

THE

Sixth /
SYNOPSIS!

(issue no. 1)



Editor's Letter

Welcome to our first edition of The Sixth Synopsis. This is the first inter-school magazine that has been issued at St. Nicholas. We aim to build and strengthen communications within our school through this magazine. Throughout the year we aim to keep our content current and interesting to you; sharing ideas, interests, and contemporary news- both international and within our school community.

This kick-start issue to begin the new year will include a collection of articles, all written by our sixth form, covering a range of topic areas, from contemporary medical innovations to the ethics of voting, which demonstrate the array of interests and skills we hold within our school, and the passion we have to share them.

With the intention of improving what we publish and expanding the opportunities for lower years, please do let us know what you enjoy or dislike about this edition.

We hope to see that our future editions will combine the inclusive input of all years within our St. Nicholas community, and further share the talents and interests of a school to be proud of.

We hope you enjoy this first issue.



Rachel Moonan and Poppy Fitzpatrick.

An interview with Mr Woods

Amongst the hustle and bustle of the high school corridors, in the heart of a reconstituted, yet harmonious home, sits Mr Woods. Having had ambitions of becoming a train driver, Mr Woods recalls of his anguish after discovering he was colour blind; despite this early set back, he sits eagerly upright across the interview table, laughing off the pressures of being Head at an outstanding high school.

“Every day is always different,” Mr Woods explained, on the joys of being head. Although, Mr Woods went on to state that this sometimes presented challenges, especially when adapting to a new working environment. It was striking that Mr Woods showed an earnest interest in the opinions of both staff and students, expressing that he was passionate to make this his focus - as he listened intently to each individual question.

Speaking of his younger years, and aware he was becoming a walking cliché, he revealed the advice he would give to his younger self: “dream big!” Still cringing, Mr Woods went on, “The older you get, you realise you only have one chance.” Impressed with his own wisdom, the Head teacher sat back... Although soon after, he became baffled, unable to form a conclusion on what animal he would be and why.

Regardless of the daily pressures and responsibility, Mr Woods proclaimed his passion for spending time with his family at home (and their mischievous cat). From music to football, Mr Woods enjoys many pastimes, although his children happily fill the majority of his time. On his days off, Mr Woods tells of his love for time spent at the beach – especially in the tropics of the Wirral.

Our interview is concluded with the added knowledge that if Mr Woods could meet anyone (dead or alive) he would meet Pope Francis and his Great Grandad, the Liverpool legend, Alec Raisbeck. He waves us goodbye from his office door, as we leave with brighter smiles than when we first arrived.

Two days after our interview, Mr Woods confirmed that he would be a labrador.

- Rachel Moonan and Poppy Fitzpatrick



Prise is said to be a factor causing the fire at Grenfell Tower, but who will pay the ultimate price of perpetrator for it?

One month has passed since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and yet the debate in regards to who should be held responsible is still enduring. Despite the lasting impact it has had on the victims both physically and emotionally. Arguably the worst aspect in which they are faced with is now, in that they are yet to be provided with the justice in which they deserve. Ultimately this can only be provided by the local authorities and the government, however it seems to be a difficult decision for them to make, in which people have differing opinions as to who exactly should be held responsible. Throughout this article I will be exploring such differing opinions and coming to my own conclusion in regards to who I believe should hold accountability.

The Grenfell fire, has encouraged vital questions regarding the safety, liability and regulation of public housing and has also revealed, how in this respect it has failed UK citizens. The impact of the mistakes of those who seem able to afford them, is highlighted by the massacre of 80 victims and the extent of the pain in which they endured in the process. The heat generated by the fire was so scorching, that

it according to police “left no remains that could be possibly identified”. This gruesome but unfortunately very real fact, shows that some people endured so much pain, because of the exposure to the scorching heat, that there was physically nothing of them left to endure it any longer. What is most frustrating to the nation, is that why are such detrimental questions only be raised now? It would seem that it is only at the expense of 80 innocent and deserved



lives, that we realise our fire safety is inadequate. Therefore in my opinion this mere fact represents a national failure those 80 lives, deserved the right measurements to ensure fire safety in their own homes, however, safety was completely neglected by most obviously the Rydon building corporation but also by the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Therefore, leaving both survivors but also relatives of the deceased with an understandably frustrated but more importantly heartbroken motive for justice.

The fire of the 24-storey building, is believed by many, to be caused by inadequate fire safety management, in which the insulation used was not certified for use with flammable cladding. In fact, building safety experts warned back in 2014, that such insulation planned for use on the tower (which fuelled the fatal fire) should be used only with non-combustible cladding. However, it would seem, that this advice was completely disregarded and construction began in 1972, and was completed in 1974 by Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council. In addition, it was recently refurbished, by Rydon Construction who carried out £8.6 million worth of work on it in May 2016. Ultimately, under the control of both corporations, Grenfell was built using combustible polyethylene filled panels, made from polyisocyanurate, which ultimately burns when exposed to heat

and emits toxic cyanide fumes. In fact, such fumes as cyanide caused the poisoning of 12-year-old Luana Gomes. Although, arguably fumes from burning household furniture could have also been to blame. This has led the police to consider corporate manslaughter



charges, after both the insulation and tiles used on the building, failed safety tests. Therefore, it would seem to many that both the Borough Council and the Rydon construction corporations should be held accountable for the tragedy that was the fire of the Grenfell tower and therefore the murder of 80 innocent citizens.

Rydon construction corporation, responsible for the instalment of the Grenfell cladding have been accused of supplying sub-standard panels to other council blocks not just Grenfell, revealing the utter negligence in which this company adopts when on the job. The polyethylene panels fitted to Grenfell tower, have been reported as being £2 cheaper per square metre than similar fire resistant panels, such panels were also fitted in Camden. Therefore, in this respect it would seem that the reduced expense that comes with inadequate panels, has come at the expense of the lives of 80 victims, since such cladding heavily contributed to the rapid speed of the fire. However, in defence the council said these “were not to the standard that we had commissioned”, in fact Camden council said it was considering legal action against the construction company after it discovered the negligence that had occurred within their job.

However, a contradiction to this point is that millions of pounds were spent on the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower last year- £10 million, it has been reported. Therefore, it would seem that the problem was not money, rather what the money was spent on. It would be undermining for the council to choose the least safe cladding anyway, but especially if money was not of concern. This to some people would therefore confirm a degree of truth in which the council have said previously about it not being “to the standard we had commissioned”. Arguably leaving the ultimate responsibility with the carelessness of the building corporation. Yet, on the other hand, this corporation was under the employment of the council who arguably had the ultimate responsibility to ask

questions to ensure the detrimental safety for their clients in terms of the equipment used, therefore it the responsibility once again is reverted to the council.

In conclusion, I would be inclined to argue that, it is due to both the Rydon construction corporation and the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea that the Grenfell fire occurred. Members of such companies consist of people who shouldn't but can afford to make inconsiderate mistakes such as these, in terms of the cladding that was used. It was ultimately down to the borough that they ensured the building corporation that they were using, we're installing

building measures that ensure the detrimental safety of future tenants. However, of course, they ultimately failed to do so, overall not only undermining themselves as an organisation, but costing them the responsibility of the lives of 80 innocent people. Arguably, however, the building corporation as supposed expertise in their line of work should have known of potential problems



that could occur in terms of the cladding in which they were installing. Overall, it is such carelessness of both organisations that led to the gruesome massacre of 80 innocent people, something that both should pay the price for. However, the difficulty lies in terms of defining exactly who was to blame, it is difficult to determine a particular individual or group as both corporations in my opinion are equally responsible. It is therefore in this sense that I would conclude that both should be served with the crime of corporate manslaughter to ensure that survivors and relatives of the deceased get the justice in which they deserve.

- Hannah Sharrock

The Prisoner's Dilemma

Whenever people hear that I take Maths, Further Maths, and Physics for A-level, I am always told about how boring they find maths and that they hate it as a subject. To be fair, I can see where some of these arguments come from, especially about some lower school maths. It can be quite tedious and repetitive at times. However, in this article I'd like to show you how you can use some more advanced maths to model games, predict evolution and even stop a world war. Hopefully, by the end, you might have a slightly different view of the subject.

Prisoner's Dilemma is a game for 2 players as follows...

Imagine a scenario in which two members of a criminal gang, A and B, are arrested and imprisoned. Each prisoner is in solitary confinement, with no way to communicate with each other. They are individually given the choice to either confess or deny their crimes.

If A and B both confess to the crime, they each serve 5 years in jail.

If A denies the crime but B confesses, B goes free while A must serve 10 years in prison. (And Vice Versa)

If A and B both deny the crime, they each serve one year in jail.

This is then repeated and the scores (years) are added, smallest wins

This seemingly simple game is the foundation for a branch of mathematics called game theory, and it has huge real-world implications.

The Prisoner's Dilemma was originally developed to explain the Cold War, and why neither side was willing to back down.

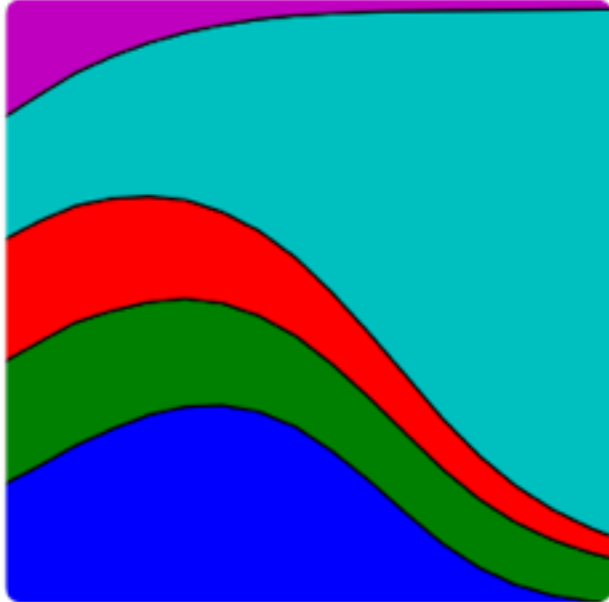
During the Cold War, NATO and its opponent the Warsaw Pact both had the choice to arm or disarm. From each side's point of view, disarming while your opponent continues to remain armed was extremely dangerous, leading to military inferiority and potential annihilation. However, if both sides remained armed, neither side would risk an attack, but both would rack up high costs developing and maintaining a large nuclear arsenal. The optimal option would be for both to disarm, as war would be avoided and no one would

		Prisoner B	
		Confess	Keep Quiet
Prisoner A	Confess	Both go to jail for 5 years	Prisoner B goes to jail for 10 years, Prisoner A goes free
	Keep Quiet	Prisoner A goes to jail for 10 years, Prisoner B goes free	Both go to jail for 1 year

have to pay. However, the likelihood is that one country would arm again, thus gaining the advantage and disrupting equilibrium.

This game can be easily analysed as follows, not matter what your opponent does, the better option for **you** is to confess. The only reason to ever stay quiet would be to influence your opponent's decision in the next round. However, between the 2 players, you can minimise time in prison by both confessing. This is called a cooperation cycle.

Finally, we can use this game to model evolution. If we define strategies as players and then run a tournament between all the strategies, we can then rank the strategies by how well they did. The strategies that did well will have an increased population and the poor strategies will have a decreased population. Using this, certain strategies will be eradicated and others will flourish and have a much larger population. For instance, in the diagram to the right. Each colour represents a strategy.



- Tom Campbell



Artwork by year 13 student, **Ella Tickle**.
A series of observational drawings based
on the human anatomy.



Should we vote ethically?

The reality of the impact of politics and the choices made daily within our government has shaken the Western society for the past year more than ever before in this century. Britain chose to leave Europe and America chose a reality TV personality, who has since proven he is unsuited, as President.

In light of recent events, such as the Manchester bombings, the moral significance of voting has become explicit. Likewise, Grenfell Tower has added a new dimension to the way in which catastrophic events are dealt with, and emphasised how decisions made by high paid consultants effected the lives of over a hundred London residents.

Electoral outcomes could allow xenophobic laws to be passed, minorities to be ignored, the collapse of trading partners or even an exploitation of the majority - all of which lie on the foundations of the public's vote. Hence, how should we vote? Do we have a duty to vote ethically or should we vote solely for ourselves? Or perhaps the 'common good'?



According to an article by Riker and Ordeshook in 1968, the 'selfish' rationale of voting is defined by: $R = (BP) - C$, whereby R is the individuals reward that they expect from voting; P is the probability of the voter bringing about B; and C is the

individual's personal cost of voting. As the traditional expectation of the benefits of voting is roughly equal to zero, it can be determined ($R > 0$ as the outcome cannot be negative) that it cannot be irrational to vote. However, this basic calculus of voting does not determine whether it is rational to presume that the vote will therefore be used for the greater good.

As a response to this issue, Riker and Ordeshook went on to introduce another factor of D, making the equation: $R = (BP) - C + D$, where D is the social benefits of voting. Because (BP) is assumed to be 0, D can be defined as the only important factor when deciding to vote.

Thus, Riker and Ordeshook's calculus provides a solution to the paradox of voting and how to use a vote ethically. In determining the social and wider benefits rather than personal gain, Riker and Ordeshook conclude that voting, considerate of the social consequences, is righteous.

With the past 12 months in mind, this thoughtful approach to voting appears appropriate. Ultimately, there is a consequence as a result of each vote and it is reasonable to consider these outcomes before entering the polling station.

- Rachel Moonan

Stretched Underpaid Doctors on The Front Line of Patient Care: Junior Doctors in Crisis

The phrase “Junior Doctor” is a misleading term, in which one may assume it is describing a graduate from medical school, when in actuality it is the title of any doctor working under a consultancy level. “Junior Doctor’s at war” is one of many headlines currently being published in multiple newspapers across the country, exemplifying the current crisis state of our national health service. Within this article I will be discussing the problems that not only current doctors endure, but also one’s future doctors will too and not only the implications this has on other NHS staff but also the ultimate impacts this is believed to have on the future of the NHS.



The negotiations for a new doctor’s contract, began in October 2013 between the British medical association (BMA), the government and NHS employers after current NHS employers had stated that the old contract was not “fit for purpose”. The BMA disagreed with certain aspects of the new contract particularly in terms of both pay rises and overtime- which included a 7-day NHS. Although there were two strikes in January and February 2016, more strikes were in fact planned for March and April but were cancelled as the new contracts were agreed to and talks restarted.

In July, junior doctors voted to reject the contract and outlined the four main areas of concern from the BMA thee being: protection for junior doctors who raise concerns at work, the guardian-of-safe working role, terms and conditions for junior doctors working less than full time and how weekend working is treated.

The pay changes to the contract illuminates an increase of basic pay being between 10-11% but this is an average across doctors of all pay grades and according to the BMA who researched this further it varies from 4-32% depending on the training stage and grade of the doctors. Furthermore, doctors who work one weekend in eight will also receive an allowance worth between 3-8% of their basic salary depending on the number of weekends they work as previously all weekend work was paid at a premium rate which varied according to the doctor’s pay band. Correspondingly doctors working between 9pm and 7am will receive 37% on top of basic hourly salary and additionally if their shifts start between 8pm and midnight which lasts for more than eight hours. The new contract also illustrates the working hours will change from more than 91 hours to no more than 72 hours over seven consecutive days and that the average working hours will be 48 per week. Therefore, in this respect, it could be said that the BMA is making fair decisions in terms of the hours in which they are expected to work, and in this way, could encourage junior doctors to feel less overwhelmed by work as a result of increased hours to themselves.

However, in the eyes of the government, it is questionable as to why they are complaining, this is especially apparent in the views of the head of the department of health, Jeremy Hunt. In reality, it is the changes to what is classed as an antisocial hour which is a real problem for the junior doctors. The new contract aims to class these hours as 7am to 10pm

on Mondays to Saturdays. Currently the salary of a junior begins at £22,000, which in the opinion of many is relatively low considering the extent of their work in which they are expected to do. However, this figure is quickly boosted to around £30,000, if the doctor is willing to work overtime. Unlike other jobs, overtime for a junior doctor involves working both extremely antisocial but equally tiring hours on Mondays to Fridays 7am-7pm. However, a worrying issue that can arise from such unsociable hours, is that the doctor is no longer providing their patients with the adequate care in which they deserve to receive. This is due to the lack of rest and as a result their tiredness could result in making substantial mistakes. The majority of people would agree, that a fresh and well rested doctor is detrimental to their patient's well-being. This point should therefore explain to member of governance like Hunt, exactly why these juniors are complaining. The mere fact that they are arguing on behalf of their own wellbeing but also their patient's well-being emphasises the complete dedication of these doctors which should be commended rather than judged.

In the opinion of many juniors, instead of overtime, the hours a junior is not contracted to, should be spent socially but also a time in which the doctor can relax and rejuvenate in order to sustain the very best they can be. Additionally, it can also be argued that, even if this time is not spent resting but helping other healthcare staff, for example in the common situation of staff shortages, this additional time spent further emphasising their dedication to their profession should be equally paid as it is equally deserved.

The DDRB, also proposes to remove the GP registrar supplement, the additional pay for GP trainees, generally used to incentivise doctors to train in general practise but more importantly to the junior doctor can comprise up to 31% of a GP trainee's pay. This has therefore led to the worry that it could lead to the encouragement of more doctors into hospital medicine, at a struggling time in which there is already a severe shortage of GPs.

To conclude, although on the surface the new contract would seem to be appealing, when analysed in greater detail it becomes evident that it makes life harder for the junior doctor, exemplified by the fact just half of those who finished their first two years on the job in 2016 went straight into the NHS to become a specialist or GP. In my opinion, this issue should be a priority for the government to address, evidenced by the select individual doctors the BBC have interviewed which showed that doctors feel demotivated, stretched and unappreciated within the NHS and this will ultimately leave to more doctors leaving the NHS as well as other healthcare staff and this will trigger the collapse of the national health service, which is the best healthcare system in the world. Therefore, it is important that more people become educated on these issues so we can also understand the effect it will have on us and are health care system.



- Sophie Sharrock

Is healthcare a right or a privilege?



With the NHS' vulnerability only continuing to increase we are having to face the daunting question; is healthcare a right or a privilege? And with this question we must ask should we and will we one day have to pay for our healthcare in the UK? In the news recently there have been numerous articles about whether the NHS is able to survive and whether or not it is fair to start charging people or not for their healthcare. There are two arguments that will be explored in this article, the moral argument and the economic argument.

Morally no one can argue that everyone deserves their chance to their healthcare, however the problem is a lot of people abuse the healthcare system this is by having no regard for their lifestyles and either smoking, drinking or generally leading an unhealthy lifestyle. However, we have a subconscious that is always telling us ultimately the most important thing is our health as without it we have nothing so why should we view it as a privilege that only some people should have? Morally the only conclusion is that it's a right as we will always have the human instinct to protect human life.

However, economically, the most viable argument that ensures a good quality of healthcare will survive is providing ever-increasing money to serve everyone or a free market system, as a result of our healthcare being unable to remain the same as it will never be sustainable. This leaves us to ask whether the harsh truth of reality will force us to go against our human instinct and finally conclude that health care isn't able to be a right but only a privilege.

- Fiona Roberts

This Crazy Thing We Call Life - Advice from Jessica

What a boring topic that you've chosen to write about I hear you say, although not literally, as the chances of you commenting out loud whilst being one of the few who read this article are next to none. But we live in such a fast paced world with things sometimes moving faster than we can catch up with them and the days turning into months and those months turning into years. Before you know it High School comes to an end and you begin to realise that there is actually a life beyond school, a life beyond the classroom and a life beyond the rainbow common room.

The future can seem a scary prospect, who knows what's going to happen in the next few minutes, the next few hours or the years to come. That is one of the only things we can never be certain of, what exactly does the future hold? For each and every one of us the future will be different, different to what we think now and completely different to our peers. 50% of the males here will be diagnosed with Cancer (as per the new statistics by Cancer Research) For every 113 of us, one of us will die in a car accident and 1 in 10,000 people will be injured by a toilet... With finally one in 11,500 have the chance of winning an Oscar, so I apologise if I have just ruined your childhood dreams.

The simple point I am trying to make here is the importance of seizing every opportunity you get because you never know what is going to come along in this crazy thing we call, "Life." Who knows, that drama audition you go to, may bag you the next big role in a major movie, that one time you text whilst driving may make you the one of 113 people who die in a car accident or cause one of those deaths. Every minute of your life you make decisions that will affect the rest of your life. Whether it's what University to go to or whether to have one or four beef burgers at McDonalds, the latter perhaps not as important, unless of course you're allergic to beef....

The life we have lived so far is short and we have so many years ahead of us, years of triumphs and years of defeats. There will be and probably has been times you either feel like you're flying or drowning in so much work and stuff you think you may actually be dying.

So simply; live life to the full, do crazy things, make awesome memories and don't waste your life away because unfortunately when talking about time and space there are no do-overs, you get one chance of having an incredible time so when I say have the time of your life, I really do mean it.

- Jessica Leigh



Should NHS England have an opt out organ donation system?



England's organ donation waiting list is currently at around 6000 people, and as a result demand for organ donors is continuing to rise. Currently, NHS England has an opt-in organ donation system, where you must actively register to donate your organs after you die. However, doctors, the public and the BMA are calling for change to this – to adopt an opt-out system instead.

Recent surveys by the BMA have found that whilst 66% of people said they would donate their organs after death, only 39% had signed the organ donor register. This means that there are less organ donors than the potential because many people do not get around to making their views on donation known. An opt-out organ donation system would allow people to register as donors, register to opt out, or do nothing. The first and third categories would be considered as “deemed consent” for organ donation. So, while not necessarily actively registering, people who chose to do nothing would be considered as donors. This would dramatically increase the number of organ donations to NHS England – in turn reducing the 1000 deaths a year caused by organ shortages. There is evidence of such increase – as proven by Wales, whose numbers of transplants rose by a third after adopting an Opt out “soft” approach in 2015. These numbers rose due to the number of people classed as “deemed consent”. For example, 31 people who had died from December to May donated 60 organs between them – 32 of these organs came from 10 people whose consent was presumed under the new Opt-out system. This, however, has caused controversy as people who may not want to donate their organs after death will automatically become organ donors, simply because they have not changed their preference before they died. Many people believe it is wrong for the government to assume they have the right to people's bodies once they have died and would argue that presumed consent is not consent as it takes advantage of those who haven't got around to opting out and those that are ill-informed of the situation.



Despite this, I believe NHS England should adopt an opt-out organ donation system because it will increase organ donation numbers and save the lives of many people – which is the fundamental reason for the NHS. I also believe that when the system changes, the NHS should devise ways in which to inform people of such change – through the media and leaflets, as this would encourage people to confirm their “deemed consent” or reject it, and opt-out. Until then however, “deemed consent” will not be assumed for people who haven't registered. It is therefore important that if you do wish to donate and potentially transform the lives of up to nine people, that you register as an organ donor.

Simply fill in an online form or call on 0300 123 23 23.

- Victoria Fletcher

