartphone Free Childhood," explains: "Big tech's addictive algorithms hijack attention, so banning phones is a simple, low-cost way to boost learning."

We asked some students what they think about the idea:

- Student A 13, said: "I think it's okay. Phones distract a lot in class, and sometimes social media makes people feel stressed."
- Student B, 15, disagreed: "I use social media to keep in touch with friends. I don't think banning it will stop us—it'll just make us sneak around more."
- Student C, 14, gave a middle opinion: "Maybe banning phones at school is good, but at home we should be allowed. Parents can help manage it."

Whether you love your phone or think it can be a distraction, France's plan has started an important conversation about the balance between technology, school, and childhood.



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

FOR EACH EDITION OF THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER, WE WILL SHINE A SPOTLIGHT UNDER SOME OF OUR TEACHERS. TODAY, WE INTERVIEW MRS ABDULLA, ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER AND ENGLISH TEACHER. IF YOU WANT YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT NEXT - EMAIL US AT [HERALD@TCOLC.ASPIRELP.UK](mailto:HERALD@TCOLC.ASPIRELP.UK)



MRS ABDULLA

**Q: WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A TEACHER?**

MRS ABDULLA: I REALLY WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SOCIETY AND OUR COMMUNITIES. I WANTED A CAREER WHERE I FELT I MADE A POSITIVE IMPACT TO THOSE AROUND ME.

**Q: IF YOU OVERSAW THE SCHOOL FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO AND WHY?**

MRS ABDULLA: I WOULD CHANGE THE START OF OUR DAY TO LATER IN THE MORNING TO GIVE STUDENTS AND STAFF A MUCH NEEDED AND WELL-DESERVED LIE-IN. I WOULD MAKE IT A HALF DAY SO WE COULD ALL ENJOY THE AFTERNOON OFF. I WOULD ALSO GIVE EVERYONE A FREE LUNCH AND HAVE PIZZA DELIVERED TO CLASSROOMS!

**Q: IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME TO WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?**

MRS ABDULLA: I WOULD GRASP OPPORTUNITIES MORE AND BELIEVE IN MYSELF. I ALSO WISH I WAS NICER TO SOME OF MY TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY MY FORM TUTOR! LET'S JUST SAY I WAS A LITTLE FEISTY IN SCHOOL!

**Q: IF YOU COULD RECOMMEND ANY TV SHOW AT THE MOMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

MRS ABDULLA: I'D RECOMMEND THE APPRENTICE. I WAIT FOR THE NEW SERIES EVERY YEAR AND LOVE DISCUSSING HOW I WOULD DO THE TASKS.

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

**Q: IF YOU COULD TEACH ANOTHER SUBJECT, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

MRS ABDULLA: I AM A LOVER OF LITERATURE THROUGH AND THROUGH, BUT IF I COULD TEACH ANOTHER SUBJECT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE RS OR HISTORY. I'D LOVE TO DEBATE PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES AND EXPLORE HOW OUR PASTS HAVE SHAPED THE LIVES WE LEAD NOW.

**Q: IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL AS YOUR OWN TEACHER, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

MRS ABDULLA: THIS ONE IS CONTROVERSIAL AS TCOLC IS FULL OF AMAZING TEACHERS, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY PICK. WHAT I WILL SAY IS GROWING UP I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE TEACHERS WHO I FELT WERE RELATABLE OR UNDERSTOOD MY BACKGROUND OR HERITAGE, AND I THINK IF I DID, I WOULD HAVE HAD A TOTALLY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL LIFE.

**Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT DOING YOUR JOB IN THIS SCHOOL?**

MRS ABDULLA: THERE'S LOADS OF THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB AND EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT, SO THIS ONE IS A HARD ONE! I LOVE FEELING LIKE I'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE. BUT I DO LOVE PARENTS' EVENINGS; I GET TO MEET ALL MY STUDENTS' PARENTS/CARERS AND REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM BETTER.

**Q: THIS QUESTION HAS BECOME A BIT OF A TRADITION AT THE HERALD, SO ITS ONLY RIGHT WE ASK YOU, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON PINEAPPLE ON PIZZA?**

MRS ABDULLA: ABSOLUTELY NOT!

**Q: WE ARE ALSO STARTING A NEW TRADITION SO IF THE WORLD WAS GOING TO END, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR LAST MEAL?**

MRS ABDULLA: LOVE THIS QUESTION. I WOULD HAVE A FILET MIGNON STEAK AND CHIPS WITH A MUSHROOM SAUCE. I'D HAVE A STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING FOR DESSERT AND FINISH OFF WITH A NICE COFFEE!

**Q: IF YOU WERE NOT A TEACHER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?**

MRS ABDULLA: I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO BE AN EDITOR FOR A PUBLISHING HOUSE; THE THOUGHT OF SITTING WITH A COFFEE AND READING MANUSCRIPTS IS MY IDEA OF THE MOST PERFECT JOB (I HAVE DEFINITELY ROMANTICISED THIS IDEA IN MY HEAD!).

# BACK FROM THE BRINK: GIANT TORTOISES RECLAIM GALAPAGOS ISLAND!

AFTER NEARLY 200 YEARS, GIANT TORTOISES ARE BACK ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLAND OF FLOREANA! THIS INCREDIBLE COMEBACK IS PART OF ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS EFFORTS TO RESTORE AN ISLAND ECOSYSTEM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THE FLOREANA GIANT TORTOISE DISAPPEARED IN THE MID-1800S. HUNTING BY WHALERS AND SAILORS, ALONG WITH INVASIVE ANIMALS LIKE GOATS AND RATS, WIPED OUT THE SPECIES. FOR OVER A CENTURY, PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS GONE FOREVER.

THEN IN 2000, SCIENTISTS SPOTTED A HYBRID TORTOISE ON NEARBY ISABELA ISLAND THAT CARRIED FLOREANA GENES. THAT DISCOVERY LAUNCHED A LONG-TERM BREEDING PROGRAM TO BRING THE SPECIES BACK.

LAST MONTH, THE PROGRAM REACHED A HUGE MILESTONE: 158 GIANT TORTOISES WERE RELEASED BACK ONTO FLOREANA, WHICH HAS BEEN CLEARED OF INVASIVE GOATS AND RATS. THESE TORTOISES DO MORE THAN JUST ROAM AROUND, THEY HELP THE WHOLE ISLAND SURVIVE AND THRIVE.



RAKAN ZAHAWI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHARLES DARWIN FOUNDATION, EXPLAINED:

**"BY SPREADING SEEDS, SHAPING PLANTS, CREATING LITTLE HABITATS ... AND CHANGING HOW THE LAND GROWS, THEY HELP REBUILD THE WHOLE ECOSYSTEM. MANY OTHER SPECIES DEPEND ON THEM."**

FUN TORTOISE FACTS:

- **LONG LIFESPAN:** SOME GIANT TORTOISES CAN LIVE OVER 100 YEARS! THEY MIGHT HAVE SEEN EXPLORERS ARRIVE LONG BEFORE CARS EXISTED!
- **SUPER SEED SPREADERS:** THEY EAT FRUIT AND PLANTS, AND THEIR DROPPINGS HELP PLANTS GROW ALL OVER THE ISLAND, MAKING THEM TINY GARDENERS.
- **BIG WALKERS:** GIANT TORTOISES CAN WEIGH MORE THAN 400 POUNDS (180 KG) AND ROAM MILES EVERY DAY, SHAPING THE ISLAND AS THEY GO.

WITH THEIR RETURN, FLOREANA IS STARTING TO LOOK MORE LIKE IT DID CENTURIES AGO AND THESE GIANT TORTOISES ARE LEADING THE WAY.



ARE YOU READY TO PUT  
YOUR THINKING CAP ON  
THIS EASTER? SOLVE THESE  
RIDDLES CORRECTLY, AND  
YOU COULD WIN A SPECIAL  
PRIZE!

Riddle 1:

I don't have wings, but I can leap,  
I visit at night while you're asleep.  
I carry treats, but I'm not a postman,  
Find me first if you can.

Riddle 2:

I wear many colors but have no clothes,  
I can be hidden where no one goes.  
I don't move, yet I love to play hide-and-  
seek,  
In the grass or basket, it's me you seek.

Riddle 3:

I don't hop, roll, or wear a disguise,  
But I appear when the cold says goodbye.  
I peek through soil and warm sunlight,  
Bringing Easter cheer and spring delight.

HOW TO ENTER:

READ THE RIDDLES CAREFULLY.  
WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS.  
EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED ANSWERS TO  
**HERALD@TCOLC.ASIPRELP.UK**

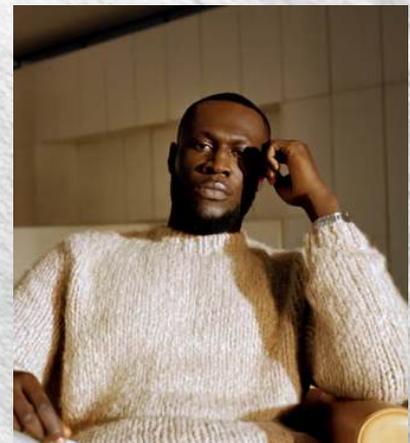


# FROM BEATS TO BOOKS

Rap superstar Stormzy is helping to make books more exciting for young people – especially those who don't usually read for fun.

In 2026, UK charity The Reading Agency is celebrating 20 years of its Quick Reads campaign, part of the National Year of Reading. Quick Reads are short, easy-to-read books that cost just £1 and are created by bestselling authors to encourage new and lapsed readers to dive into stories. This year, the books also come in audiobook format, and half a million copies are being shared with people in UK prisons.

One of this year's titles is *Hunger Pains*, written by Derek Owusu and published by Stormzy's own #Merky Books imprint. Stormzy said reading can be just as strong a tool as music, adding, **“reading really is a superpower”** and that books help you find your own voice.



Another artist who's been making waves with young audiences is Dave. His 2025 album *The Boy Who Played the Harp* debuted at number one on the UK charts – showing how powerful storytelling in music can be.

Dave uses art and words to explore big ideas about life and identity, helping listeners connect with stories in a different way.

That's exactly the kind of connection the Quick Reads campaign hopes to build – whether you're into music, sport, or just looking for a great story. Even a short read can open up a whole new world, spark your imagination, and maybe even inspire your own stories. You never know – the next big idea, poem, or hit song could start with just one £1 book in your hands.

#MERKY BOOKS





# EVS ON THE FAST LANE TO THE TOP!

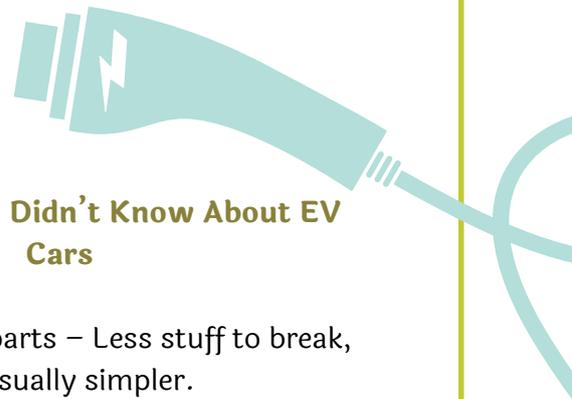
Big news on the roads! For the first time ever, electric cars have outsold petrol cars in the European Union. In December, battery-powered cars made up 22.6% of all new car sales, just edging out petrol cars at 22.5%. Hybrids are still the most popular overall, taking 33.7% of sales. Experts are calling this a huge moment in the race to make transport cleaner.

Simon Evans from Carbon Brief said it clearly: “Petrol is bombing and diesels are all but dead.” Even though EU leaders are thinking about loosening rules for phasing out petrol engines, electric car sales keep soaring.

So why are electric cars a big deal?

- No tailpipe emissions – they don’t pump out harmful gases like petrol cars do.
- Cheaper to run – electricity usually costs less than petrol, and electric cars need less maintenance.
- Quieter streets – electric cars are much quieter, which is better for cities.

But it’s not all perfect. Electric cars still need rare metals for their batteries, which can hurt the environment. And guess what? They don’t reduce traffic jams, they’re just as likely to get stuck in traffic as petrol cars. That’s why environmental groups say that the greenest way to get around is still walking, cycling, or taking buses and trains. The roads are changing and it looks like electricity is taking the lead!



## Top Things You Didn’t Know About EV Cars

1. Fewer moving parts – Less stuff to break, so repairs are usually simpler.
2. No oil changes – Say goodbye to messy engine oil!
3. Brakes last longer – Regenerative braking slows the car and charges the battery at the same time.
4. Cheaper “fuel” – Charging is usually way cheaper than filling up a petrol tank.
5. Software updates – Your car can get smarter over time without visiting a garage.



# THE CITY HERALD

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### THE CITY HERALD

#### STARMER'S NEW GOVERNMENT SPARKS A NEW ERA

LABOUR'S HISTORIC LANDSLIDE VICTORY, KEIR STARMER'S NEW GOVERNMENT SPARKS A NEW ERA



Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. This marks a historic moment for the Labour Party, which has been in opposition for over a decade. Starmer's victory is seen as a turning point in British politics, with many predicting a new era of stability and reform.

### girl power

#### WOMEN IN POLITICS TRANSFORM STARMER'S CABINET

Starmer's new cabinet is a landmark for women in politics, with 10 of the 22 ministers being women. This includes the first female Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and the first female Deputy Prime Minister, Rachel Reeves. The new cabinet is seen as a reflection of the Labour Party's commitment to gender equality and social justice.

### TCOLC SUMMER

#### ARE THE SIX WEEKS STILL RELEVANT?

The TCOLC Summer event is a popular annual gathering for students, featuring a variety of activities, including sports, music, and social events. This year's event is being held over six weeks, raising the question of whether this format is still relevant for students. The event is organized by the Leicester City Council and is a key part of the city's cultural calendar.

### teachers Pet

#### Ronnie

Meet Ronnie, the school's favorite pet dog. Ronnie is a friendly and playful dog who has become a beloved member of the school community. The school has implemented a pet-friendly policy, allowing students to bring their pets to school. This has led to a more relaxed and enjoyable learning environment for everyone.

### THE CITY HERALD

#### FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION TO PROGRESS

The City Herald is committed to reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainable living. We have implemented a range of measures, including banning single-use plastics and encouraging recycling. These efforts have led to a significant reduction in plastic waste and a more sustainable future for our city.

### HOW TO ACE Y7

Get ready for Year 7 with our top tips and advice. From managing your time to staying motivated, we have everything you need to succeed. Our experts provide practical advice on how to handle the challenges of a new school year, including making friends and staying on top of your work.

### FROM THE PITCH TO THE STAGE

#### Komazeki discusses his dual passions in exclusive interview with The City Herald.

Footballer and actor Komazeki shares his experiences of balancing a professional football career with a successful acting career. He discusses the challenges of managing two demanding professions and how he has found success in both. Komazeki is a role model for young people who want to pursue multiple passions.

### An Open Letter to a Local Leicester MP

Local residents express their concerns and suggestions to their Member of Parliament. The letter discusses issues such as housing, education, and local infrastructure. Residents are encouraged to voice their opinions and work with their MP to find solutions to the problems facing their community.

### THE CITY HERALD

#### A ROUND UP OF 2022

Reflect on the year's events, achievements, and challenges. The City Herald provides a comprehensive overview of the year, from major local news stories to community achievements. It is a chance for readers to look back on the year and think about the future.

### KING OF SPORTS

#### THE KING'S TAKE ON THE WORLD CUP

Footballer King discusses his thoughts on the World Cup and his role as a player. He shares his experiences of competing at the highest level of the sport and the pressure of representing his country. King is a leading player in the Leicester City football team and a fan favorite.

# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO RAISE OUR VOICES, SHARE OUR CONCERNS AND ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITY.