

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



KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949

IC prof developed military drone tech, documentary claims

Data Science Institute's founding Director says military applications were examples used for 'illustrative purposes'.

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

The founding director of Imperial's Data Science Institute collaborated with Chinese research centres to improve missile design and control large fleets of drone ships, according to a Channel 4 documentary aired last week.

From 2017 to 2020, Imperial's Professor Yi-Ke Guo and collaborators from Shanghai University published eight papers on the combat, navigation and control of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned surface vehicles (USVs)

A subsequent paper, published in 2022 by Guo and coauthors from the China Aerodynamics Research and Development Centre, uses AI to optimise the aerodynamics of missiles.

In 2019, claims Channel 4's *Dispatches*, Guo visited Qingdao Jari Automation Research Institute, a research centre with

close links to the Chinese military. One of Guo's former PhD students at Imperial, Shulin Yan, was a vice-chief engineer at the centre. According to her LinkedIn profile, she is now Vice President.

Following his visit, Guo signed a deal with Jari, obtaining funding for Imperial's Data Science Institute.

The same year, [→ READ MORE ON 6](#)



Professor Yi-Ke Guo obtained his PhD from Imperial before becoming founding Director of the Data Science Institute. He is now Provost of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. HKUST



A promotional video for new drone ships. China Central Television, via Channel 4 *Dispatches*

SEE YOU NEXT TERM!

This is the last issue of *Felix* for Autumn Term, but the paper will return in the New Year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mistaken identity

Emails sent in over the past year by members of the public seem to be mistaking us for someone else...

[→ READ MORE ON 7](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Accidental renaissance

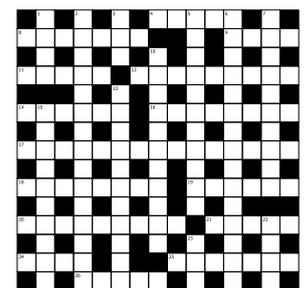


[→ READ MORE ON 19](#)

PUZZLES

Puzzles is back this week!

New crosswords for this week.



[→ READ MORE ON 24](#)

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DECLARATION

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

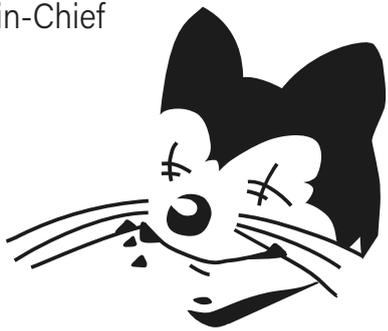
We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

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

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

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

Signed by:
JAMIE JOHN
Editor-in-Chief



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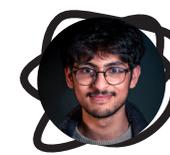
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Copyeditor

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Prince Consort Road
London, SW7 2BB

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EDITORIAL

Autumn Term in review

Term is not quite over yet, but in this, the final issue of *Felix* before the Christmas break, it's worth reflecting on the past few months at Imperial through the lens of the paper.

It has been a largely successful term for us at *Felix*. This academic year, we redesigned the newspaper to make it bolder and punchier. At the very beginning of term, we delivered 2,500 papers to all 13 undergraduate student halls, and our editorial team put in a monumental effort at fresher's fair to attract new contributors.

We started a weekly newsletter (sign up using the QR code on the front page) that goes out to all *Felix* society members every Friday, covering the news stories in each week's paper – the idea of this being that you do not have to be a contributor to the paper to become a member of *Felix*.

The result of these efforts is that at the end of Term 1, and only three months into the academic year, we already have 75% more members than we did at the end of Term 3 last year.

On social media, our Publicity Officer Amy has been stellar, and her regular posts and stories have grown our Instagram following by 25% since the end of the last academic year.

This term, Head Photographer Rolando Charles launched West Basement Studios (WBS), *Felix*'s very own video production unit. You

can find WBS's YouTube channel at linkin.bio/felix (click 'Check out our YouTube!'). Their two videos feature Imperial students and are well worth a watch, with more content coming soon.

A huge thank you to all our dedicated editors and contributors, whose enthusiasm has driven the paper forward, and to you, our readers, for your continued engagement with our content.

Felix started the year with the news that Central Library would be renamed in honour of Abdus Salam, in response to the 2021 History Group Report. That paper also featured reports by The Sun that Just Stop Oil (JSO) was set to target Imperial, with one student activist saying that 'ceremonies...would look great.'

With this, Imperial's graduation ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall looked like it might be a target for JSO activists. But, as it turned out, graduation proceeded without impediment – even as other universities were splattered with orange paint.

Felix then reported on UCU Imperial's marking and assessment boycott, which had resulted in delays to progression, grade confirmation, and exam results. One headline in mid-October read 'Marking mayhem', describing a complaint submitted by 69 Physics students who claimed to have lost one in every 10 hours of lectures to strike action last academic

year.

This term, the paper also covered how the tragic events in the Middle East manifested themselves on campus. Jewish and Israeli students wrote a letter to President Hugh Brady describing their feelings of isolation and fear. 'We feel abandoned and thrown to the wolves,' they told him.

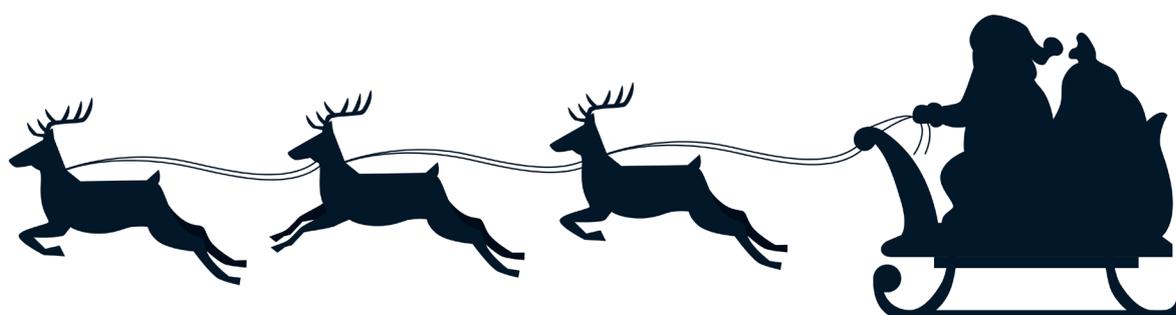
The following week, Palestinian students expressed disappointment towards the President's comments at graduation, telling Brady he ought not to 'speak in our name.'

'Every night has its own unique surprises, bombs you never experienced before,' wrote alumnus Nael Qtati in a series of harrowing messages featured in *Felix*, describing the terrible plight of Palestinians trapped in Gaza.

Then, last month, the paper reported on an Imperial scholarship, funded in part by the College, for which candidates were vetted by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Finally, in the penultimate issue of term, *Felix* returned to lighter reporting. Leading with the headline 'Mural monstrosity,' the paper featured Imperial's renewed efforts to secure planning permission for a mural students described as 'horse sh*t.'

Thank you once again for contributing to and reading the paper. We wish you a restful Christmas break, and a happy New Year.



NEWS

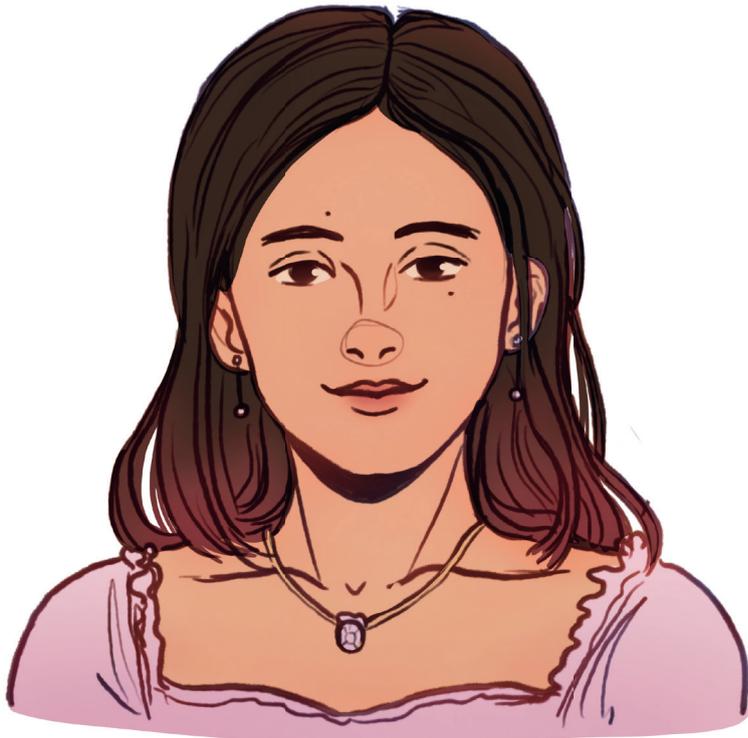
*The OT Interviews***Andreea Cojoccea**
Deputy President (Welfare)

Illustration by Natalie Yu

In this series, Felix talks to the Union's Officer Trustees. This week: Andreea Cojoccea, DPW.

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Avocado is extra, but so am I,' reads one of the many stickers on Andreea Cojoccea's laptop. Extra is one way to put it – assiduous is another. She comes armed with a notebook filled with all of the projects she wants to talk about in our interview, and consults her laptop screen periodically as we talk.

Cojoccea says she had a pleasant childhood. "I grew up in Romania. For 19 years, that's where I lived – where I was born and went to school."

Growing up with her parents ("They're

both philosophers, although they do different jobs now") imbued her with a natural inquisitiveness.

During her school years, she says she was passionate about maths, which "fit in quite well with what the Imperial Bioengineering course offered."

And so, in 2019, she moved to London to study at Imperial. "Overall, I'm happy I did it, although it was a big jump. My experience as a student at Imperial – not necessarily academic – has been tough."

"When I came to study here, I had everything I had ever wanted for: an independent life, where I knew I could do whatever I wanted – I could have milk and cereal for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

(She nods and laughs when I ask if she actually did this.)

"I had an infinity of opportunities to make new friends and join clubs and societies, projects, and events in general. Anything that was fun."

"But for some reason, I couldn't have been sadder. Coming to Imperial impacted me negatively, especially my mental health. Some would blame it on the weather, others on the fact I was away from family."

"Perhaps also there was something in the lack of support and signposting that exacerbated things. But more on that later."

"And then, towards the end of my first year, when I was feeling truly lost, the pandemic hit. This is a very unpopular opinion, but I think it's actually what saved my 'career' as a student. I was able to go back home, take some time off, and think about how I wanted to proceed with my study."

"My second year was delivered mostly online, and that was actually my best year. I don't want to be insensitive. I know the pandemic had huge negative impacts on the finances and wellbeing of many families – including mine – but the quiet aspect of it really helped me put things in order and reprioritise. I came back in third year more energised than ever, ready to take on the world."

Third year was "a little chaotic". "It was just a bit confusing to pay attention everywhere, both online and in person, and I had to commute from South Kensington to White City."

In her fourth and final year though, Cojoccea says she had "this rebellious tendency to take back the time I had spent at home in second year. So I joined lots of clubs and societies, and I found that becoming parts of groups, making friends and socialising with people, it helped me find motivation to carry on in my work."

Her interest in her current role – Deputy President (Welfare) – can in some ways be traced all the way back to her childhood. "Growing up, I had an interest in my mental health, and why I had certain reactions to situations and why those might differ to other people's."

"It's funny, I used to take all the certified personality tests to understand myself better. People in school would think I was

a bit weird."

"I was surprised then, given all this interest in maintaining good mental health, at how bad I felt in my first year. It felt like a contradiction of everything I stood for."

"I don't want to make it sound like I never had any difficulties growing up. Also, to some extent it's normal to feel sad from time to time. Constant happiness is overrated, and maybe the fact we hold onto it so tightly creates unrealistic expectations."

"But coming here was scary and I hadn't anticipated the magnitude of it."

"I also noticed that a lot of people around me were also dealing with poor mental health. I wanted to help out, but I didn't know how to."

"One big issue is that mental health is a theme that is still very stigmatised, so students find it difficult to reach out. A



Coming here was scary and I hadn't anticipated the magnitude of it.

lot of people at Imperial are international students like myself. So when we come here, we might not be familiar with the services that are available to us."

Cojoccea's first foray into student representation at Imperial College Union (ICU) came when she joined the committee of IQ, Imperial's society for LGBTQ+ students. "I was campaigns officer and I also became the liaison officer between the IQ Society and the LGBTQ+ Network."

ICU's Liberation and Community Networks are 'run by students who identify with, ally with, or are interested in [a] particular group'. The nine networks provide communities and safe spaces for students, and organise campaigns to tackle problems their members face. They range from 'International' and 'Ethics and the Environment' (both Community Networks) to 'Disabilities' and 'LGBTQ+' (Liberation Networks).

"There are so many intersections that can occur when students are part of different groups, and that can lead

to different needs. It's important to understand and represent them," explains Cojocea.

Her next big roles came in her fourth year of study, when she was a committee member for Feminist Society and Wellbeing Representative for her cohort.

Around halfway through the year, she realised that as a sabbatical officer of the Union, "then maybe my voice is actually going to make a difference towards improving students' experience."

She spoke to a friend, and to Nathalie Podder, then Deputy President (Welfare), before running for the role herself.

Andreea's goals

Andreea lists four main goals on her ICU webpage (though it is clear from our conversation that she has far more projects in the works):

- Improving mental health provision.
- Lobbying the College for more financial support in combatting the stress caused by the cost-of-living-crisis.
- Taking action to decrease the occurrence of sexual misconduct on campus.
- Streamlining procedures for those in need of guidance and support.

"Something that is very exciting this year is that I'm working very closely with the College on the Mental Health Strategy action planning," says Cojocea.

In June 2023, Imperial published its Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out how it will ensure students (and staff) get the 'support and advice they need, when they need it.' It consists of nine broad strategic goals, but, says Cojocea, "This year they are working on a more specific plan to make sure they actually achieve it."

The Strategy action planning process is a good example of how the Union can improve student's experiences. "Imperial values the Union's input very much," says Andreea.

"The way this is done is that we have a set of meetings with the College. We slowly progress, first by suggesting lots

of ideas that could be implemented under the strategy."

Andreea has already told Imperial that they could provide better training to departmental staff who have frequent interaction with students.

"The first point of contact for students, for example, is their personal tutor - Imperial encourages this. So at the very least, the tutors should be aware of the services available to students, and signpost them when approached with issues."

She wants to provide more in-depth training to personal tutors and other student-facing staff. "Mental health is a very important issue, and I don't think simple discussions are sufficient. For example, something I'm doing right now is preparing to become a mental health first aider [MHFA]."

I point out that Physics students last year, students specifically complained to Felix that MHFAs were telling students to 'work harder' when approached with problems.

"To be able to act in these cases, the College first needs to know, so I would recommend that students make a complaint against the specific staff member. There's a form you can fill out, and you select whether or not you'd like to disclose your identity."

"It's alright to make staff aware that you're not doing great or that the people that you're in contact with are not being very helpful."

She also encourages students to reach out to her or to the Union's Advice Service, which provides "confidential, non-judgemental advice free of charge". "This can be related to financial concerns, housing, academic misconduct, or bullying, and they can also signpost you to other resources."

We move onto her next goal, on the cost-of-living crisis.

"Something I'm trying to do here is to make sure we cover all students in terms of access to financial support," she explains. (The College provides a bursary, but this is only accessible to

home undergraduate students.)

"I've been doing research and the groups most impacted by the crisis are international students, students who are parents or carers, those with disabilities, and obviously all those from a financially disadvantaged background."

Cojocea says she is also working with the Postgraduate Representation Chair to understand the costs specific to postgraduates, and with the Union's Community and Liberation networks to identify those who might be in more immediate need of money. "They



Maybe my voice is actually going to make a difference.

might need access to financial resources to pay for emergency procedures, but not have access to them, as none of the existing funds are tailored to them."

She is currently helping the College with its widening participation initiatives. "So encouraging more students to apply to university, and understanding why some groups might be facing barriers to higher education." She says there will be student consultations this month, and that student feedback would be valuable.

Cojocea's penultimate goal is to take action to decrease the occurrence of sexual misconduct on campus. "There's a terrible lack of training about what we can do to be mindful of other people," she says. "It's an essential skill to develop."

Cojocea says she would like to provide more training to students. This year, she was assured that training would be provided in halls. But staff shortages meant that the promise fell through, and instead, it was delivered online.

She would also like to create annual surveys on sexual misconduct at Imperial. "Doing it annually would help us to see if the results are replicable and

draw conclusions."

ICU's last sexual misconduct survey report came out in 2021, and found that the Union's bars were the most common venue for sexual harassment. Cojocea would seek to address this by providing training to Union bar security, though she notes this is made challenging by the fact that such staff work for external agencies.

She says Imperial is keen to raise awareness of its SafeZone app, that allows all students and staff to request immediate help from internal Campus Security if they feel unsafe.

"Something else I want to lobby the College on is to improve its consent training. I think it would be great to remodel it as consent and active bystander training. Because I think there are third parties in some situations where sexual misconduct can occur, and they have the power to help."

"Reach out and talk to me"

Cojocea asks if she can conclude the interview with a message to students: "I want to take the opportunity to let students know that I would be very happy for them to reach out and talk to me about experiences that they are facing. Everyone experiences life differently, so any input that they have is highly valuable in anything. They can communicate through their reps or email me directly."

Cojocea shared this statement with Felix after the interview:

Current exciting activities I'm working on include:

- Consultations on your student experience (December 6th, 7th, 12th, 14th). More dates are to be announced subject to your expression of interest.
- Having set up Imperial's first Parents and Carers Network, of which the first social event will be happening on the 13th of December and it is a Festive Mingle.
- Monthly Community & Welfare Forums where you can raise wellbeing-related issues with student reps and Liberation & Community Officers.

Please get in touch at dpwel@ic.ac.uk if you would like to find out more and get involved!



Protestors take to Queen's Lawn to accuse Imperial of 'complicity in genocide'

Students, staff and members of the public took to Queen's Lawn this Tuesday to accuse Imperial of 'complicity in genocide'.

They cited its relationships with three companies who they accused of supplying weapons, technology, and 'other support' to Israel.

The group, numbering about 20 people, held placards reading 'Imperial students say free Palestine', and 'End the occupation free Palestine'.

Imperial did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Students, staff and members of the public on Queen's Lawn on Wednesday.



Students, staff and members of the public on Queen's Lawn on Wednesday.

→ FROM P. 1: MILITARY DRONES

Jari began sea trials on a military drone ship.

Imperial said that as a result of consultations with the UK Government, it terminated the Jari agreement in 2021. No research was carried out under the agreement, and the College returned the funding.

Guo told *Dispatches* that his work was 'basic', 'open', 'peer-reviewed' research, 'written to help expand our existing base of scientific or technological knowledge rather than immediately solve specific real-world problems.'

One of his collaborations with Shanghai University, entitled 'The combat of unmanned surface vehicles based on wolves attack', proposes 'a new attack strategy... using the characteristics of wolves'.

Another uses AI for 'autonomous navigation and obstacle avoidance of USVs', and a third outlines an algorithm to help USVs 'intercept intruders.'

Guo claimed that applications described in the studies were examples used for 'illustrative purposes'. He said the research has 'applications for a variety of sectors including healthcare, fluid dynamics, real-time decision making and environmental science.'

'The papers include viewpoints that can benefit societies worldwide,' he added.

In December 2022, Guo was appointed Provost of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He remains Emeritus Professor of Computer Science at Imperial.

An Imperial College spokesperson said: 'Clear research codes of practice apply to all staff at Imperial, and we regularly review our policies in line with evolving government guidance and legislation, working closely with the appropriate Government departments, and in line with our commitments to UK national security. Partnerships and collaborations at Imperial are subject to due diligence and are regularly reviewed.'

A case of mistaken identity

These emails sent in over the past year by members of the public seem to be mistaking us for someone else...

Foreign object in cat food

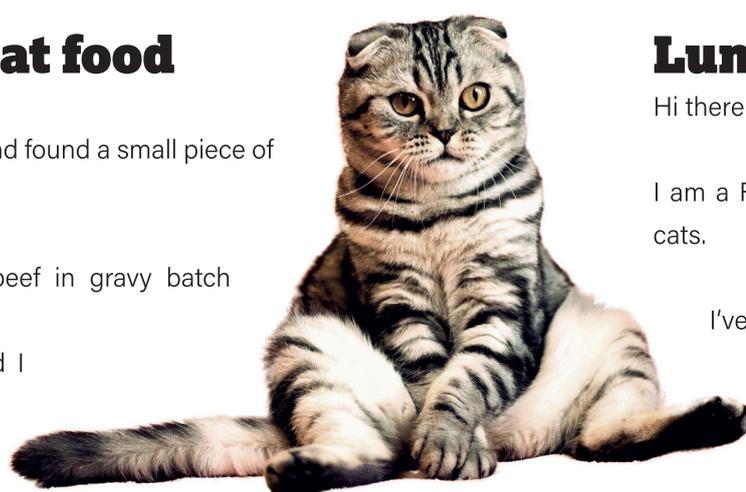
Hi

Good afternoon I have just fed my cat and found a small piece of black rubber in her food

I have enclosed a photo

It wa in tasty shreds succulent grill beef in gravy batch number attached in photos

She's only just started eating Felix and I was happy with the food but this had concerned me



Lumps in food

Hi there

I am a Fosterer for XXXXXXXXXXXX who provide us with wet food for our foster cats.

I've noticed a huge difference in the quality of food in the pouches (as good as it looks and other types). There are large, hard undigestible lumps of food in every pouch and my foster cats are eating around these causing a huge waste to our charity. I have checked with other Fosterers and they are all saying the same thing.

Can you tell me why you have changed the food being used and what you will do to remedy this problem.

Toby the Felix look alike.

Hi my 8 cats think your food is amazing.all ages all colours but Toby is the cutest and the same colours as your Felix cartoon. I will send you a video a great hit on my Instagram and tik took account. Advertising would be so simple with Toby he's a natural. Your advertising team could really benefit from his input.an opportunity not to be missed.what does your top advertising executive think?

Toby as your Felix cat.

Please see attached photos videos of toby.i have 8 rescued cats and he is the cutest and closest look a like to Felix .has your advertising executive considered using a large felix cat? Toby would be ideal he is sooooo calm in temperament energetic cuddly,he loves your food too.i would be amazed if you bypass this opportunity,he has many hits on Instagram and tik tok I could easily film a shot at home advertising for you.he is adorable .

Chicken in cat food

Hi, I live in XXX I have a cat allergic to all chicken cat food wet or dry. All boxes of food come with at least 3 pouches chicken, turkey, poultry. Was wondering is it possible to get boxes of 1 flavour. ie beef, lamb, pork. Same with salmon, all fish boxes contain salmon. I am wasting so much money having to remove all these from box. I'm a pensioner so don't have money to waste. At moment my neighbour delighted, she gets all chicken, turkey, salmon left over pouches. Was wondering why all cat food manufacturers don't do single flavour boxes?

Thank you.



Re: Lumps in food

Hi

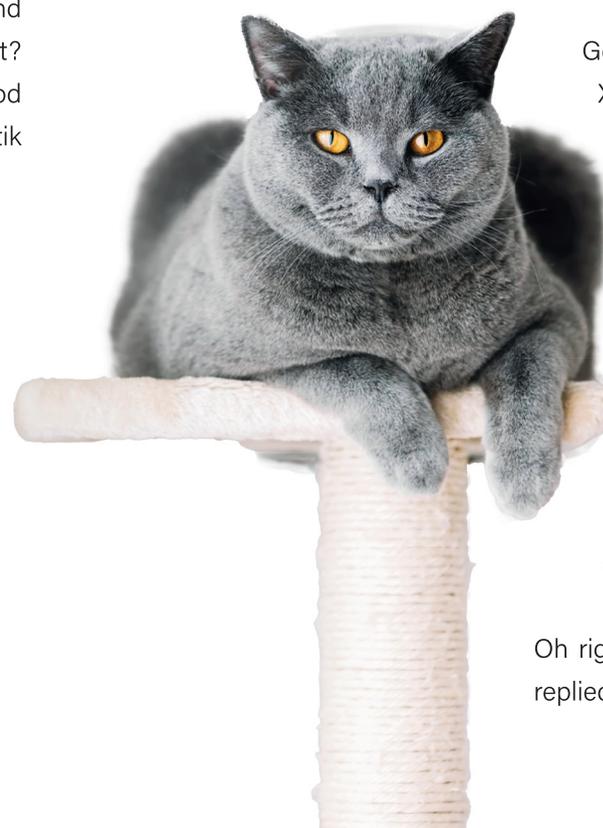
No response to my email of 23rd August! Got a company as large as yours that us exceptionally poor.

Going forward I will be suggesting to XXXXXXXXXXXX that we stop using Felix cat food as the quality is very poor.

Extremely disappointed in your customer service.

[Response from the *Felix* Editor:
Hi, I believe you have the wrong email address. We are a student newspaper, not a cat food company. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_\(newspaper\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_(newspaper))]

Oh right, I'm sorry. I thought as you hadn't replied you were trying to swerve the issue.



**EVENTS
FORUM**

**SUMMER
BALL**

Thursday 14 December

6-8pm



Meeting Room 3
Union Building

Come along and have your say in Summer Ball for 2024!

We would love to hear from all our students about what the highlights were (and the downsides) to past Summer Balls, and what you'd like to see going forward!

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is recruiting

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ENVIRONMENT

Chemical Engineering's first climate cafe brings students, activists, and former oil and gas employees together

Environment Writer

SEBASTIAN GONZATO

In early November, Imperial Climate Action (ICA) and the Chemical Engineering Society teamed up to organise a climate cafe to discuss the question “How could the Chemical Engineering department become a leader in climate action?”

Like most of Imperial, the Chemical Engineering department is not a stranger to discussions on sustainability and net-zero. However, these are largely limited to technical rather than social, historical, political and justice related issues. The broad topic of the climate cafe was therefore guided by several prompts such as: “Do the department’s ties to fossil fuel companies help ‘greenwash’ them?” Furthermore, several guests were invited to provide different perspectives – including alumni, former oil and gas (O&G) employees, as well as members of ICA, and other climate activists. The world cafe format – involving rounds of small group discussions and feeding back to the whole group – was used to facilitate casual and friendly discussions.

I have summarised these discussions here for other Imperial students and staff to think about what climate action they can take.

Theories of change were the most frequently recurring topic. Some students suggested that they could change the culture and direction of O&G companies from within. Former O&G employees pointed out that this would take years to do and is not aligned with the urgency of the climate crisis. One guest suggested that such a change was at odds with a deeply ingrained culture of exploiting fossil fuels, which has seen renewable departments at O&G companies downsized. Another guest said the attitude in the O&G industry was one of “the last man standing”.

Several discussions focussed on education, and the tension between training highly qualified engineers and having a broader education that includes social science aspects of climate change. An argument in favour of the latter was the students’ appreciation for the discussions themselves. Most sustainability courses are electives in

the third year and fourth year, and some students said that they had “discussed climate change more in the past two hours than in their entire life.”

Referencing carbon capture and storage (CCS), one student asked: “Are fossil fuels the problem, or is it climate change?” CCS was viewed by many attendees as a crucial part of reaching net zero by 2050. However, one guest warned that CCS was frequently used to justify continued O&G extraction despite the IEA and IPCC unequivocally opposing this. The guests strongly promoted the need to take decisive and substantial action in the next few years to stay below 2°C of warming. One student observed that the disappointing lack of progress with CCS possibly contributes to its image as ‘greenwashing’: a term used when a company misleads the public to believe that it is doing more to protect the environment than it actually is. Another student also mentioned that CCS would be the first step to decarbonising heavy industries such as concrete and steel.

An interesting appearance in the conversations was economic pressures. These included the Chemical Engineering Society’s previous and present O&G sponsorships and the need for financial support from the Union to support the transition to more sustainable sponsorships. In addition to this, attendees emphasised international students being unable to afford an

education at Imperial or get a UK visa unless sponsored by O&G companies. Attendees noted that the systemic nature of these pressures would be greatly reduced if we lived in fairer, less unequal societies.

Other points raised were harder to categorise, such as:

- our societies’ dependence on fossil fuels, such as in plastic and petrochemicals, and how to break away from it
- the need for behavioural changes like reducing energy demand as well as technological, efficiency-led solutions
- the difficulty of fighting climate change in corrupt or otherwise undemocratic states, and whether this includes the UK
- the injustice for developing economies to prevent the use of fossil fuels and slow development despite historically not developing on fossil fuels, and the need to challenge the link between fossil fuels and development
- the general lack of Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour in climate movements
- the need for positive visions of the future in climate movements fighting against fossil fuel use

The world cafe format ensured the event was a success. The guests, students and staff all appreciated the possibility of having frank, calm, and remarkably friendly discussions. Many were grateful to learn about climate change this way rather than through a presentation or panel discussion. Chemical Engineering Society will be back next year with a similar event.

Sebastian graduated from Imperial’s Chemical Engineering course in 2018.



Envato Elements

Introducing Imperial+, a community hub for sustainability at Imperial

The brand-new sustainability initiative Imperial+ collects existing environmental projects at Imperial under one roof.

Environment Editor
SIMRAN PATEL

Two weeks ago, Imperial College alumni Elliott Stoclet and Milan Paczai formally launched a community of environmentally and socially conscious students and staff at Imperial called Imperial+. Imperial+ unites sustainability initiatives from across the College and Student Union, enabling them to share ideas and resources, with the aim of making our campuses and degree programs more sustainable. The scheme was co-founded by Climate Entrepreneurs Club, AIESEC Imperial, Engineers without Borders Imperial, and Imperial Climate Action, with many more student representatives – myself included – getting involved since.

As students, Elliott and Milan in-

formed over 200 Imperial students and staff about the global emergency in their workshops during Sustainability Week 2023 (read more in *Felix* issue 1822). They are now employed by Imperial's Education Office to examine the SDGs addressed in our curricula, but are also using their new staff powers to bring bigger institutional change to Imperial.

For example, every Monday they invite students from environmentally focused societies, members of Imperial's environmental campaign groups, and the newly elected departmental sustainability officers for lunch. At these Monday Leaders Lunches, I am learning about initiatives I didn't know existed and meeting others who care equally about making Imperial greener. A recent topic of conversation at these lunches was how to spread awareness of the climate and biodiversity crises to students who do not learn about



Imperial+ Ecosystem Mapping

How may we enable these initiatives with common aims to collaborate more effectively?

Aims

- Further our ecosystem's understanding and help inform the role they may take
- Guide our strategy and actions to enable collaboration
- Empower new humans to join the Imperial+ eco-system

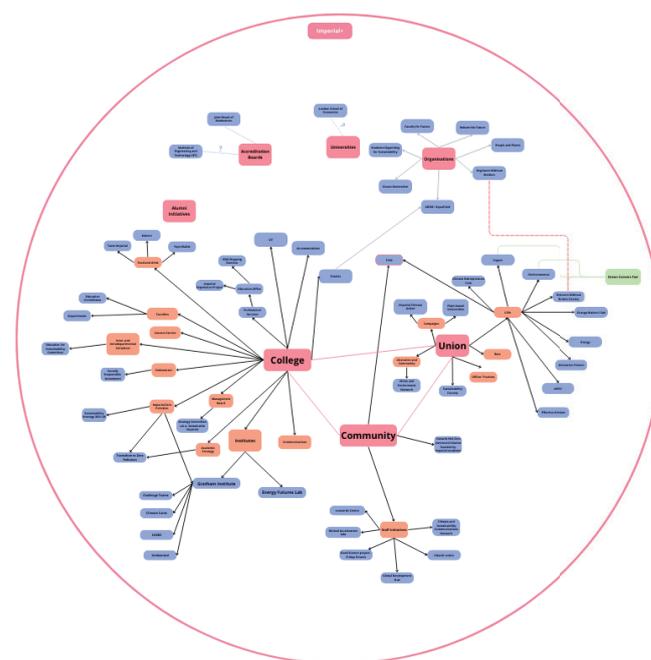
Key

- Organisations, depts and initiatives
- Projects
- Project relations to initiatives
- Relations between initiatives
- Opportunities identified

Next Steps

- add more to College Structure
- add keys to here - e.g. red borders mean contacts are on Notion
- interlink initiatives

[Contacts Directory](#)



Mapping Imperial's sustainability initiatives across College and Student Union. Imperial+

them in their degree. We brainstormed ideas for how to do this, such as citizens' assemblies held on Queen's Lawn and providing free lunch at Imperial+ talks.

According to the Imperial+ strategy document, there are five challenges this initiative faces. The first challenge is **identifying leverage points which would maximise the pace of Imper-**

al's sustainability transition. To solve this, Imperial College Union Ethics & Environment Network is helping Imperial+ to map out all the sustainability committees and projects across Imperial, and develop a contacts directory. This ranges from the Sustainability Strategy Committee within the Board of Governors to the student-run Environmental Society.

Imperial+

Connecting the Dots.

Accelerating Imperial's Sustainability Transformation through Collaboration.

Time	Venue	Activity	Outcomes (TBF)
9-9.30	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Registration and Coffee	Physically and mentally refreshed
9.30-10.00	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Convening Plenary	Inspired for the first ever Day of Retreat, keynote speaker TBA
10 - 11.30	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Sensing into Our Collective Potential	A sense of space, connection, collective potential and hope
11.30 - 13.00	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Guided Reflection & Optional Zen Lunch	Reflection on our individual and collective contributions, widened perspectives, sense of gratitude and wandering
13:00 - 14.00	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Inspiration Flash Talks	Understanding of sustainability-related initiatives across College, sense of opportunity and curiosity for connection
14:00 - 15:30	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Sustainability Initiatives Strategising, Connecting & Prototyping	Strong connections between initiatives, co-created reflective & mobilising for 2024 Report, shared map and collaboration opportunities
15.30 - 18.00	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 5	Afterglow with networking	Long lasting connections with sense of community, sense of gratitude and curiosity

Activities Space 2: Anytime Drop-in Space

Time	Venue	Activity	Outcomes
10.00 - 18.00	Sherfield Level 5, SALC 7	Anytime Drop-In Co-Creation	Shared timeline for 2024, map and directory of sustainability related initiatives, shared communications strategy and more...

Schedule for Imperial+ retreat on 14th December. Imperial+

The reach of educational projects and sustainability campaigns could be maximised by targeting points of intersection in this map. “Up until now Sustainability Development Goals-related efforts at Imperial have been very fragmented,” says Evie Wright from the Imperial College Union Ethics & Environment Network. “Different groups aren’t necessarily aware of each other’s work and it can be difficult to find the correct people to help bring ideas to reality. I’m truly excited about Imperial+ and its potential to connect so many like-minded



I am learning about initiatives I didn’t know existed and meeting others who care equally about making Imperial greener.

people.”

The second challenge is **how to transform culture effectively**. Imperial has a reputation of producing graduates who work very hard on their specific field of interest and engage little with social sciences. Social

transformation is as important as technological innovation for fighting the climate crisis, but conveying this to the average Imperial student is currently difficult. Imperial+ aims to empower STEM students and staff to have a bigger social impact. The third challenge Imperial+ faces is ensuring a **long-term, sustainable positive impact**. If initiatives are student-led, they may die out once interested students graduate or are busy with studies. This is why Imperial+ wants to connect student-led initiatives, and ensure there are always students willing to take each other’s events or campaigns forward. Staff are at Imperial for longer than students, so staff-led sustainability initiatives may last longer. This links to the fourth challenge, which is **creating effective teams including both students and staff**. Undergraduates, postgraduates, and staff each bring different levels of sustainability expertise and interact with Imperial infrastructure differently – Imperial+ aims to pool these experiences together. The final challenge is the biggest: **knowing where the initiative’s blind spots are**. The more students and staff engage with the initiative, the more we can learn about what Imperial is already doing to become greener, and what more can be done.

To engage with the initiative, Imperial+ is inviting all Imperial students, staff, and alumni to a day-long sustainability retreat on Thursday 14th December with the title ‘Year in Reflection and Building Momentum for

Imperial+ Sustainability Retreat Day

Thursday 14th December

Aims

A unique opportunity for the Imperial sustainability community to reflect, connect and celebrate 2023, as well as to build momentum for 2024 to become world leaders in sustainable education, research, careers, campuses and experience, by connecting across silos and moving from competition to collaboration. Organised by the Imperial+ community, involving staff, students and professional facilitators, aiming to foster lasting connections around shared challenges, and providing a deep experience, setting the Imperial Sustainability Ecosystem in motion for 2024.

Outcomes

The event will yield an Imperial Sustainability Initiatives of 2023, and How We Are Building Momentum for 2024 Report, including a touchpoints diagram of all initiatives. This will be complemented by collaboratively crafted plans for your departments and initiatives to tackle shared challenges alongside at least one other group. We’ll also develop a map and a directory of the Imperial Sustainability Ecosystem, aiding everyone in grasping each project, its needs, challenges, and expertise to be shared—propelling Imperial towards leading the sustainability transformation. Ultimately, the event will foster a culture of connection, strength, celebration, gratitude, and hope.

2024’. Though advertised as a retreat, the event will take place in Sherfield Building on South Kensington campus. Like all Imperial+ events, this is an opportunity to network with other environmentally conscious people at Imperial. Collaborating with other sustainability projects at Imperial – rather than competing with them for rooms, funding, and membership – is a focus of the retreat. Attendance of individual sessions is encouraged even if all-day attendance is not possible.

Sustainability-related clubs, societies, projects, and campaigns are especially encouraged to participate in the retreat. Imperial+ is asking any societies attending as a delegation to email imperialplus@imperial.ac.uk with the name of a correspondent (‘Sustainability Champion’) for the day’s activities.



Imperial+

THE SOPHIA PRIZE 
 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
WRITING  IS AWARDING
£400  TO ONE 
OUTSTANDING,  INSPIRING
AND ACCESSIBLE ARTICLE
 THAT HELPS TACKLE 
CLIMATE  DEFEATISM &
COVERS  AN  ECONOMIC
CULTURAL OR  SCIENTIFIC
INNOVATION THAT 
HELPS   FIGHT 
GLOBAL   WARMING.

IF INTERESTED,
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FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK



Funding mechanisms play a big part in our fight against climate change, and government investment in decarbonisation and conservation efforts doesn't always seem to align with the interests of the general populace. Public funding is stretched thinly across various government sectors as it is — if global climate mitigation were to take priority and receive adequate government funding, this would likely have to come out of the pockets of average citizens through increased taxation.

Two major alternatives to public financing are private equity and philanthropy — both valuable options for financing mitigation measures, which include research and development of innovative technologies; retrofitting such as carbon capture in fossil fuel-burning power plants; and the topical loss-and-damage funding for the communities hit hardest by climate disasters.

A report from McKinsey & Company, a leading consulting firm, outlines the 4P model — public-private-philanthropic partnerships — as an effective framework for funding organisations, particularly those in the climate and environment sectors. Combining these different branches allows firms to take advantage of the best facets of each funding source.

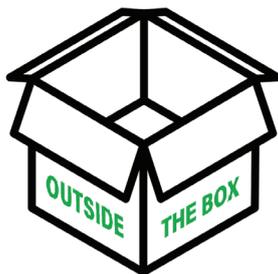
One such organisation that uses this 4P model is Breathe London — run by Imperial College's Environmental Research Group — which is now expanding to become international.

Initially financed by the philanthropic Clean Air Fund, Breathe London provides a platform for a network of private, public, and philanthropic organisations to collaborate on solving the complex issue of air pollution.

In the short term, the organisation aims to improve the affordability of air-quality-monitoring equipment; though commonly used reference-grade analysers are effective, they are expensive and so are out of the reach of many low-income communities. The initiative has partnered with the Mayor of London (public sector) to enable a city-wide rollout, between 2020 and 2024, of cheaper air-quality sensors developed by Clarity Movement Co. (a private company based in the US). To ensure this can be implemented equitably, the sensors are being sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies and other donors.

The long-term goal of this initiative is to develop a network of air-quality monitoring that can collect a comprehensive set of data across the whole of London. This data can be fed back to air-pollution research at Imperial, which can then inform the development of area-specific pollution-reduction policies and regulatory measures in the future. This long-term perspective allows for these kinds of investments to be focused more acutely onto the root causes of environmental issues.

Since climate change is a challenge even more socioeconomically complex than air pollution, organisations tackling climate mitigation could benefit significantly from the mechanisms of the 4P model. However, achieving a strong network of relevant stakeholders such as this one requires a huge amount of time and resources, and consideration of



Is private equity the answer to climate change and green finance?

WITH ZANNA BUCKLAND

not just environmental goals but also social development goals such as improving public health. This is why it makes sense to build climate funding into existing philanthropic endeavours with large pools of financial resources and established connections to both private and charitable institutions.

Though the individuality of private equity removes the need to contend with public opinions, it also poses a glaring issue with these financing methods: the disproportionate weighting of individual agendas in such firms. Typically, major financial decisions in private firms are driven by a board of directors or a few chief officers, which leaves the process vulnerable to personal biases and opinions.

In a not-entirely surprising turn of events, the first few days of the COP28 climate summit saw its president, Sultan Al Jaber, exposed for having said “There is no science out there... that says that the phase-out of

fossil fuels is what's going to achieve 1.5°C.” in an interview in November. The *Financial Times* reported on leaked documents outlining a plan to use the conference as a platform for oil and gas business deals. Al Jaber's affiliation with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company is a prime example of how powerful individuals can influence the direction and agendas of decision-makers on the world stage. (@bloomberggreen and @earthrise.studio are excellent sources on Instagram for an overview and insight into how COP28 is progressing).

This leads back to one of the challenges of relying on private equity for climate-change efforts and green finances: how to leverage and incentivise these firms to invest in environmentally friendly practices.



Exploration of the nuances in the relationship between the consumer market and the actions of private firms and corporations would be a whole article unto itself, though one thing can be said for certain: that public scrutiny and consumer demands are always strong drivers for change.

In recent years, the concepts of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investments have gained solid traction in the commercial world. In simple terms, CSR and ESG are sets of ethical and environmental standards by which to hold private corporations

accountable. For all their flaws, such as the potential to lead to greenwashing, these standards are still valuable incentives for driving environmentally conscious investments.

So, the viability of private equity for climate and green finance really depends on multiple factors. The willingness of private actors to invest in climate-change mitigation and environmental issues; incentivisation of this from social pressure; and the ability to take a multiple-stakeholder approach, which tends to result in more robust and better-informed investments. At the end of the day, more of the world's financial assets are in the hands of individuals and private firms than that of governments, and it makes sense to keep looking for ways to exploit this in the interests of protecting the natural world, and, by extension, ourselves.

To close out on a lighter note, I hope the purpose of Outside the Box has become clear over the course of this term: to bring attention to and critically analyse pressing environmental issues. In particular, to highlight humanity's impact on the environment and our waning connection with nature. Most importantly, I hope to introduce concepts and less-discussed topics that might be new to the readers of Felix. If you have any thoughts — positive or negative — about the articles in this section, I would love to hear from you (by email or Teams). Use the Christmas break to reflect on some of these matters, and if you feel inspired to write please send us your articles!

BOOKS



Memories of our time

Imperial College London

An afterword to the Autumn term.

Books Editor
FIYINFOLUWA T. OLADIPO

It is past autumn now, and the leaves are done non-geometrically staining the tarmac. On the upper deck of the 414, it bemuses me to see South Kensington tilted into the cold of the hemisphere. It has struck me that Kensington – and England by extension – exists from the harshness of one winter to the next, instead of its summers.

People acquire a new skin like a set of miniaturised

beasts: locals and tourists alike are made sluggish by thick layers of clothing; scarves and plaid return in vogue; the nylon coats of pedestrians catch the light of the morning's white sky in their creases.

I first read *The Remains of the Day* on a bus leaving South Kensington, into the festive period from what must have been summer. And now, it feels as though the bright yellow of its paperback has taken on new meaning across the seasons.

Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* introduces us to the English country house Darlington Hall and its head butler, Mr Stevens. On the surface, the reader is presented with the wealth of experience he has accrued as a result of his profession. However, a little further down the line, Ishiguro in his plain prose makes us see the psychological silence of his regret and reminiscence.



The leaves are done non-geometrically staining the tarmac.

The arrival of a new American employer triggers Mr Stevens to take a three-day trip to visit Miss Kenton, a former friend and colleague of his, following the reception of a letter from her, years after her departure.

The Remains is in essence a road novel, although it doesn't possess the typical roadster spirit of, for example, Jack Kerouac's 1957 novel *On the Road*.

It is also a diary, or a memoir of sorts, with commen-

tary on what it means to live a life of service. There's a bold contrast between the technical form of this novel and the ornate content of it: corridors cleaned to perfection, daily servant affairs, and delicate musings about the English landscape, are placed onto the grit and asphalt that leads to Devon, Mr Stevens' destination.



The thread of which adds a stitch into an imagined fabric of purpose.

Why this novel has remained in such high regard to this day is much due to Ishiguro's voice mimicking human consciousness, embodying how Mr Stevens has led himself to a full devotion to his career.

Segues, comments, and musings happen in the inner space of Mr Stevens' thoughts, which, since childhood, have been constructed by his years as a manservant. The real success of a novel is shown in whether its writer has created a polished mirror in which the reader can reflect, especially what they might not initially see as such. Thus, realisations conveyed of Mr Stevens about himself feel at the very least well-earned, but in a realistic sense, thunderous.

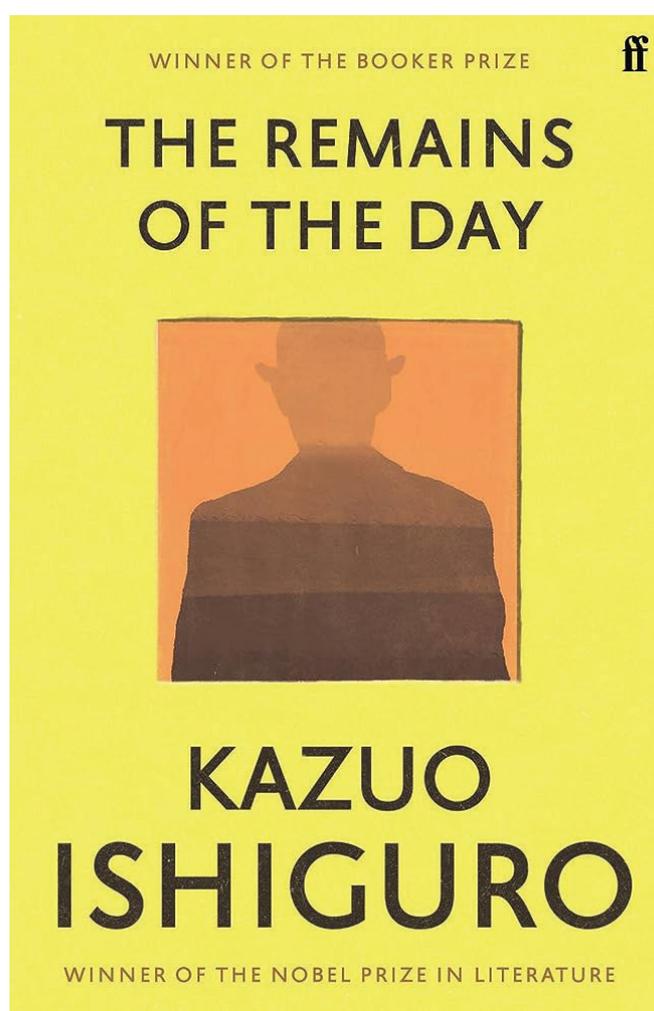
In writing *The Remains of the Day*, Ishiguro talks of a period of intense focus he called 'the Crash' during which he wrote the first draft of the novel in a four-week stretch. Funnily enough, this seems analogous to the continuously typewritten first draft of *On the Road*, another novel which captures revolutionary ideas, that Jack Kerouac is said to have completed in three weeks.

It seems that as a result of this, Ishiguro was able to form some of the novel's most provoking self-contained ideas, such as how Mr Stevens distinguishes a good butler from a bad one. 'It is surely a professional responsibility for all of us to think deeply about these things,' he remarks.

This comes from a purely enjoyable passage, with much of the comedy from the subtext of witnessing Mr Stevens' private ideas. 'It is sometimes said that butlers only truly exist in England,' Ishiguro writes. '[People from other countries] are unable to be butlers,' which he goes to explain is 'because they are [...] incapable of the emotional restraint of which only the English race [is] capable.'

But, being part of an academic institution, there is truth in the irony of the way Mr Stevens presents his ideals that could describe the one-mindedness with which we might face our studies.

To paint a picture of this, through Mr Stevens, Ishiguro conjured the image of all of time being funnelled through the eye of a needle, the thread of which adds a



Kazuo Ishiguro. Frankie Fouganthin (CC BY-SA 4.0)

stitch into an imagined fabric of purpose. The lesson is not what you expect: Mr Stevens seems to be pointing us at not what people do, but who they are, and Ishiguro is telling us to question what exactly the pillars that hold up ballrooms and dining halls in our conscience, are made of.

Interestingly, Ishiguro portrays himself as anyone but a holder of the most coveted award in literature: the Nobel Prize. "I wanted to be a rock and roll star first [...] I was fixed up with writing, like an arranged marriage." I highly recommend his interview with Charlie Rose. He also mentions wanting to be a filmmaker and screenwriter in this 1995 interview. In 2023, he was nominated for an Oscar in Best Adapted Screenplay for the film *Living*.



It feels as though the bright yellow of its paperback has taken on new meaning across the seasons.

The end of the Autumn Term at Imperial is an interesting time for all Imperial students, because it calls for a moment to look at the summer passed, and the term just gone. With all the memories and mistakes, and meaningful experiences had, it is a period to take what we have learned, and consider the year to come, and see the beauty in what remains. As Robert Frost ends up writing about the season, "Nothing gold can stay".

This is the second article in our Moving Literature series, exploring literature read while commuting on London transport (not just the Underground).

Editor's Note

Are you reading anything new over Christmas? Or simply want to take some time to catch up on your bookshelf over the break? Consider writing for us in Books – we'd love to hear from you!

Send us your pieces at books.felix@imperial.ac.uk. These can be reviews, deep dives into authors or genres, recommendations, or anything else literature-adjacent.



**EVENTS
FORUM**

**SUMMER
BALL**

Thursday 14 December

6-8pm



Meeting Room 3
Union Building

Come along and have your say in Summer Ball for 2024!

We would love to hear from all our students about what the highlights were (and the downsides) to past Summer Balls, and what you'd like to see going forward!

 imperial
college
union

CATNIP

Boris Johnson insists that he was not the one that “let it rip”

Inquest Correspondent PINOCCHIO

Boris Johnson told the COVID inquiry this week that he was absolutely not the one that had ‘let it rip’. He was responding to questions by Lahyun Hee KC about why the government had not locked down sooner.

Johnson told the inquiry that when he had arrived, “there was already a bad smell in the air” referring, it is thought,

to the fact that COVID 19 had already been circulating in Wuhan before his 2019 election. However, independent fact checkers have made the point that he was already in office before the election after winning an internal leadership contest.

Johnson was also combative when asked about when he had realised how bad things could get. He repeatedly and angrily assured the panel that he was not the first to have “got a hint of it”, even suggesting that one of the panel might have before him. Feb Senton,

our Muckraking Correspondent tells *NegaFelix*, “This is a clear admission of culpability from Johnson. By suggesting that people outside of the government might have better predicted the oncoming crisis better than him, he is admitting that the government was neither prepared, nor expert”.

Taking advantage of this unexpected honesty, Lahyun Hee KC probed Johnson’s own lockdown failings asking whether he considered himself guilty for anything that had taken place while

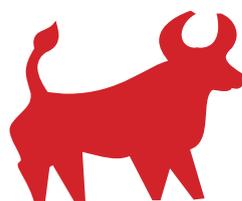
lockdown was in place. The question was met with typical Boris bluster, he admitted that while he had certainly “let off steam once or twice in the past” he had not done so today. This response was felt by many from the campaign group, Covid Widows, to be making light of the deaths of their spouses, though bereaved widow Tlare Cweadie, who was in attendance in the public gallery said that he was clearly affected as “he kept trying to cover his face with his handkerchief or sleeve”.

The inquiry continues next week.



ARIES

This week the Ghost of Christmas Future comes to say that you won’t do any revision



TAURUS

This week the clothes in the washing machine have acquired squatters rights



GEMINI

This week the love of your life is not on Hinge



CANCER

This week you confuse politics and poultry when you try and stage a coop



LEO

This week no amount of Byredo will cover up that smell



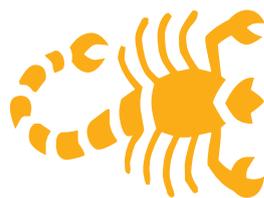
VIRGO

This week a bird strike delays your plane, further cementing your hatred of unions



LIBRA

This week following the success of Cop28, North Korea announces its plan to host the next Freedom conference



SCORPIO

This week give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to the Spaghetti man what is the Spaghetti man’s



SAGITTARIUS

This week a hat that doesn’t cover your ears will really tie your outfit together



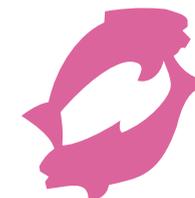
CAPRICORN

This week you give your rabbit athletes foot for luck



AQUARIUS

This week you get the cold shoulder from your girlfriend after comparing her to a snowman



PISCES

This week the only certain things are death, taxes and your flatmate failing to wash up his plate

PHOTOGRAPHY

Accidental Renaissance



All Hail the Photographer Hamza Al-Aqqad



The Hustle Dat Doan

Journey across the epochs: how photography and art go hand in hand.

Head Photographer ROLANDO CHARLES

Sometimes you stumble across a scene that might remind you of a painting. You ask yourself: who captured the diversity of life better than the masters of the Renaissance? You remember Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Sandro Botticelli, Albrecht Dürer, and Johannes Vermeer. Enter this week's theme: 'Accidental Renaissance'.

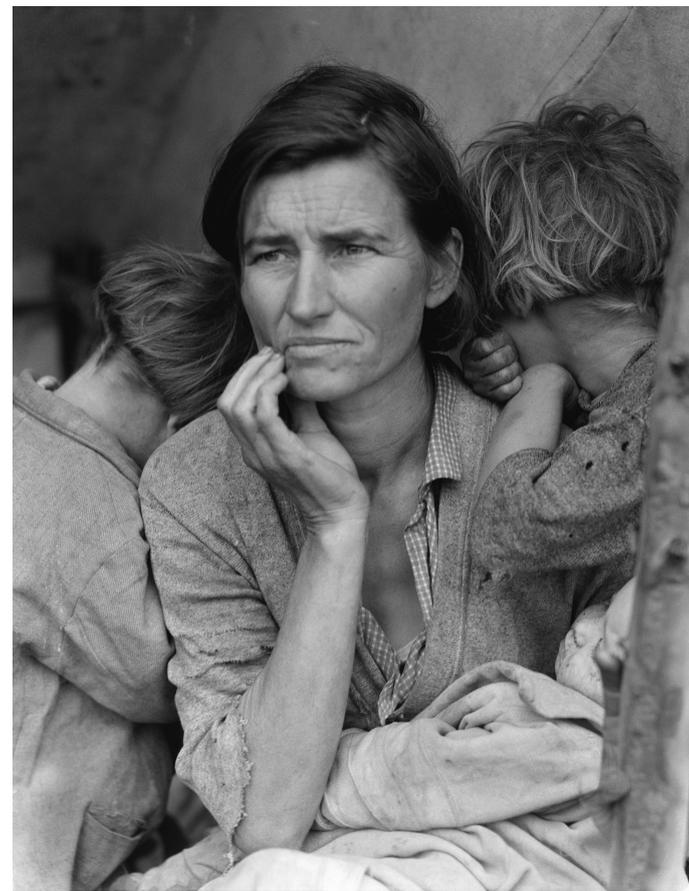
I'll admit, this was not a particularly easy one, so I present two student submissions, each evoking different aspects of the theme. The photo on the left, *All Hail the Photographer* by Hamza, shows attention to the subject, framed in a celebratory and dramatic way, reminiscent of Raphael's *The Deposition* (1507), also known as *Pala Baglioni*. On the right, Dat's photograph, *The*

Hustle, focuses on shadows and tonalities, bringing to mind the *Virgin of the Rocks* (Louvre version 1483–1486, London version 1495–1508) by Leonardo da Vinci. I recommend you search for these paintings online to see the similarities for yourself.

The last picture shown here, a portrait, was not taken by a student, but I provide this example as I feel it strongly resonates with the theme. *Migrant Mother* (1936) by Dorothea Lange is one of the most influential pictures of all time, and is symbolic of the Great Depression. The photo humbly shows how unchangeable circumstances can weigh on everyday people. Compare this to Renaissance paintings such as *Portrait of a Man (Self Portrait?)* (1433) by Jan van Eyck, which typically show a wealthy, posed, and poised subject, and you immediately see the difference in subject choice compared to Lange's.

What brings these two seemingly distant interpretations of portraiture together is the search for a realistic, human representation of reality. Both photo and painting strive to be a mirror of their time. Whether during the Renaissance in paint or during the 20th century through photography, each artist was a pioneer.

Scan the QR code
to submit for
the next theme
'Paranoia':



Migrant Mother Dorothea Lange

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

The Sophia +
PRIZE
For Environmental Writing



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

2023

2024

Q: Old books in, new book out? A: Student Space Bookshelf!

Sherfield Level 3 Student Space now hosts a bookshelf for communal book exchange, to be used by students to donate and find new stories to explore.

This summer I texted my friend Andreea – or as most people might know her – the Deputy President of Welfare at Imperial Union and went “Hey, I have an idea!” Six months later, the idea stood proudly in the newly renovated Student Space in Sherfield Level 3.

A new bookshelf stands to represent the community that Imperial could be. Students are encouraged to donate old

books that are gathering dust in their homes to the bookshelf, before taking a look at the other books and taking a book that fancies their interest.

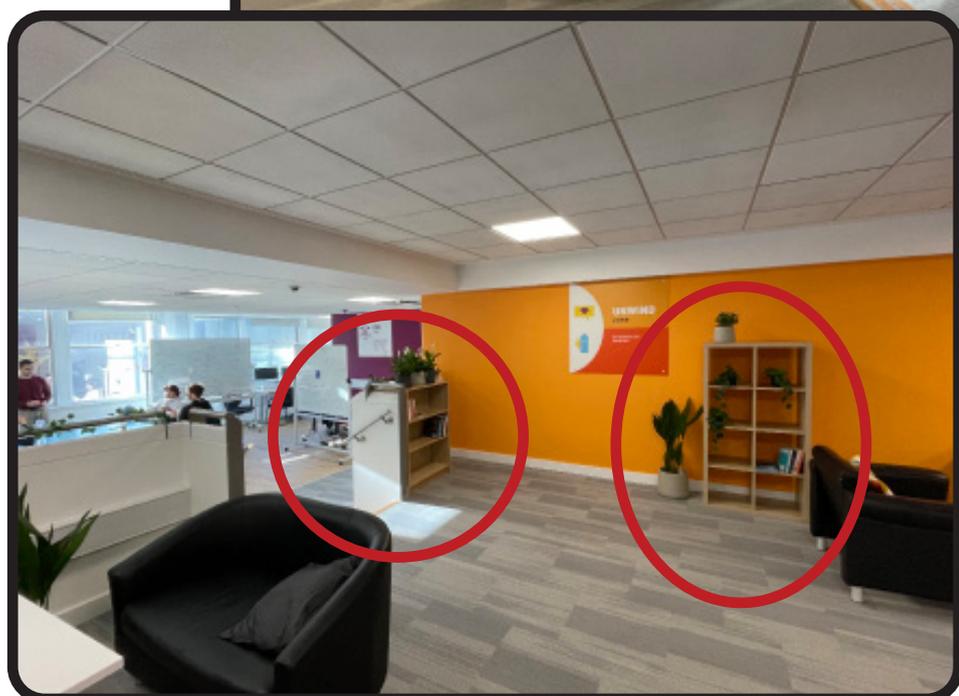
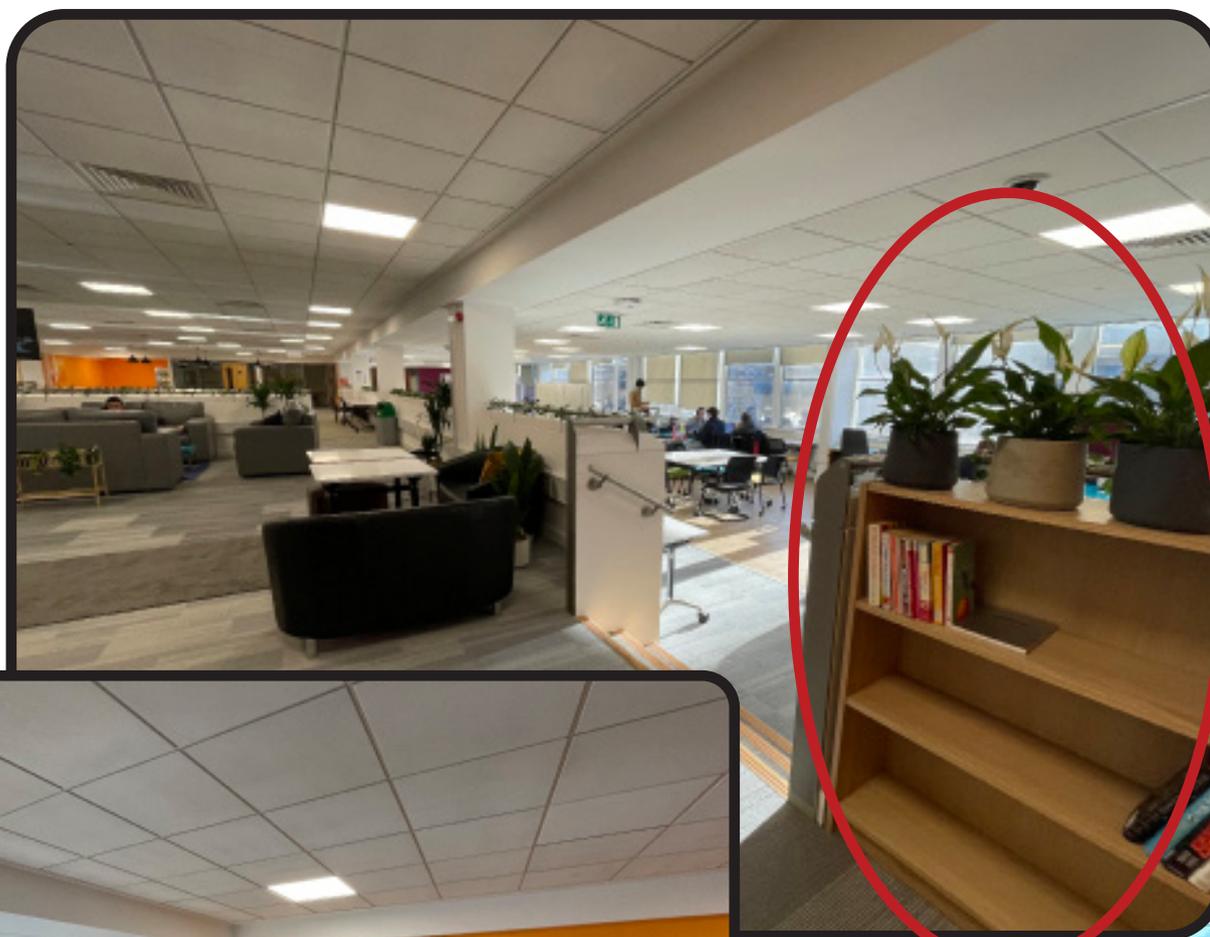
Of course, the first concern was: “What if someone takes all the books?” to which I responded that if someone was strong enough to carry a whole bookcase of novels in one sitting without anyone noticing, then I would like to interview

them for the Sports section of the *Felix* newspaper. But they made a good point; there could be malicious intent. To that, I ask that everyone participating in this book-sharing scheme, be kind to others and to share the love of the books. The books are there to be taken and perhaps kept forever, as the point of the bookshelf is to find homes, instead of trash cans for books that the previous owners did not

want to provide. Sound familiar?

Books and their stories are treasures that many of us take for granted. A good book can feel as intimate as a diary and as groundbreaking as a news story. So let’s take this opportunity of finding new homes for the stories we love.

Many thanks to Andreea for letting my dream come true.



SOCIETIES



ICSM Fashion Show 2023 Luca Fenocchi

Powerful, sustainable and sexy: The Imperial

Before the awaited ICSM Raising and Giving (RAG) Fashion Show kicks off in February 2024, *Felix* interviewed its two organisers, Kat and Chloe, to learn more about the fashion show.

Societies Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

In the vibrant world of fashion, where creativity and expression converge, the Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) Charity Fashion Show stands as a beacon of innovation and empowerment. The key figures spearheading this annual extravaganza are Chloe Tan and Kat J Webb. They unveil the dynamics and ethos of this captivating event.

At its core, the ICSM Charity Fashion Show is not just a showcase of style; it's a philanthropic endeavour. Chloe, passionately dedicated to this cause, emphasises the show's charitable essence: funds raised from ticket sales support Imperial Health Charity, Maggie's Centres, and the Miracles Charity. The event brings together small business designers and student models, showcasing diverse categories of walks, creating stunning choreographed routines that transcend conventional boundaries.

The event is the culmination of meticulous planning

and evolution. Chloe and Kat are currently engrossed in model selection, with auditions recently concluded for the upcoming show slated for February 27th. Over six months of dedicated effort starting in August, the duo, along with a passionate committee, navigate changes in designers, themes, and choreography, all according to the auditions' diversity. Models can expect to soon learn of their allocated walks: from lingerie to athleisure; from suits to streetwear to swim.

Crucial to the event is the selection of charities, overseen by the ICSM RAG Chair. Charities apply to be part



ICSM Fashion Show 2023 Luca Fenocchi



College School of Medicine Fashion Show

of the fashion show, a testament to the event's impact, having raised around £8,300 in the past. The planning process is extensive, involving various stakeholders, with designers finalising their collections well in advance.

The fashion show's venue, hosted last year at Clapham Grand, draws a full house of roughly 600 attendees, highlighting its popularity. Chloe recalls her experiences walking the show for two consecutive years, describing it as "amazing".

For Kat, it's an opportunity to witness friends showcase a different side while fostering a vibrant community spirit. Beyond the glamour and style, the fashion show acts as a catalyst for personal growth. Participants discover newfound self-confidence, break free from conventional moulds, and explore their creativity. Chloe emphasises how the show helped her find her unique voice within the rigid confines of ICSM, while Kat high-

lights the supportive environment that nurtures confidence in every participant.

The upcoming show's theme focuses on sustainability and recycling trends, a departure from previous editions centered on identity. One can expect to see garters and slip dresses from the 1950s, suits from the 1990s, and 21st century casual wear. Embracing the ideals of anti-fast fashion, this year's show aims to revive beauty from the past, incorporating sustainable practices, up-cycled materials such as fishnets from the oceans, and handmade pieces from smaller-scale designers, as well as inviting Imperial students with their own established or non-established fashion brands to lend their pieces for the show.

Anticipation grows as the event approaches, especially surrounding the afterparty, promising three hours of revelry and a chance for models to mingle with the crowd. With tickets ranging from £15 to £18, the organis-

ers strive to make it student-friendly amid the increased cost of living.

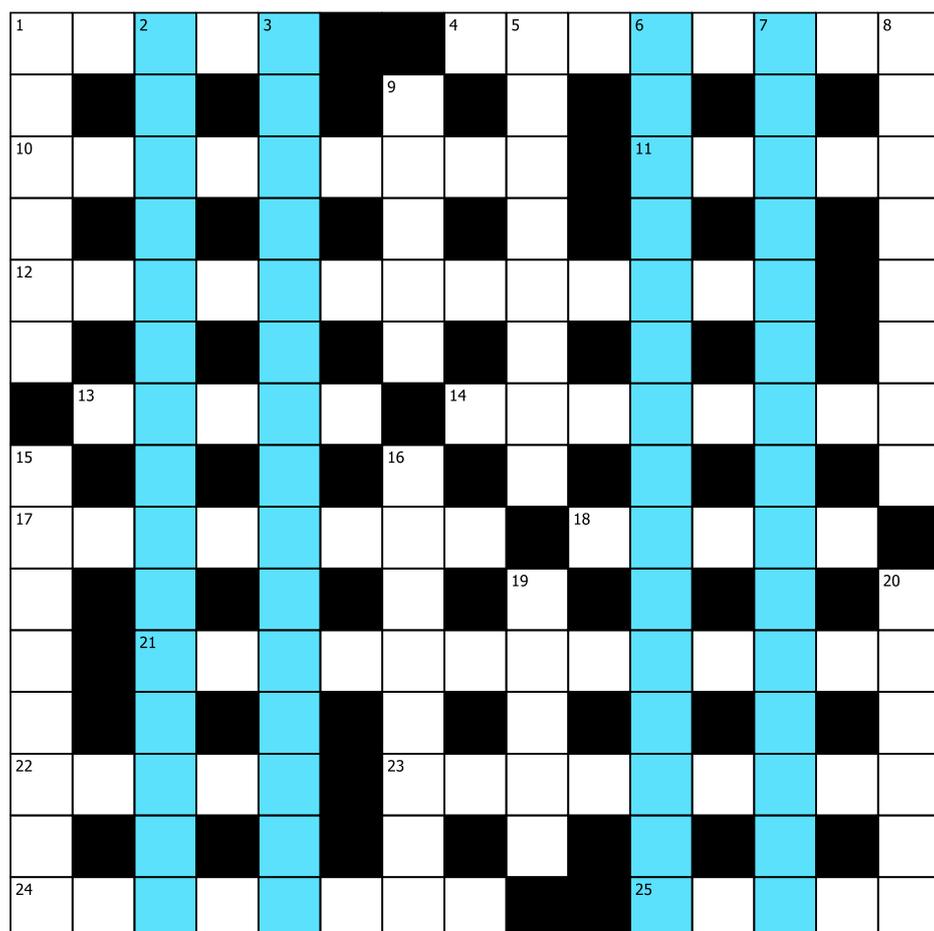
As Chloe and Kat prepare for the upcoming event, their dedication and vision embody the spirit of this empowering fashion extravaganza. For those involved, it's more than just a runway – it's a platform for self-expression, empowerment, and community celebration.

When asked for a final statement, Kat and Chloe spoke about how most people fear the expectations associated with being a model: to look a certain way, to be a dancer, and so forth. However, that is not the case with this show. It is run by students, for students. It encourages models to be themselves. Kat and Chloe hope that by having more students, not only medics, attend this year, they can inspire them to audition the following year and take part in this transformation.

Follow @icsmsufashionshow on Instagram to keep up with the show's latest news.



CROSSWORD



Crossword by Stanley Scott

Across

1. Pirate's companion, perhaps. [5]
4. Where you're forced to stop or U-turn. [3-2-3]
10. On the TfL map, the Barking to Richmond's Gospel Oak. [9]
11. Downturn. [5]
12. It's often found to the right of the arrow keys. [7 6]
13. Put one's hat in the ring for an election. [5]
14. Like a certain unicellular organism. [8]
17. Of tissue, dying. [8]
18. Musical genre related to grime. [5]
21. Edward, but not Edwards, e.g. [9 4]
22. Shoulder muscle group, informally. [5]
23. Those playing 'Scotland the Brave', perhaps. [9]
24. Film genre including 'Don't Look Up'. [8]
25. Singer with hit single sharing its name with popular social media app. [5]

Down

1. Particles π^+ and K^0 , e.g. [6]
2. *What a rainbow fish plays on the piano? [9 6]
3. *Bioluminescent algae in the painting business? [15]
5. Never conceived of. [8]
6. *What a camouflaging octopus uses to write with? [12 3]
7. *Manta rays climbing the ranks in the military? [8 7]
8. Pulsating stars. [8]
9. Be a spokesperson. [5]
15. Released emotion. [8]
16. Inflaming a desire to lock lips. [8]
19. Word preceding '-drinking' or '-watching'. [5]
20. Type of traditional Japanese artist. [6]

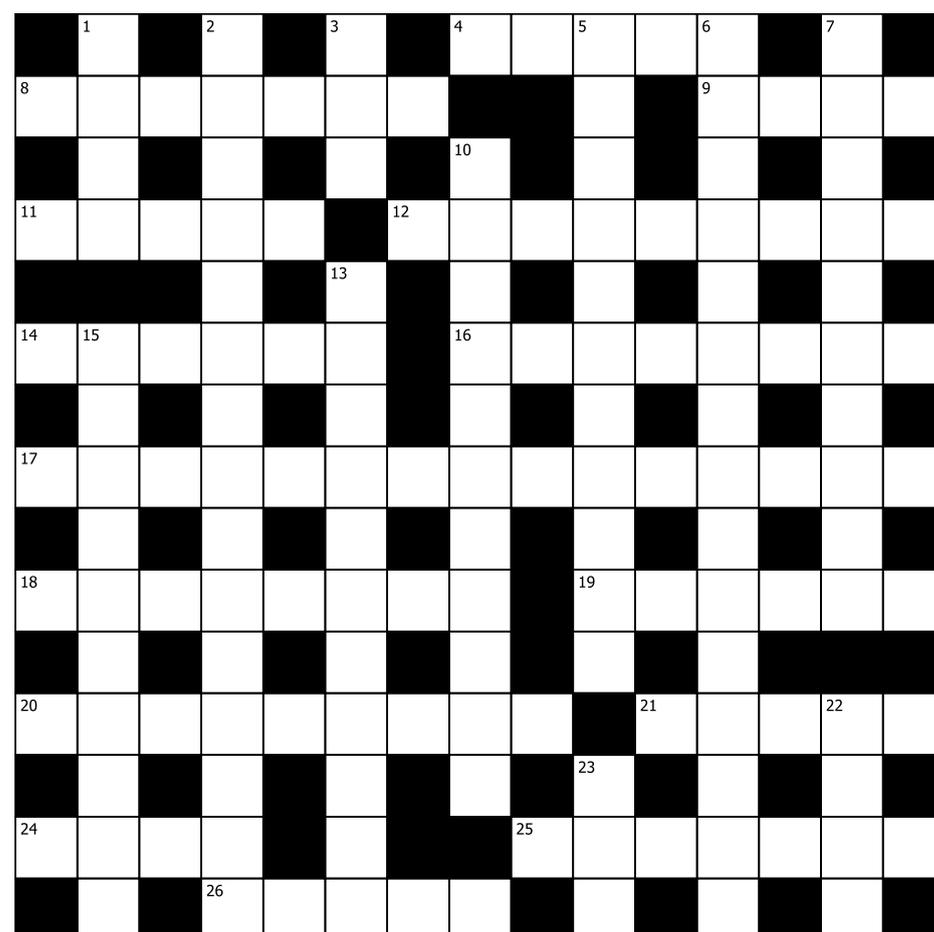
Across

4. Wrap halfway around her, have a change of heart, and turn around. [5]
8. In Ulster, lass finished first. [7]
9. Astonished during a wedding. [4]
11. Raced around the wood. [5]
12. Heartless destructions of trees when he does this? [9]
14. A fair hundred spread across the continent. [6]
16. Branching of understanding? [8]
17. Today in place: no going crazy with the arsenic! It leads to lose-lose scenarios. [2-3 10]
18. Rebel taxiing first aircraft leaving Illinois, screwing travellers. [8]
19. Being toothy, made disapproving sound when you got in. [6]
20. Reason for pushing back schedule: six with previous check-up. [9]
21. Street of renowned calm gutted in riot. [5]
24. Soon they're unknown. [4]
25. Magnetic resonance image warped to be more wobbly. [7]
26. Almost doubly sneaky? [5]

Down

1. Moral program. [4]
2. The Italian baritone has it out, making corrections. [15]
3. Boy receives major backing, cuts out more parts, produces hit. [3]
5. Libations made of ten tonics ain't bad! [11]
6. Bid to eliminate competitor magazine has a close deadline? [4 7 4]
7. Application of cash-out interwoven. [10]
10. Remainder of teaching arranged for repayment. [11]
13. In a damaging way, casually notice shell-shock. [11]
15. Local idiot and his objective? [4 6]
22. Sounds like authentic tape. [4]
23. Visceral reflection of the conflict. [3]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



Crossword by Stanley Scott