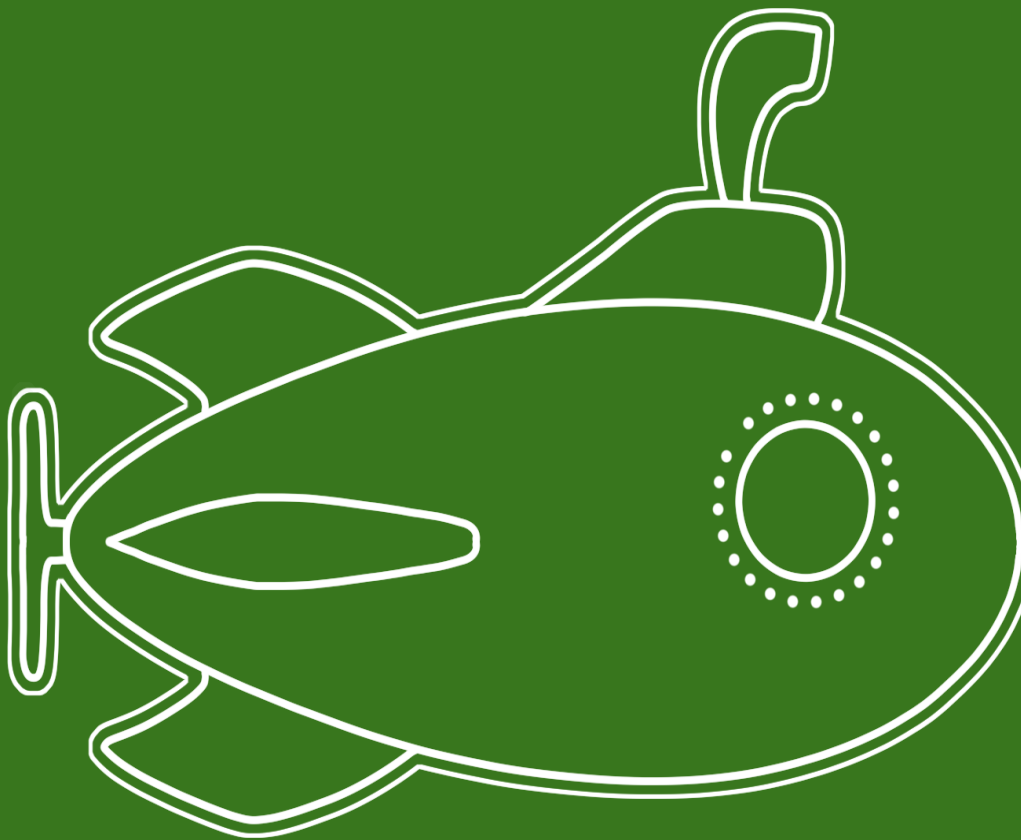


# Submarine

-Your voice-



Michaelmas 2019

Issue II

### The RTE Youth Assembly on Climate

On the 15th of November, 157 young people from across Ireland gathered together to discuss the climate emergency in our Dáil. The youth represented a broad age range from 10 to 17 years old and represented all 26 counties. We debated and deliberated ideas to make Ireland a more sustainable and green-minded country.

In order to tackle this huge issue of climate change, we split up into groups revolving around climate. I was part of the education group. Other groups included the environment, economics, power, food and farming.

We devised proposals that we believed would benefit our communities, towns, cities and country as a whole environment. My own proposal was:

#### Tackling climate through youth empowerment

Our aim is to empower young people to tackle the issue of climate change, to radicalise their thinking, and enable them to make real change, by working from the grassroots up through **educating** children on how democratic change can work through youth councils and parliaments.

This proposal advocates the setting up of Youth Climate Action Councils in Irish villages, towns and urban districts, where each school would vote pupils to be elected to represent their area on Climate Councils to debate and discuss issues. These issues and recommendations would then be elevated first to County level Climate Councils, who would then make proposals to a National Youth Climate Parliament. The sheer strength of this bottom-up democracy, where the proposals are coming directly from young people, chosen by young people, will give massive power to the Irish Youth Climate Parliament, who can deliver proposals to our TDs and members of Government and demand they make changes in legislation.

The day was split up into 3 sessions. In the first session speakers from each group set the agenda and we outlined what we wanted to achieve. We then gathered into our groups and listened to each others proposals in the committee room, we discussed the proposals and made suggestions on how to improve until we had created 6 concrete proposals.



Cilia Holderman and Avi Johnston Form IV

We then voted anonymously on the two we thought would make the biggest difference. In the final session, the elected proposals (two from each group) were presented to the Ceann Comhairle. From this, we ratified a climate proclamation ([follow link below to see the ten recommendations](#)) which we presented to Minister Richard Bruton. I was proud to be a part of this. It was an opportunity and an experience I will never forget. And I want to thank RTÉ and the House of the Oireachtas for organising this historic event but this is not an excuse. I should not have been there in the first place.

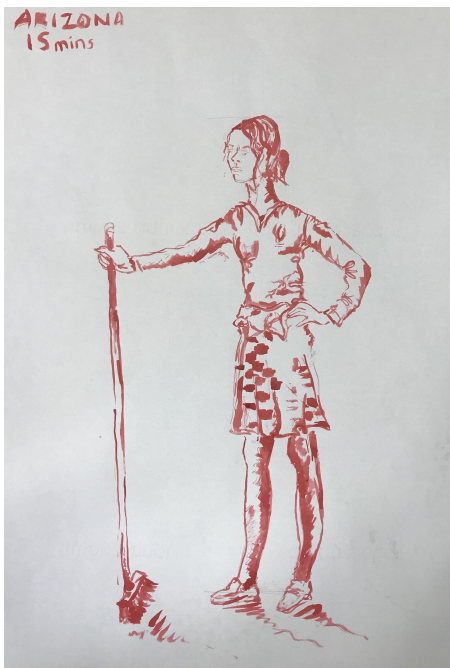
Éile Ní Chianáin

<https://www.rte.ie/news/youth-assembly/2019/1113/1090623-show-support-for-the-youth-assembly-recommendations/>



Eléa Strahl and Mia Deutsch Form IV

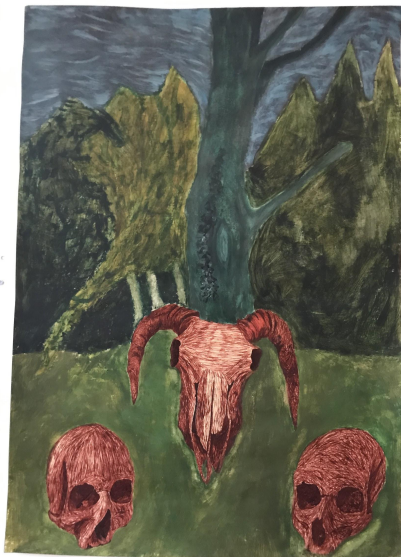




Arizona Forde Form V



Camila Garcia Herrera Form VI



Noah Leach Form VI

## UCD Leinster Senior Debates

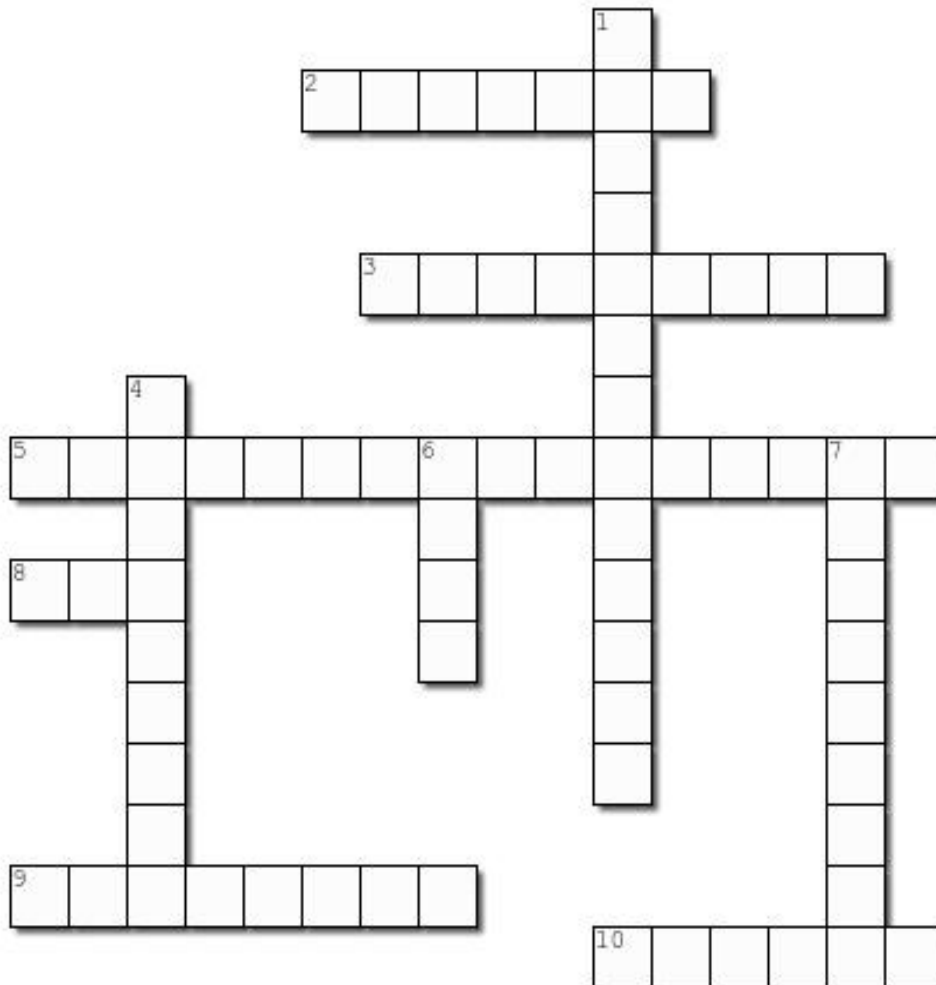
In September four Form V were chosen by an audience of teachers and Dmitriy, our second Prefect (and keen debater), to represent St Columba's at the UCD Senior Debating competition. As Gioia Dönhoff, Sinead Cleary and Amelia Tracey and myself ventured into the hall of UCD, we were not really sure what to expect. We had been preparing all week with Ms. Morley. She had been helping us relentlessly to work on our ideas but more importantly on the formatting and the explaining of our speeches. Explaining your points and ensuring they come through completely clearly is the most vital part of doing a competition. This might well be the only time as a students you're told that it does not matter how well you present your argument, but it matters how clearly you write it and explain those points. With any students interested in debating I really recommend the tactic of always writing down three points that you see viable towards your side, and then taking down three points labeled "Why" as subheadings. These three "Why" points will help you clearly structure a very easy to follow debate. This is how the judges, who had previously debated, did it. Sinead and Amelia went into one room with three other school's proposition teams, competing against four other school's opposition teams. Gioia and I went into another room as an opposition team with three other school's opposing the motion and against the four schools proposition. The motion was 'This house would give public figures a harsher sentence for their crimes'. Any two teams could be selected to continue through, independent of whether they were opposition or proposition. Gioia and I structured our debates to link in with the other speakers so as to make sure our argument sounded strong, and supportive. When we got into our rooms the debate started and it was extremely competitive. The speakers were very critical in exactly what we said, tracing many of their rebuttals back from a single sentence made by a speaker. Each judge provided us with feedback afterwards and I learned so much from the experience. Although, I didn't get to see Sinead's I know she did incredibly well with Amelia. Both made it through the first round by winning their room! Gioia and I had to return again and compete in the previous round, explaining why we would not fund space exploration in Ireland as our motion. Sinead made it through to the next round with Aiyuni O'Grady who is going to join her team. Gioia and I are now going to compete as individuals in the next round as well. I encourage people from younger years to step up to the debating team next year and to get involved in public speaking in general.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Morley who gives up her free time to help us and to support our debating. She helped us almost everyday leading up to it!

Elise Williams

# Columban crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

## Horizontal

- 2. Best break
- 3. The oldest part of Columbas
- 5. Maison chuchotement
- 8. Best Shakespeares Romeo
- 9. Finished with a bird that is black
- 10. Head of a prison

## Vertical

- 1. JFK rise
- 4. A local forest
- 6. A Scottish island
- 7. The aquatic news

### Do Fictional Dystopian Societies in Books and Movies Affect How We View Reality?

This time of year many of us are compiling our Christmas lists, hoping we get the latest air pods or a phone, and we are planning to catch the latest movie releases over the holiday break. The crowd-pleasing blockbusters are about heroes surviving against the odds. We can all admit that we have an interest, a fascination one might say, in individuals, superheroes or people just like you and I, who must fight for survival against all odds, and against impossible trials and an evil menace trying to destroy the hero or heroine. In all these stories, in books and on the big screen, the themes are quite similar. But why are we so interested in these stories of survival? Why do we stand in line to watch these movies? I personally enjoy the stories about how the flawed anti-hero can become victorious. In the Hunger Games, for example, Katniss Everdeen beat all the odds that President Snow threw at her.

Once again the story of survival captured our attention and resulted in these books being the all-time bestselling series, and went on to become four extremely successful movies, making almost 3 billion dollars at the box office.

This global success clearly shows that we are all interested in these types of stories. Do you remember when you first heard of the Hunger Games?

Let me also ask you this. Do you remember when you first heard of the outbreak of war in Syria? Death and destruction, but this time of real lives. The themes of the Hunger Games and many popular blockbuster movies that we all rushed to see are not dissimilar to the awful tragedies and ongoing slaughter of people in Syria. Their real struggle, against all odds, is in our everyday news cycle. So why don't we have the same interest in reality as we do in fictional tales and fictional characters. We were on edge as we watched the fictional President Snow use chemical weapons to destroy District 13, but do you know that the very real President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons on his own people, killing 1206, and tragically approximately 14% of those killed were children. We were sad as our favourite characters died in the Hunger Games, and yet we are aware, real people are losing their lives in this awful war.



Emma Hinde Form IV Uganda  
Appeal. The Great Generation



But can we really say that we are as emotionally invested in the deaths of the 500,000 who have died in Syria as we have for our fictional characters? Have we read so many stories about dystopian societies, watched so many movies, that survival has become a game? Are we desensitised to the real battle for survival? Let me ask you this, when the Christmas blockbuster of 2019 hits the cinemas, and we arrange to see the latest action-packed, thrill-seeking movie, and invest our energy in the rollercoaster ride of emotion while eating popcorn, will we remember the courage of so many, like Alan Kurdi, who lost his battle for survival as his small, drowned body washed up on the shores of Turkey. Alan was 2 years old, trying to escape the Syrian Civil War. I believe we should know more about his story, and the many untold stories, as they deserve our attention far more than what most of us focus on. The real story is far more powerful, and should be heard.

Cian Slyne Form III



Iona Chavasse Form IV

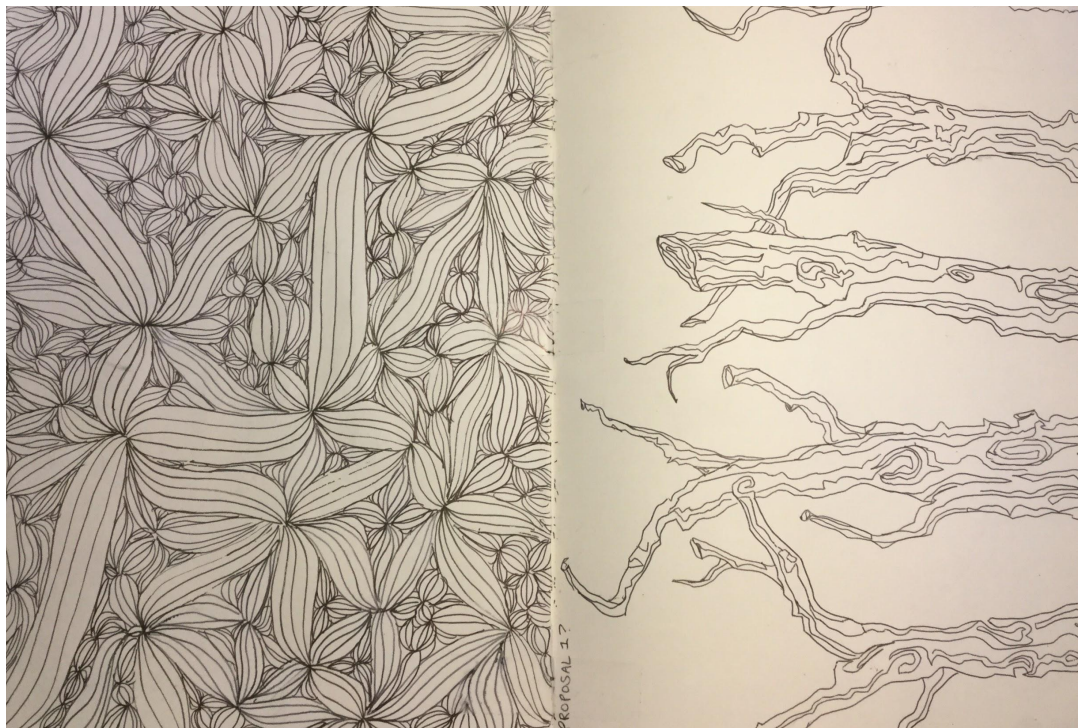
## **The Road To Fascism: A Perfect Storm is History Repeating Itself ?**

We ignore history at our own peril. You would have thought that we would have learnt from WWII that powerful men with vast amounts of money are dangerous. But no, we just go about our day repeating the same mistakes again and again, letting the powerful men with vast amounts of money control of the world. There have been many fascist leaders in history however the one that everyone has heard of is Adolf Hitler.

Hitler's rise to power started after he had been released from prison. Whilst in prison he wrote the infamous book "*Mein Kampf*" (My Struggle). In September 1919 he decided to join the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei A.K.A the DAP (German Workers' Party), he joined officially as the 555th member, however, he was actually only the 55th since the party wanted to appear bigger than it really was and so started the membership list at 500. The DAP changed its name in the 1920s to Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei or the NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers Party), this is where it got the now feared name the Nazi Party. Hitler quickly rose through the ranks of the party with his powerful use of speech and his knack with propaganda.

One of the reasons for the success of the Nazi party was the Great Economic Depression that had overtaken Europe. Many Germans were impoverished and in need of something to believe in. The Nazi ideology brought them fascism.

Hitler liked the fascist system in Italy run by Mussolini and used lots of his ideas in his future system. From 1923 to 1929 Hitler won only a few supporters as Germany had recovered well after WWI but only because they borrowed a lot of money from American banks. But then the Wall Street Crash happened and the Americans wanted their money back which meant that Germany's businesses had to close down which made it hard to pay reparations to the Treaty Of Versailles and so they printed too much new money which made the German currency worthless. Could Inflation make our money today worthless?



Elena O'Dowd Form III



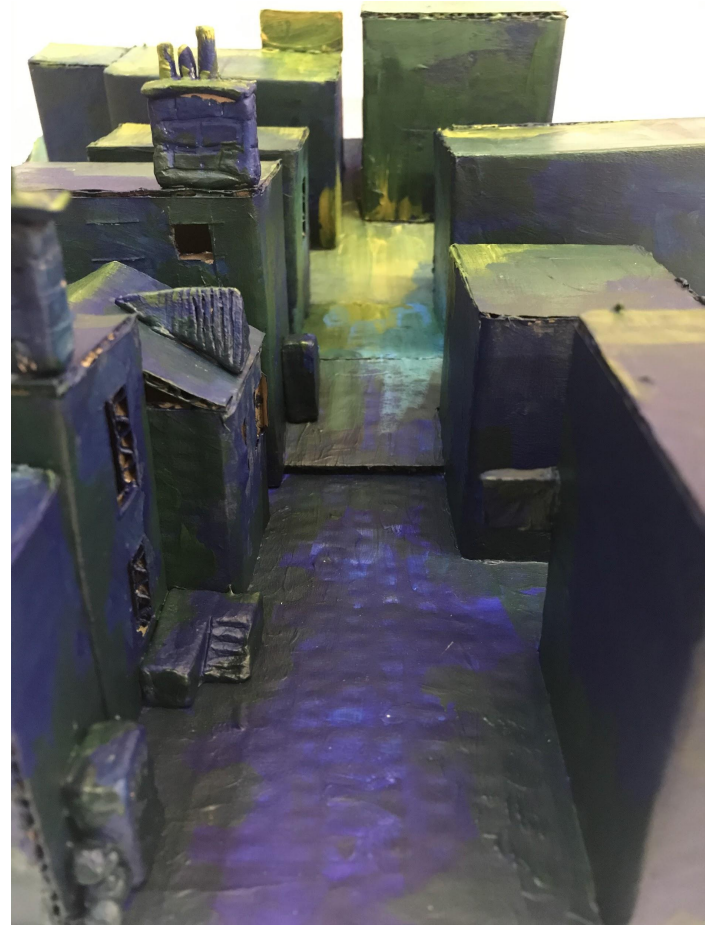
Unemployment went up by 6 million, which made people gravitate towards Hitler's arguments against The Treaty Of Versailles which made the Germans pay reparations for WWI and also take the sole blame for starting the whole chain of death and destruction. The people also liked that Hitler confiscated Jewish property and gave it to the "real" Germans. Lots of middle class and aristocratic Germans had lost all of their life savings with rapid inflation. They also feared that if Germany turned communist all wealth would be shared. Doesn't this remind you of Brexit and the argument against immigration and Europe? Similarly Trump does the same in America with his "Wall" and anti-immigrant policies and his cry "Make America Great again!". In Hungary, it is the same with Viktor Orban who is also deemed a neo-fascist with similar anti-immigrant policies.

Hitler used propaganda in a spectacular way, I think without it he wouldn't have gotten anywhere, and the mastermind behind it all was Josef Goebbels. One of Goebbels' creations was the stormtroopers, they intimidated Hitler's enemies while winning lots of admirers with their military-style uniforms, goose-steps and swastika banners. In the same way, Trump uses Steve Bannon's Breitbart and Fox News. In the UK it is Rupert Murdoch's right-wing press and Dominic Cummings, Boris Johnson's right hand man, who do Goebbels' job.

Germany collapsed in the Great Depression between 1929-1933. No parties seemed to be able to solve the nation's problems and coalitions quickly formed but fell apart just as fast. Nazi representation in the Reichstag increased from only 12 seats in 1928 to 230 seats by 1932. Even though many feared what Hitler would do once in power, in January 1933, President Von Hindenburg was persuaded to appoint a coalition made up of Nazis and others led by Hitler. Then on the 30th of January 1933 Hitler became the chancellor of Germany. Could the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn have the same fate as Hindenburg?



Tania Stokes Form VI



Anthony Zhang Form IV



Kate Higgins Form III

Hitler wanted Germany to become a one-party totalitarian state with him as dictator. In early 1933 the Parliament building burnt down and Hitler blamed the Communists. He said that they wanted to start a revolution so they were banned. He then pushed through the Enabling Law in 1933 which let him rule for four years without needing to consult parliament. Soon after he got rid of trade unions and all other political parties bar his own. The number of women MPs in the UK parliament standing down in the 2019 election due to personal attacks and online trolling by extremists shows that democracy is under threat. Hillary Clinton recently spoke out about these attacks and this “path to fascism”. When the president died, Hitler took over his position and took the title Führer “Leader”. All soldiers took a personal oath of loyalty to Hitler. This was the 3rd time in history that Germany had created an empire, Hitler’s was known as The Third Reich.

In 1934 Hitler burnt many books that had anything in them which said anything against the Nazi ideals. Hitler now had set up a private body guard / army called the SS, led by Heinrich Himmler. The SS helped solve Hitler to get rid of Rohm and the brownshirts who had fallen out of favour when Hitler signalled his preference for the normal German army. This is known as The Night of the Long Knives.

All of this resulted in Adolf Hitler taking complete control of Germany. This kick started World War II. With Donald Trump imposing tariffs against China, and calling President Kim of North Korea, “Little Rocket Man” and pulling the US out of the Iran Agreement is not inconceivable that the US might find itself starting a war.

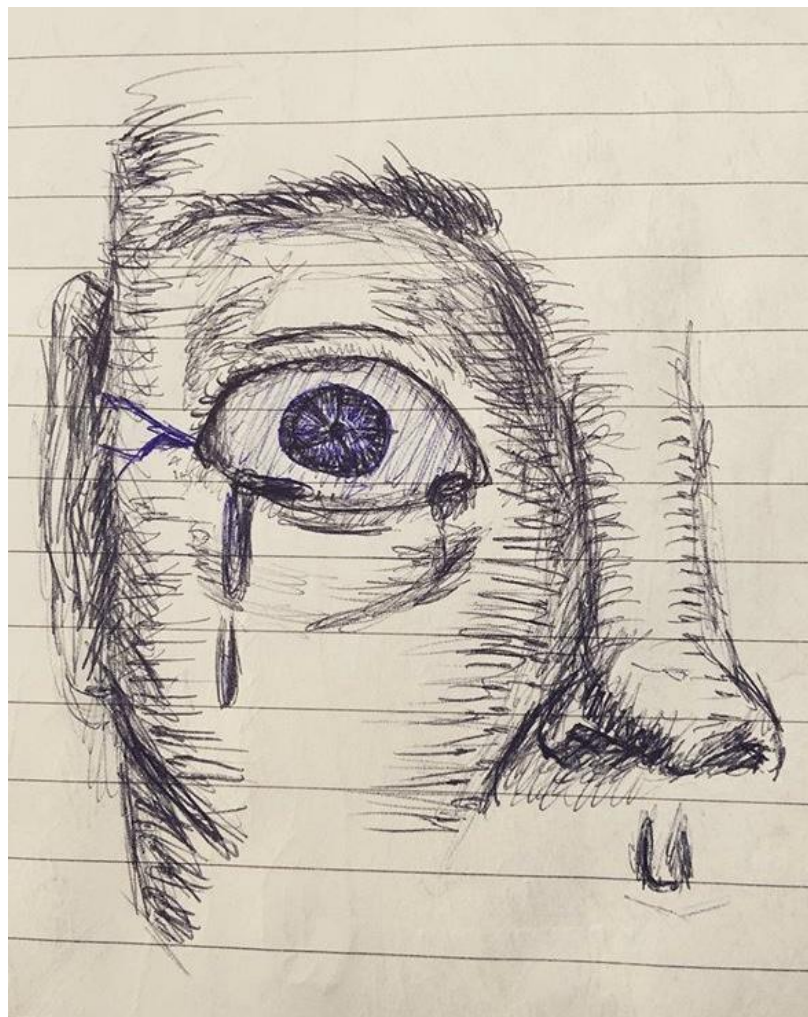


As everyone knows Hitler's whole campaign and even WWII was about race. Racism is just a form of inequality but during this time racism wasn't the only discrimination happening in Germany. Sexism was also prevalent. People's rights had been eroded bit by bit, which turned the German citizens into sheep to be herded around by Hitler. Women's rights were already under-developed but with Hitler in charge their only duty was to bear children and work at home to feed and look after the family, nothing else. Again the problems that female politicians face and the hostile language that gets used reflects history repeating itself. Just like Hillary Clinton has said. We have seen Jo Cox, a female Labour MP, killed on the streets by a fascist extremist. British intelligence has also recently highlighted the biggest terror threat increase was from the far right too.

Hitler used to intimidate his opponents into submission which is exactly what is happening again in the present day. For example, Boris Johnson's recent illegal "proroguing" of the British Parliament for not delivering Brexit is another frightening repetition of what happened in Germany. Now can you see that history is repeating itself and doing so frighteningly accurately as well. I think it is now or never. Can we break this cycle of despair? Or do we just let it take us for a ride into death and destruction. It's up to us now, what will you do?

**Zofia Cannon-Brookes.**

**Winner of the Junior History Prize.**



Eyitore Gbenga-Ajayi Form IV



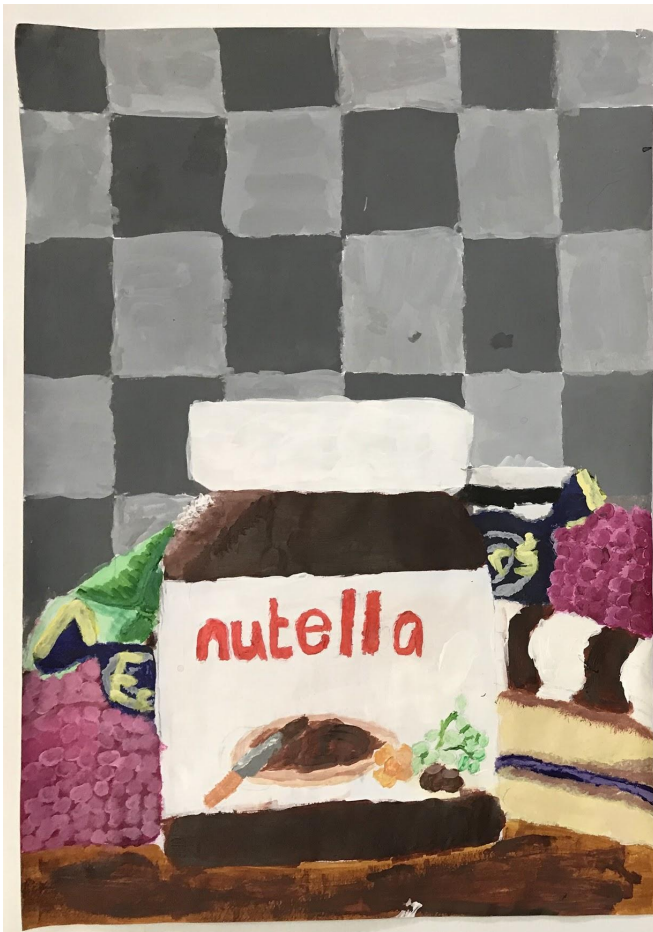
**Editor's note:**

We sincerely hope you enjoyed this edition of the submarine. We look forward to the next edition and we hope this edition has enable some of you to show off your work. We apologise that we weren't able to fit all of your amazing pieces in but we will endeavour to have them featured in the next edition.

Thank you again for your submissions and we always welcome your work and keep writing.

Avi and Edna Johnston

**Contact us at [submarinescc@gmail.com](mailto:submarinescc@gmail.com)**



Maximus Gully Form II



Georgia Goodbody Form II