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Earth day: tougher climate laws?

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Metaverse: a new realm to rule?

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Strikes: should they be allowed?

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King Charles III's coronation: royalty in the modern world

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AI and the arts

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TOPICAL TALK FESTIVAL 2023

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# Topical Talk Festival 2023

## Highlights Magazine

The world's biggest news  
festival for young people



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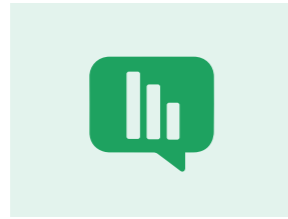
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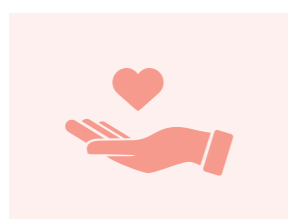
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**Student**

Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

*I have learnt a lot throughout this period, in which we have been having conversations on different topics. This gave me a platform to freely express myself. It has really helped me to build my confidence and also to learn from others' opinions. These conversations helped me to view things from other people's perspectives. I also learnt about the different problems that people face in their different societies. I really love Topical Talk because it helps people worldwide to engage in friendly conversations.*



**Teacher**

High Lawn Community Primary School

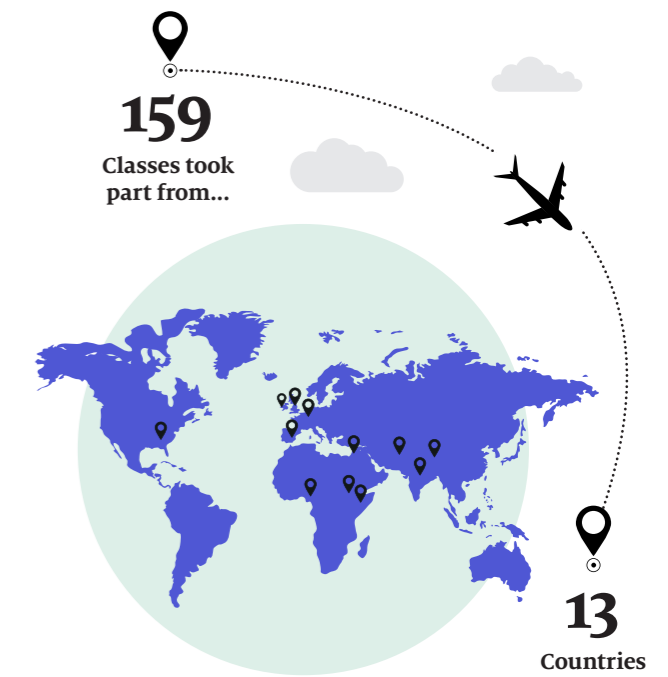
*"I enjoyed watching my pupils finding their own voices and being able to express their views. Even the quietest pupils joined in discussions and were able to contribute with valuable comments."*



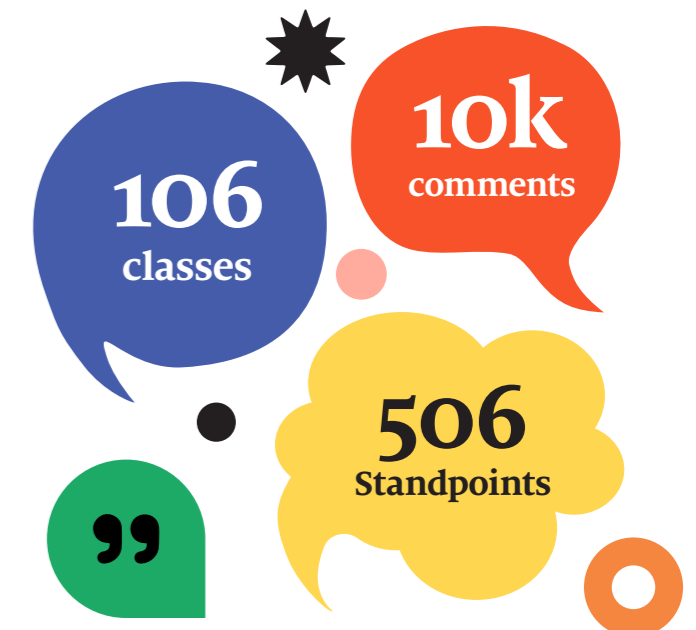
Between April 10th and May 26th 2023, students took part in a seven-week Topical Talk Festival – the biggest global current affairs festival for children.

This Topical Talk Festival Highlights magazine gives readers a taste of some of the fantastic discussions, ideas and work from across the Festival.

**How did it work?**



**Festival in numbers**



## TOPIC

## Earth Day: tougher climate laws?

The United Nations has described climate change as “the largest, most pervasive threat to the natural environment and societies that the world has ever experienced”. However, a lot of the power to protect the planet lies within people’s lifestyle choices. So where should the balance be between choice and tougher laws when it comes to curbing the “climate crisis”?



Students in classrooms across the world joined a live-lesson. [Watch it here](#) or scan the QR code.

## Students were given four hypothetical climate laws to discuss:



**Law 1:**  
People can only take ten flights in their lifetime.



**Law 2:**  
Everyone must become vegan (not eat or use any products that come from animals).



**Law 3:**  
Everyone can only use five hours of electricity per day.



**Law 4:**  
Cars can only be used for three days a week.

## supportive\_ladder

## Cheam Fields Primary Academy | United Kingdom

I think **Law one** should not be allowed as people might need to go abroad and they might have to work there so then they can’t make money for the items they need. People also might live in different places from their relatives like if someone lives in the UK and then their family might live in India and they should meet each other at least every year.

## witty\_tree

## St Louis Secondary School | Ireland

I think that if I were to choose a law I would go with **Law three** because I don’t think we need to use that much electricity. If it was a law, more people would be able to go out and have fun socialising with people, and young people wouldn’t be stuck to their phones in the future. It’s really good for us humans to use less electricity and it’s really good for the environment. The five hours of electricity could be used at night, since you would need the lights when it’s dark, so that’s when you should use them.

## wonderful\_fern

## Ormiston Bushfield Academy | United Kingdom

**Law two** is a very interesting idea, in my eyes it is very good. But it may seem like the opposite to many others. My whole life, I was raised to see that meat isn’t as essential as once believed. Although meat supplies us with vitality and can aid our body’s healing, we don’t need it. In fact there are many replacements to meat that do a similar job, such as: seeds, nuts, lentils, beans, the list could go on.

## cultured\_television

## Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

I think that **Law four** is flawed but the idea does have potential. I think a better version of this law is a day called “Hoy No Circula” in Mexico. This is a day in which on certain days of the week people can’t drive their cars. The days are chosen by the last number on your licence plate. This is a fair and fun way to keep air pollution down while making sure that citizens aren’t majorly affected by it. If **Law four** was tampered to be more like Hoy No Circula I would be fully for this law.

## Students and volunteers discussed their feelings about climate change.

## fairminded\_pomegranate

## Rex Mill Stem Middle School O | United States of America

I agree with more young people getting involved in the fight to limit climate change – they should be the new generation who changes the old way of thinking where some people still don’t believe we even have climate change. Educating others is such a great tool and as social media is a wonderful way to spread it, there should be more popular educational posts. I would love to see more celebrities also use their social media to spread the word about climate change and help a little more since others would listen to them. We should

all listen and do the right thing and stand up and actually do something about climate change rather than just talking about it. I am anxious about it, but I know we can stand up to this fight.

## Ollie @ KPMG

## Rex Mill Stem Middle School O | United States of America

I agree! some great points raised and you are not alone in the anxious feelings about how we can try to adapt to a changing world. I think it is important for the younger generations to increase awareness of climate change and the actions that everyone can take to reduce their impact on the planet. I think it is a great thing that you are educating yourself on climate change!



## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

## Earth Day: why we need stronger climate legislation.



## resourceful\_whale

## IB Arthur School A | Ghana

Earth Day is a rare time to honour our planet and its living forms while simultaneously confronting the major environmental concerns we face. The most serious is climate change, which is mainly caused by our overuse of fossil fuels. Climate change is impacting our world and its people in a variety of ways, including extreme weather, biodiversity loss, and human displacement. If we do nothing, it will only get worse. We need tougher climate legislation that limits emissions, supports clean energy and holds polluters accountable. This is the only way to protect our world and future generations from a climate calamity.

Climate change affects everyone on earth, but some individuals and regions are more vulnerable to its effects than others. People living on low-lying islands and coastal areas, for example, are in significant danger of losing their homes and livelihoods, as sea levels rise and storms become more frequent and intense. People in drylands and semi-arid regions face severe water scarcity, drought, and desertification, all of which jeopardise their food security and health. Poverty increases the risk of climate-change-related diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, and malnutrition, as well as a lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and health-care facilities.

Not everyone agrees on how to deal with the climate crisis. Some people ignore the scientific evidence of human-caused climate change and oppose any action that might interfere with their economic growth or lifestyle choices. Others advocate for a low-carbon, sustainable future that protects the rights of nature and future generations. I think that climate change is the most serious challenge facing humanity and the planet, and that we need to act urgently and decisively to prevent catastrophic consequences. Climate change is already affecting millions of lives in various ways. These impacts are not evenly distributed and often hit the poorest and most vulnerable people the hardest. Climate change is also threatening the stability of natural systems and the biodiversity that sustains life on Earth. We have the solutions to address climate change, such as shifting to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, reducing deforestation, promoting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing international cooperation. But we need political will and public backing to implement them at the scale and speed required. We cannot afford to delay or reject the truth about climate change. We must act now to defend our planet and our future.

**TOPIC****The metaverse: a new realm to rule?**

Experts from *The Economist* newspaper have predicted that 2023 will be “the year of the metaverse”. But as more people establish themselves in the virtual world, big questions are beginning to arise. Should people in the metaverse be held to the same standards as in the real world? What rules should there be? And most importantly, who should have the power to decide?

technology is useful, but I would not want to see a world completely overwhelmed by it.

**productive\_redcurrant****Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A | India**

The metaverse being good or bad depends on the people who are using it. I think that the people establishing the metaverse should also do work on educating society about the dangers of it. Technological advancements should not only involve fancy adaptations on metaverse platforms, they should also involve developing regulations. I think how government's have departments for checking food quality and giving it certain standards (like FSSAI approval in India) could be replicated for technology and metaverse platforms. Although there is already a department for ensuring cybersecurity, there are no approval procedures which are very strictly followed by metaverse creators. So maybe an approval seal (called something like SP or “Secured Platform”) could be created to assess and regulate metaverse platforms so that people could know which ones are safest to use.

**vibrant\_acorn****Usra Academy | Nigeria**

The metaverse is more useful than I thought because the metaverse can help you go to school when there is a rain storm or lock down or if you don't have enough money to pay your school fees and transport to the school. In normal school, you sit down in one class, whereas in the metaverse, you can be all over the world learning. It is like an online class that you can be inside (immersive) because in the metaverse you can walk around and even exercise. In a real school the teachers might make mistakes but in the metaverse there could even be computers or artificial intelligence running things so they have access to a wide range of accurate information.

Students discussed the latest news about the metaverse and whether they thought it was “marvellous” or “madness”.

**unbiased\_buffalo****Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria**

The metaverse will help take learning and discovery to a new level. People will be able to learn by doing and not just passively absorbing information; diving into new topics and experiences and deepening their knowledge through 3D immersion. As a gamer, the metaverse can also improve my gaming. The metaverse is inherently social, providing players like me with a social environment where I can build relationships with the elements around me. Multi-player gaming will take on an additional dimension as I can invite friends from the real world, interact with other players, and build relationships. Social media has often been blamed for the rise in loneliness and depression among teenagers. On the other hand, the metaverse has the potential to provide a safe and controlled environment for teenagers to interact with their peers and make new friends. All in all, I feel the metaverse will be marvellous.

**wonderful\_fern****Ormiston Bushfield Academy | United Kingdom**

I disagree and I believe that the metaverse is madness. Although it is exciting to consider how it will evolve, I don't believe that it will change the world for the better in any way. It's true that it will continue to advance – for example, by increasing things like online socialising and shopping. But is this really the best choice for the future? A whole world dependent on technology? I don't think so. We should be embracing our surroundings, talking to people face to face and feeling the thrill of trying on clothes in the changing room. Nothing beats real, face-to-face experiences. Overall, I think

Volunteers and students also discussed some of the safety measures that might have to be put in place in the metaverse.

**Alex @ KPMG**

As we're becoming more connected globally, it's great that we speak to more people from walks of life we couldn't previously. But this can also open up risks. So what kind of measures do you think we need to keep people safe in the metaverse?

**consistent\_hippopotamus****Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria**

We can ensure safety in the metaverse if we:

1. Identify all vulnerabilities that could exist
2. Develop terms and conditions for metaverse users and creators

3. Moderate organisations' additions to the metaverse
4. Create a solid metaverse security and privacy policy
5. Allocate funding to making the metaverse safe. For example, Facebook announced a USD 50 million fund called the XR Programs and Research Fund to help develop the metaverse responsibly

**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****The rise of the metaverse: a new frontier for human interaction****quiet\_swan****Beit Hanoun Prep Girls A School | Palestine**

The concept of the metaverse, a virtual reality space where users can interact with a computer-generated environment and other users in real-time, has gained significant attention in recent years. With advancements in technology and the increasing integration of virtual and augmented reality, the metaverse holds the promise of transforming the way we connect, work, and experience the world around us. Proponents of the metaverse envision a future where individuals can transcend physical boundaries and engage in immersive digital experiences. They believe it has the potential to revolutionise industries such as entertainment, education, commerce, and social interactions. In the metaverse, people can explore fantastical realms, attend virtual conferences, collaborate on projects, and build meaningful connections, all from the comfort of their own homes.

By creating a digital realm that transcends traditional limitations, the metaverse offers opportunities for inclusivity and accessibility. It has the potential to bring people from different parts of the world together, irrespective of their physical abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, or geographic locations. The metaverse can be a platform for innovation and creativity, empowering individuals to shape their own digital identities and express themselves in ways previously unimaginable.

However, there are concerns and challenges associated with the metaverse. Privacy and security issues arise as users navigate a virtual landscape where personal information may be vulnerable to exploitation. Additionally, there are questions about the potential for addiction, detachment from reality, and the impact on real-world social interactions.

How do you envision the metaverse shaping our lives in the future? What are the potential benefits and drawbacks you foresee? How can we address the challenges associated with privacy, security, and maintaining a healthy balance between virtual and physical realities.



Students discussed the impact of strikes and debated whether or not people in every industry should be allowed to strike.

**conscientious\_mood**

Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria

When your employer does not listen to your terms and conditions of employment then you can go on strike – however employees going on strike disadvantages us because there will not be anyone to attend to our needs. For example, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in my area went on strike for eight months (February 2023 to October 2023) due to the government's failure to meet their demands and as a result of the strike students were not able to go to school. Striking is good for the employees to get their conditions met but is also a disadvantage to the people.

**devoted\_ukulele**

Ormiston Bushfield Academy | United Kingdom

Personally, I agree that striking is a double-edged sword as employed people can fight for what they think is right (for example, better pay, better work conditions and hours) but on the other hand teacher strikes are bad for the education of children. The people in England are missing countless school days and we have to keep stopping our work. I get why the adults are striking, as they are actually trying to get what they want, but they shouldn't have to do this. The government should give more support to schools, hospitals and other workers in the UK. Some people would struggle to strike, for example farmers, because they can't strike because they work for themselves and provide food for the UK. I think they are making nowhere near enough money for what they do.



**TOPIC**

## Strikes: should they be allowed?

What do teachers, doctors, airport staff and postal workers have in common? Strikes. And when people 'down' tools, it can cause big problems. So why are so many people around the world choosing to stop working in 2023? What different perspectives are there on the issue? And above all, should everyone be allowed to strike?

**dedicated\_orchard**

IES Al-Qázeres | Spain

I agree what you said about farmers. Nowadays corporations basically control what we eat as they seem to control the farms. Plus farmers usually get a marginal pay for their products. Milk has recently been selling for much more compared to how much it costs to produce and then the farmers get basically nothing. Same thing goes for the vegetables, fruit and the meat that we eat. I've seen strikes from farmers in France and also in Extremadura where I live, where the agriculture sector is booming. The farmers are getting paid marginal payments.

**powerful\_shrimp**

New Khan-Younis Prep. Girls School A | Palestine

Within healthcare, I understand that some doctors may not like the amount of their salary, but for me and for some people, medicine is a humanitarian profession before it is for money. If they strike, how do they treat patients? Or do everything they can to save people's lives? I do, however, think they have the right to high salaries because they work hard to treat people and save lives.

**remarkable\_wasp**

Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A | India

While I understand the frustrations that doctors and teachers may face, especially when their concerns are not being addressed, I believe that strikes can be disruptive to the services they provide. It's essential that doctors and teachers find alternative forms of protest that do not impact their patients or students negatively. In this digital age, the internet provides an excellent platform for people to voice their concerns and seek support. Online protests have the potential to reach a larger audience and create a movement for change. Moreover, they are not as disruptive as physical strikes and do not interfere with essential services.

Volunteers asked questions to get the students thinking.

**Harjeet @ KPMG**

Strikes most definitely cause hindrances to everyday life, especially when it is doctors, teachers and postal workers. However, given the importance of their jobs, do you think this is an effective way to make their governments and decision-makers listen to them?

**quiet\_mode**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

Yes, I personally believe everyone should be able to strike, no matter what. One might argue that striking could stop things from getting done, but that is the point. The literal meaning of "strike" is "a refusal to work organised by a body of employees as a form of protest, typically in an attempt to gain a concession or concessions from their employer". Going on strike is MEANT to cause a disruption, to show the importance of that service or work and why they deserve to be treated well and to get their fair share.

## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

### Strikes: the decision for vital workers



**reliable\_song**

Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria

In our world today, We have different organisations, companies, and ministries that have been established for different purposes and reasons. These organisations consist of different sets of people ranging from postal workers to police officers, to bankers and so many more of them found in our society today. These individuals have different duties and responsibilities in the society and if carried out accurately and properly it will aid in the development and growth of the society or even the country at large. It is also important to note that the services provided by some of these workers or organisations are essential and important in our daily lives because they serve as protection, health or even act as a means by which the lives and properties of citizens in the country are rescued.

Examples of very important and vital workers or organisations are the police officers, jail guards, emergency services, hospital workers etc. These are very important posts and duties that are to be active and discharged effectively to ensure the comfort and safety of other people.

So therefore if these organisations and workers are not present and active in the society it can lead to different complications and drawbacks due to the fact that these workers are going on strike. If they are not present in the society they will cause very complex situations for others and also endanger their lives. Take for instance, there is an arm robbery incident taking place in a bank, resident or in an organisation if the set police officers incharge of keeping the society safe go on strike what would be the next question, who would be blamed if someone is killed and the entire funding of that organisation is taken away, I think this question that would be asked if all this dreadful situation occurs can be avoided by bringing about a solution to solve this issues.

So Therefore, my point here is fair and clear, I support the fact that the federal government who are incharge of making sure that the working condition of this important workers in the society are properly managed, should be relieved of that job and it should be given to another organisation, this is because the government may not be able to take care of the working conditions of those important workers in the society due to the fact that they may have many issues and matters to solve on hand and they may not be able to look into that aspect. I believe that another organisation would be able to handle this issue without any problem or issue and therefore our society and nation at large would be great.



## FESTIVAL Experts

Over the course of the Festival, topic experts answered questions from students to help them develop their thinking.



### EXPERT Matthew Ball



Matthew Ball is a CEO, author and entrepreneur. Matthew's first book, *The Metaverse*, was an international best-seller.



#### unconventional\_petal asked Mathew:

Why is the metaverse generating so much excitement?



#### wise\_shrimp asked Mathew:

What positive and negative impact will the metaverse have on socialising?



#### trustworthy\_currency asked Mathew:

Do you expect the metaverse to spread widely, and what will its impact be on humans in the future? Also, how will it affect us as students?



#### diplomatic\_river asked Mathew:

In today's society people are misusing social media platforms. In that case, how can we make sure the metaverse is a safe place if anyone could access it?



#### skillful\_jackfruit asked Mathew:

What is the biggest problem you face in your field? And what's the best decision you ever made in your job?



### EXPERT Clover Hogan



Clover Hogan is a 23-year-old climate activist and the founding Executive Director of Force of Nature.



#### quiet\_swan asked Clover:

What inspired you to become a climate activist, and what do you think are the most effective ways to engage and mobilise young people on this issue?



#### remarkable\_wasp asked Clover:

What role do you see businesses playing in the transition to a more sustainable and equitable future, and how can we encourage more companies to prioritise sustainability?



#### enigmatic\_salak asked Clover:

How can I create awareness about climate change in my community, when they know and understand so little about it?



#### flowing\_chocolate asked Clover:

What role does education and awareness-raising play in promoting sustainability?



#### grateful\_clam asked Clover:

Why do people care more about economical issues than environmental issues?



### EXPERT Tina Brown



Tina is an award-winning journalist, editor, and author. She has been editor-in-chief of *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The New Yorker*. She was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen Elizabeth II for her services to journalism in 2000.



#### quiet\_mode asked Tina:

What is the most difficult thing you have faced in journalism?



#### quiet\_swan asked Tina:

In 2008, you launched *The Daily Beast*, which won numerous awards and was seen as a pioneer in digital journalism. What inspired you to start this venture and what do you think were the keys to its success?



#### grateful\_apricot asked Tina:

What motivated you to become a student at Harvard? And after you studied there, what made you want to come and work at *The Economist*?



#### accurate\_atom asked Tina:

What routine do you have that helps you keep to a schedule for your work?



#### crafty\_insect asked Tina:

You work as an author, an editor and finally a journalist. Which of these jobs is the most interesting, the most difficult and the most daring and why?



### EXPERT Ben Mango



Ben Mango is a member of Extinction Rebellion (XR) and also a Quaker.



#### eager\_atmosphere asked Ben:

What motivated you to join the Extinction Rebellion?



#### amazing\_horse asked Ben:

How do you get people who don't care about the climate crisis to change their mind?



#### flowing\_chocolate asked Ben:

What problems did you face on your career path and how did you stay focused when these times came? Secondly, how has technology changed over time in your current job?



#### harmonious\_river asked Ben:

How do you convince big industries to stop pollution and be more sustainable?



#### grateful\_conversation asked Ben:

How do you think I can raise awareness about the climate crisis and its wider connection with other issues, such as social and racial inequality as a young person?



**EXPERT****Dr Rachel Clarke**

Dr Rachel Clarke is palliative care doctor for the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK. She is also an author and a former television journalist.

**eloquent\_orchard**

asked Rachel:

Who or what inspired you to become a doctor?

**marvellous\_fig**

asked Rachel:

What do you think is the best way to get others to listen to your opinion if they don't agree with it?

**honorable\_city**

asked Rachel:

You've worked as a journalist before and now you're a doctor, right? Both professions have their pros and cons but which of them is more risky? And if you went back in time, would you stick to being a doctor or return to being a journalist? Or something else?

**adaptable\_thought**

asked Rachel:

What can the government do to truly combat strikes around the world and make it a thing of the past?

**nice\_goji**

asked Rachel:

What are some common misconceptions about doctors that you would like to dispel? For example, around strikes?

**EXPERT****Joe Burton**

Joe Burton is head of mentoring at Arts Emergency – a social justice charity that helps young people aged 16 to 26 without connections, flourish in further education and navigate their way into creative and cultural careers.

Joe Burton set a nepotism challenge for students to discuss. He asked: is nepotism ever OK?

**meticulous\_dolphin**

asked Joe:

In my opinion, nepotism is not acceptable because it is based on choosing someone for a reason other than merit. It is basically a form of favouritism.?

**accurate\_atom**

asked Joe:

There is a major difference between nepotism and just helping someone as a mere act of kindness. Nepotism is when you favour a person due to their ancestors or other reasons which can vary. Helping someone is to make something easier for someone else to do by providing additional resources or services. Some may tend to misinterpret these two words and go over the border or boundary of what is classified as nepotism or a favour.

**witty\_elephant**

asked Joe:

I think that nepotism should not be used if the person who is given a professional advantage is not worthy of the work or will not be able to do it to the fullest. But if family members help someone to get to work and this person is trustworthy, then I think that it is OK.

Students discussed how they were inspired by the experts.

**amicable\_duck**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

I was inspired by Tina and her fascination for stories and news. I loved how she couldn't find a way to get the stories she wanted out there, so she decided to do it herself. I learned how stories and news are a way to go around the world and gain opinions and decisions about various topics. people think that the metaverse would be an unsafe environment but he showed how it can be modified to make it safer.

**kind\_pie**

Usra Academy | Nigeria

Ben has made me think differently because sometimes you feel that, whatever you do, you can't change other people's minds about some things. But Ben has encouraged me not give up – so now I believe no matter what your opinion is about something, it can be changed

Students reflected upon how they benefitted from our experts' knowledge.

**strong\_thought**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

I learned the most from the expert Matthew Ball the most. This is because he explained many different and important aspects of the metaverse. For example, how there is an ability to just take everything from the world we live in now and bring it into the metaverse. Also how the metaverse is different from the internet and how it can change things for the better. Many people think that the metaverse would be an unsafe environment but he showed how it can be modified to make it safer.

**charming\_lime**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

The expert that I learned the most from was Clover Hogan. She taught me that even small things can make a difference. I can also talk to people in my community to help make a difference. The things I can do to stop the spread of climate change are just little things I can do in my daily life. Starting a group with people in my community to talk about issues will motivate other people to help make a change as well.

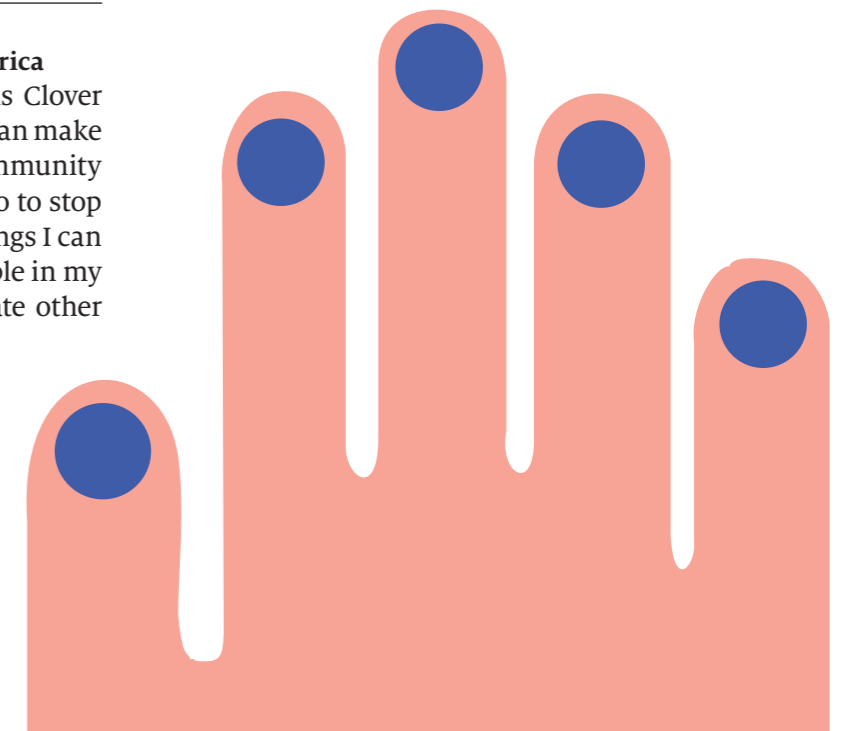


### Expert webinar advice:

Students across the world joined Matthew Ball, Clover Hogan and Tina Brown in an exclusive webinar to get expert advice on how to create a successful Standpoint.



Scan the QR code or [watch it here.](#)





## TOPIC

## King Charles III's coronation: royalty in the modern world

In May 2023, the front-page news in the UK shared scenes from the coronation of the king and the queen. The news of the new king reignited old discussions about the role of royalty. So what do global royals do? And is there a place for royals in the modern world?

### Students discussed whether or not the role of royals is still relevant.

**alert\_squid**

Àlímòsò Senior Grammar School A | Nigeria

Royals are relevant, depending on the type of monarchy they rule. If it is an absolute monarchy, he or she is not relevant because I think nobody in this modern world will accept this kind of dictatorship. So an absolute monarchy is not relevant in this modern world. But if it is a constitutional monarchy, practised in the United Kingdom, the monarch is relevant because they have limited power over the people. For example when Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom died everybody in the world – not only the United Kingdom – knew that she had died. This is because she was a relevant monarch who ruled under a constitutional monarchy.

**flowing\_lime**

Makini Schools Kisumu | Kenya

I think that the monarchy should stay for ceremonial purposes. The political space should be untouched to allow for new development ideas – for example, for the King and Queen, their first born child should be the next King or Queen. But the political space (a free government) gives room for diversity in leadership, management skills and flexible governance through democratic participation of the majority of the people.

**succinct\_peach**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

I disagree, I do not think that there is a role for royalty in the modern world. I think this because the role of royalty shows that some people are superior to others. This does not show equality and fairness, which can cause many people to be angered or frustrated with royals. I am very interested in news about royalty. I am extremely interested in the opinions that others have on royals and the role of royalty in the world. People who might disagree with my opinion about the role of royals may include people who believe in the tradition or value the history of royalty.

**broadminded\_beetle**

Wykham Park Academy D | United Kingdom

I believe that there is not a place for royals in the modern world. This is because they do not supply our country with any political power, they influence instead, in newspapers, on the news and just about wherever you look on the internet. Even with the amount of influence they have, I don't think they use it to the greatest advantage. In the past, we have seen controversial actions from royals. This is why I do not think we need the royal family.

**benevolent\_mode**

IES Al-Qázeres | Spain

Young people are definitely political. In our country, India, students actively take part in politics. Young people have led numerous revolutions and mass movements in our country. I believe India's freedom would not have been possible without the active involvement of young people. Young people are adaptable to change. They have ideas and a free mind. Hence they obviously should involve themselves in politics. In democratic countries, a massive chunk of voters are young people. Young people are free thinkers. Although inexperienced, young people have fresh ideas and modern and rational thinking.

**Fergal @ The Economist**

Are there any potential issues you see with giving royals power?

**calm\_juniper**

Meridian High School A | United Kingdom

There are complications in giving the royals more power such as the possibility they let more power get to their heads. I am glad because the Magna Carta stops the royals getting too much power as it was signed by King John in the 1600's. This is an amazing fact as people might get scared of the royals and they are supposed to be a symbol of peace and traditional symbolism in the UK.

## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

## Royalty in the modern world


**outgoing\_seed**

St Louis Secondary School | Ireland

The topic I chose for my Standpoint is royals, and do they have a place in the modern world. I think this is a relevant topic because of King Charles's recent coronation and I would like to share my views on the topic and let my opinion be known. This topic is important to me because of Ireland's history with England, and the dislike many Irish citizens feel for the English due to the plantations and the troubles. In spite of this I remain unbiased in my opinion, and would like to solely focus on the royals and not their ancestors. Personally I don't think there is a need for royals in the modern world, I think having a Royal Family can affect the people of the country more negatively than it does positively, for example those who don't have a royal family don't have to pay for a £100 million coronation ceremony out of their taxes when they're near a recession, the whole coronation was paid for by the public and yet they still have to wait in the lashing rain to even get a glimpse of their king.

We can also rest assured our rulers are fully qualified and have worked very hard to get to their post, whereas in Britain your king or queen is simply born and you expect it – what training do these royals do and what qualifies them to rule a country? It is well known that once the current monarch dies the next in line takes the throne but surely this cannot work? For example Edward VI was crowned at nine-years-old and other monarchs have been crowned younger. These are of course all negatives to the royal family, but others take so much pride knowing they have a monarch and they say it brings a sense of community. Some people might even say it is an escape from the state of their government. But using this logic, a monarch really only has symbolic significance.

I personally don't think monarchies are worth it for pride or community. Having one person at the top of the country's political, military and religious institutions can't be good, not only for the country but for the monarch themselves. To conclude, monarchs are unnecessary in a modern world as, in many cases, the government helps a country's progress and makes the main decisions. So a country should be able to run smoothly without a royal – so, besides symbolic power, the monarchy really has no place.

## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

## The monarchy in the modern world


**quiet\_forest**

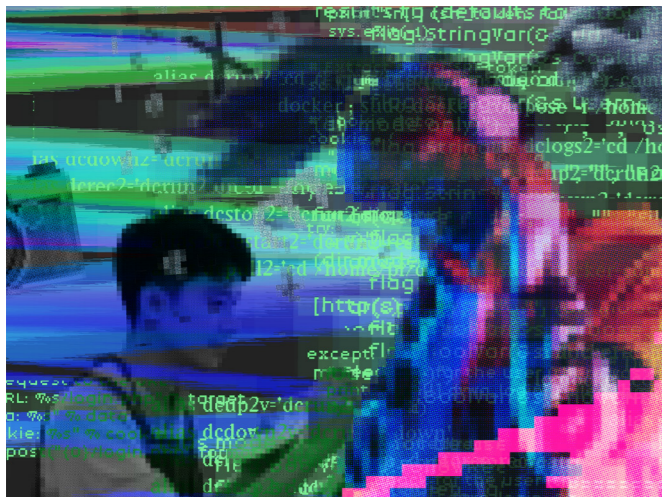
Bomas Academy | Nigeria



Scan the QR Code to listen to this Standpoint or [follow this link](#).







## TOPIC

### AI and the arts

Around the world, there is an exciting buzz about an important topic: Artificial Intelligence (AI). And big questions have been raised about the impact it is having on the arts. For example, is someone who uses AI to create something an artist? Will AI make human artists more or less important? And should AI be allowed to produce images and music that's closely based on someone else's work?

Students discussed whether AI art should be classed as “inspired by” other artists or “stolen”.

#### trusting\_theory

Ormiston Bushfield Academy | United Kingdom

It is of utmost importance to show reverence for the intellectual property rights of artists and avoid duplication or reproduction of their creative works without prior consent. The act could potentially infringe upon an artist's rightful ownership and hard work that went into creating their unique art. Therefore, it is imperative always to seek permission and give proper credit where it's due in order to maintain fairness and respect within the creative industry. I would feel greatly privileged if a request was made to obtain my permission prior to reproducing any of my work. Such an opportunity would enable me to share my creations with a wider audience, resulting in an increased level of recognition and appreciation for my efforts. It is imperative to implement regulations that govern the utilisation of artificial intelligence. The laws should cover various aspects of AI, such as its development, deployment and use, to ensure that it is utilised in a responsible and ethical manner.

#### spirited\_gazelle

IB Arthur School A | Ghana

I agree because I feel it's essential to show reverence for the intelligent property requests of artists and avoid replicating or imitating their creative works without their agreement. I strongly believe replicating an artist's work without permission can potentially disregard a system of respectful consent and the hard work that went into creating a person's unique art. Therefore, seeking permission and giving proper recognition is essential to maintain justice and respect within creative markets. I also agree that being open about inspired works can result in increased recognition and appreciation for the original artist's work, which is essential for any artist to flourish.

#### cherished\_melon

Usra Academy | Nigeria

I do think AI should be able to copy other artists' styles because AI can help produce more artists that may someday change the world. If I was an artist, I would be honoured to get my art style put out through AI. Although I think that there should be some rules put on AI generated arts. For example: all arts created by AI can't be used to win awards.

#### Dilara @ Clifford Chance

Good way to look at this! Do you think there could be different award ceremonies for AI generated art only?

#### loved\_bell

Alkhansaa Prep Co Ed School B | Palestine

The criteria for such an award ceremony would need to be carefully considered. How would the judges assess the quality of AI-generated art compared to human-created art? Would there be different categories for different types of AI-generated art, such as music, visual art, or literature?

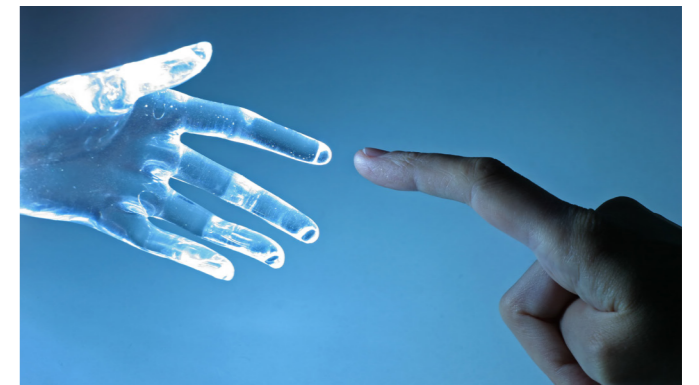
Another question that would need to be addressed is whether AI-generated art truly deserves its own award ceremony. After all, it could be argued that AI is simply a tool used by human creators to enhance their artistic vision, rather than being a creator in its own right.

#### considerate\_dragonfly

Rex Mill Stem Middle School G | United States of America

The ability of AI to copy other artists' styles is a complex issue that raises questions about creativity, originality, and intellectual property. On the one hand, AI can be trained to analyse and reproduce artistic styles, allowing for the creation of new works that are inspired by established artists. This could potentially lead to a democratisation of art, making it more accessible to a wider

audience. Furthermore, copying art through AI could potentially devalue the original work of the artist and undermine their ability to earn a living from their creations. It also raises questions about intellectual property and the implications of reproducing someone else's work without their permission. In the end, I think that no AI should copy anyone's art.



## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

### Will AI art destroy the art world?



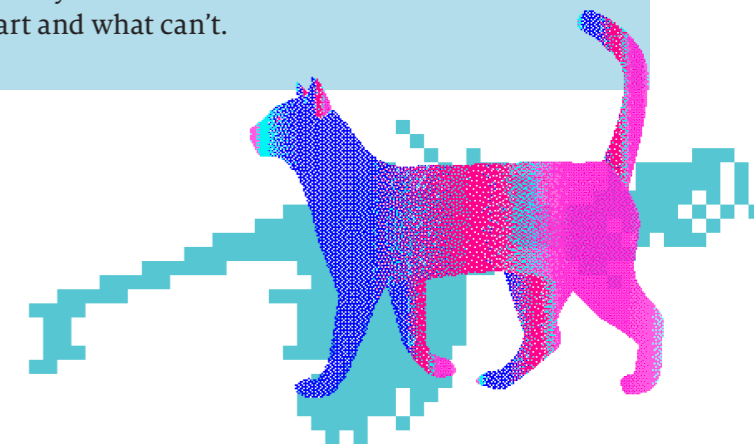
#### secure\_seahorse

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

AI is one of many wonderful new inventions from the developing world of technology. AI can create whole conversations in another language or create recipes. AI can even create art such as abstract pieces or even photographs. Art is something people all over the world know about. Art can evoke feelings or it can demonstrate an important moment in history. Art has a range of things it can do and this is why people love it so much. Whole museums are built to honour art and the artists. In my opinion, it's the artists that make the art feel real. By looking at an artist's art you can decipher what they were feeling at the moment they were creating it, even though you weren't there. People can have a connection towards art pieces because it can express what they are feeling without having to use words.

The question is: will AI affect the art world? AI or artificial intelligence uses big computer databases for problem solving. An early example of AI is something like Apple's “Siri” – but now it has become more developed. Now art pieces can be created using AI – however, will the emotional attachment towards art be the same? AI instructions are entered by a human but those humans don't put the same effort into art as traditional artists. AI is doing all of the work and the human only has to type in what they want. AI is also scanning and taking ideas from other art when it is creating new pieces so it is not exactly AI's art either. In my opinion, there can not really be that same emotional attachment if you know that the art was created by a computer instead of a human.

Most importantly, how will artists that work hard on art feel? Maybe that their art will become less appreciated because AI can make art so fast? While on social media I came across a situation where an artist's work was stolen and labelled as AI art when they had originally created the art piece. The person who created the art was frustrated that their art was stolen. This made me realise that AI is helpful and an extraordinary invention but there needs to be a balance between AI art and art that has been created by people. Without balance, the art world could become dysfunctional and divided because no one will know what exactly can be labelled as art and what can't.



**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****AI and the arts: a fusion of innovation and imagination****remarkable\_wasp**

Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A | India

I think the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the arts is a fascinating and important topic. I believe that AI can be a valuable tool for artistic expression, offering new avenues for creativity and exploration. When someone uses AI to create something, I think it is reasonable to consider them an artist. After all, art is not solely defined by the means of creation, but also by the impact it has on individuals and society.

While AI has the potential to generate impressive works of art, I believe that human artists will always hold a special place in the artistic realm. Human creativity is deeply rooted in emotions, experiences, and personal perspectives that are unique to each individual. No matter how advanced AI becomes, I don't think it can replicate the depth and complexity of human consciousness. Human artists bring their own interpretations, nuances, and craftsmanship to their work, which I believe is irreplaceable.

Considering the future, I hope that AI and human artists can coexist in a harmonious and collaborative manner. Rather than fearing AI as a threat, I believe we should embrace it as a powerful tool for artistic enhancement. AI can inspire and push boundaries, offering new techniques and possibilities for human artists to explore. I hope that AI's capabilities will be harnessed to augment human creativity rather than diminish its importance. Regarding the production of art closely based on someone else's work, I think there is a need for thoughtful consideration. While AI's ability to replicate styles is impressive, I believe it is essential to respect the originality and intellectual property of artists. Unauthorised replication could undermine the recognition and rewards that artists deserve. I hope that appropriate regulations and ethical guidelines will be put in place to ensure the fair and respectful use of AI in creating derivative works.

In conclusion, I think AI's impact on the arts is a dynamic and evolving landscape. It can be a powerful tool for artistic expression, but I believe that human artists will always bring a unique and irreplaceable perspective to the artistic realm. I want AI and human artists to collaborate and coexist, with AI enhancing human creativity rather than overshadowing it. With careful consideration of ethical issues, I believe we can navigate the future of AI and the arts in a way that respects and celebrates both human ingenuity and technological advancements.

**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****Artificial Intelligence****interesting\_penguin**Alqarara Prep Co-ed "A"  
Class A | Palestine

Scan the QR Code to listen to this Standpoint or [follow this link](#).

**TOPIC****Equality: is nepotism acceptable?**

Many people would be happy to admit they support their families – but is it possible to give family members too much help? Nepotism in the news is on the rise. And as the gap between the “haves” and “have nots” in the world widens, family privilege is becoming more noticeable. So should people be allowed to help their family members to succeed? When does support become nepotism? And are some situations more acceptable than others?

**Students shared their opinions about nepo-babies in the news.****jubilant\_wildcat****Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America**

Being a nepo-baby might give someone an unfair advantage because it would be easy for them to become famous because their parents are famous. They might also take a job from someone else that could use it. On the other hand, being a nepo-baby might also be a disadvantage because all eyes would be on them and maybe they don't want eyes on them all the time for the world to see what they are going to do next. I don't think people should have to make it clear if they are a nepo-baby. I personally wouldn't let people know, because then people might ask me who my parents are over and over, then eyes would be on me and my parents. I don't think nepo-babies have any responsibility for nepotism because it could be the parents that are controlling what they do.

**astounding\_meerkat****Ormiston Bushfield Academy | United Kingdom**

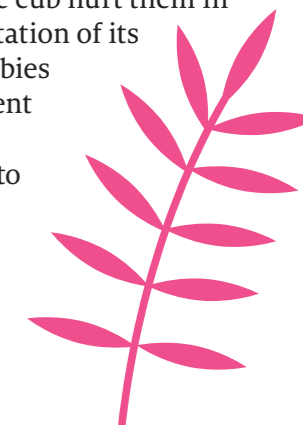
TI think being born under a famous name gives the child an unfair advantage. People would do anything to get on the good side of a famous person, and they'd give them special treatment and automatically give them a job even if they're not good. It'd give the company more popularity and give them more connections. Nepo-babies get unfair advantages all throughout their lives just because of their parents. Like many people have said in other comments, maybe applying for a job or college should be anonymous so the employers don't know who they are and can't do anything unfairly. Some people use their parents' fame to their advantage and use it for whenever they want something. Someone may not get the job they've been working hard for for years because someone else took it, just because of who their parents are. There should be more regulations for people to be equal.

**upbeat\_lute****IB Arthur School A | Ghana**

Being a nepo-baby might give someone an unfair advantage because they are able to use their parents' names to bring about good opportunities. Nepo-babies might also have an unfair disadvantage because the parents of nepo-babies are usually famous and if they decide to follow the line of work of their parents, the expectations of him or her are high. An example is the son of the Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi, Thiago Messi. Honestly speaking, if i were a nepo-baby, I wouldn't make it so obvious. But I do think that nepo-babies have a responsibility to acknowledge and address the privilege that they enjoy as a result of their family connections. They have to be mindful that the opportunities that they receive may not be available to others, who have the same qualifications, if not more.

**humorous\_personality****Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria**

I believe that maybe it is not the fault of the nepo-baby. Sometimes they might want to get a role or a job based on their own abilities and competence but people choose to give them the job because of their parents influence and popularity. Sometimes nepo-babies just want to get their job the right way but because of their parents, people just give them the jobs without even considering whether or not they are fit for it. For example if a lion cub wants to play with a herd of zebras, they will all run away not because the cub hurt them in any way but because of the reputation of its kind. Sometimes, some nepo-babies do not like all the unfair treatment they get. That is why sometimes they might choose to venture into something that their parents influence will not affect.



**balanced\_forest**

**New Khan-Younis Prep. Girls School A | Palestine**  
Nepotism can lead to a lack of trust and respect among coworkers, as well as a decrease in productivity and innovation. It could also cause resentment and frustration among those who feel that they are not being given equal opportunities. In addition, nepotism can result in unqualified or incompetent individuals being placed in positions of power or responsibility, which can negatively impact the success and effectiveness of an organisation. It can also lead to a perception of favouritism and undermine the credibility of leadership. Nepotism can also create conflicts of interest, as family members may prioritise their own interests over those of the company or organisation. This can lead to ethical violations, such as embezzlement or misuse of company resources. Additionally, nepotism can prevent the development of a merit-based culture, where individuals are promoted based on their skills, experience, and contributions to the organisation.

**Alice @ Clifford\_chance**

Would it be difficult for small businesses such as a family owned shop? Would it be difficult for other family members if there's only one large employer in town?

**flowing\_chocolate**

**Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A | India**  
Smaller businesses, especially those family owned or run mostly rely on family connections when hiring staff. So if they are prohibited from hiring friends or family, this could disrupt their established practices, and make them seek for alternative talents. Smaller businesses especially those in remote areas face challenges when it comes to hiring qualified candidates who are not connected to the family. They may not have access to a large talent pool and it makes it harder to attract talented employees. Family-owned businesses often have long-term goals of passing the business down to the next generation. So prohibiting the hiring of family members could complicate succession planning. To reduce the potential negative impact on smaller businesses, some steps can be taken like phased implementation, exemptions for specific circumstances, or alternative support mechanisms.

## STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT

### Nepotism in India

**assured\_instrument**

**Garden High School | India**

Nepotism, a perfidious practice that thrives on partiality, is a shadowy spectre that haunts the realms of business, politics, sports, entertainment, and beyond. It is a sinister dance of favouritism, where the deserving are forsaken in favour of kin, denying others a fair chance to rise. In the grand tapestry of this world, nepotism festers like a blight, leaving little room for merit to bloom.

This affliction, known to manifest in various corners of the globe, finds its dwelling in India's embrace, as if it were a cherished companion. As opined by the discerning Rahul Gandhi, nepotism has seeped into the very fabric of Indian culture, weaving itself into the collective consciousness. Like a deep-rooted tradition, it holds sway over the hearts of the powerful, urging them to bestow unwarranted patronage upon their own flesh and blood.

Within this distorted paradigm, qualifications and competence take a backseat, as the privileged few are handed positions of prestige with brazen disregard for true merit. Those beyond the inner circle, the outsiders, face a harsh reality of intolerance and exclusion. A tempest of disillusionment brews within the confines of organisations, as the hardworking staff bear the weight of injustice. Stress gnaws at their spirits, and dissatisfaction poisons their souls, fostering self-criticism, self-doubt, and a stifling stagnation.

In the realm of Indian politics, a realm that proudly bears the banner of democracy, nepotism has entrenched itself with tenacity. Rooted in the soil of a land where its

dominance is etched into the very essence of its citizens, this phenomenon finds sustenance in the ancient echoes of the Varna System. From time immemorial, the notion that only the progeny of priests can ascend to the sacred mantle has persisted, a paradigm that continues to permeate the collective consciousness even in the modern age. Illiteracy, like a shroud, cloaks the masses, their choices tainted by this age-old belief, as they unwittingly perpetuate a legacy of nepotism in their selection of political representatives.

While it is important to recognise the perils of nepotism, it would be remiss to disregard its potential benefits. In certain instances, nepotism, despite its negative connotations, can yield positive outcomes. Take, for instance, the scenario where a politician's offspring follows in their footsteps. While this may be readily dismissed as nepotism, it is possible that the familial ties provide a unique advantage. The upbringing within a politically astute environment, exposure to administrative intricacies, and an inherent understanding of the political landscape can equip the kin with an edge over those without such lineage. It is plausible that the interplay of genetics, environment, and a lineage steeped in political heritage can foster the development of a formidable and adept politician.

However, a darker consequence of nepotism lies in the burden it places upon the shoulders of those who bear the name but are just starting their journey. The weight of comparison to their more accomplished kin can be overwhelming, suffusing them with undue pressure. These newcomers, expected to carry the torch and uphold the legacy of their ancestors or relatives. Thus they find themselves under constant scrutiny and demanding expectations. This unrelenting comparison breeds stress and perturbation in the mind, potentially leading to discouragement and a loss of motivation.

Every individual possesses an inherent right to be granted an equitable opportunity, unencumbered by the chains of nepotism. The true measure of a nation's progress lies in its ability to nurture and empower individuals based on their capabilities alone. By shattering the shackles of familial privilege, we can usher in a new era where astute and accomplished leaders, untethered by their family lineage, ascend to the helm of our country.

For it is these visionary souls, unburdened by the trappings of nepotism, who possess the potential to propel our nation to unprecedented heights. With their intellect, wisdom, and integrity, they can chart a course towards a brighter future, steering us away from the abyss of corruption that threatens to consume our very essence.

Let us stand united, determined to break free from the clutches of nepotism, paving the way for a realm where talent reigns supreme and virtue is the compass that guides our leaders. In this crucible of transformation, where the deserving rise unfettered, we shall witness the dawn of a new era—an era where the true potential of our nation is unleashed, and where the collective aspirations of its people are nurtured and realised.



**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****Nepotism: a natural tendency****unbiased\_buffalo**

Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria

Nepotism can be found not only in workplaces and government, but also in social animals like wasps, bees, ants, termites and monkeys. In natural science, neo-Darwinian scholars agree that nepotism significantly affects the behaviour of social organisms.

A queen bee, for example, selects individual workers to stay inside or outside the queen's cell based on her preferential genotype.

For humans, nepotism also operates in any social classes and influences how people determine other socioeconomic rankings based on their preference on skin colours, looks and style.

Nepotism starts early. It begins with parents' favouritism towards their children. This kind of favouritism is embedded in the children's unconscious mind and will influence their future behaviour.

A study from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business and research firm Penn Schoen Berland showed the high prevalence of favouritism in workplaces. In interviews with 303 senior executives, researchers found that 84% confirmed that favouritism existed in their organisation.

Similar cases also happen in government bureaucracy where many people are selected based on personal validation instead of quality and qualification. As long as the selected individual fulfils the qualification, they consider nepotism an acceptable act.

Justifications for nepotism can influence how a country perceives it. In a developing country such as Ghana, nepotism is considered to be simply part of human nature. In a developed country such as Italy, nepotism does not appear until a person goes to higher education. During university enrolment, students from a powerful family in politics will get bigger chances to be supervised by an influential professor.

**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****The effects of nepotism****outstanding\_raspberry**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

Scan the QR Code to listen to this Standpoint or [follow this link](#).**STANDPOINT SPOTLIGHT****Nepotism is (mostly) OK****interesting\_horse**

Elite Scholars Academy | United States of America

Scan the QR Code to watch this Standpoint or [follow this link](#).**Weekly competitions and polls**

Students took part in polls and competitions throughout the Festival. One competition asked children to explain how they had changed their mind through discussions on the Festival Student Hub.

**blithesome\_pie**

Rhemaville Christian Academy | Nigeria

I used to think that in the modern day, royalty was not important but now my mindset has changed due to the topic "King Charles III's coronation: royalty in the modern world" and the incredible comments that were made by other Topical Talkers. Before, I used to think that royals were not competent enough to govern a country but now I think otherwise. I also thought royals were just proud and arrogant people but now I think otherwise. Through this topic I realised that royals or rather the monarchy can in some cases reduce some level of political divide in a country. Most monarchies rule from a centrist approach which promotes equality. I also realised that monarchies are more competent than some political leaders because they are trained to become leaders from birth

**great\_coyote**

Rex Mill Stem Middle School J | United States of America

I used to think that AI wasn't such a big deal and that AI was another way to produce art. However, after learning more about what AI can do, I see that AI art might change the world by getting rid of artists. Since AI can just generate art in less than 5 seconds, real artists won't get profit for their work because AI supporters can just type the description of what they want. For example, the book "Alice and Sparkle" by Ammaar Reshi, was a book that was made by "ChatGPT". Using ChatGPT, Reshi was able to make a profit off of something he didn't take any real time to do. So many people can just use AI, make money, and not waste any of their time on the so-called "art". Real artists will then have no purpose of selling their art since people can just print whatever they want in a matter of 3 seconds. Jobs will be lost due to AI, including music artists, drawings and painting artists, photography, etc. While real artists will stay producing their art by hand, AI supporters and users will still be printing out "art". The world could change in the loss of jobs, and the problems that will follow after those jobs have been taken over by AI.

**breathhtaking\_grasshopper**

IB Arthur School A | Ghana

Before I entered this festival I didn't know anything about the metaverse, I only knew that VR sets can

help people enter a virtual world. I always used to think that the purpose of VR sets was to allow people to play games virtually with their friends or with other people from other countries, but now I know that the metaverse can be used for a lot of things that are beneficial to us, such as having business meetings, attending a virtual class and travelling to anywhere in the world.

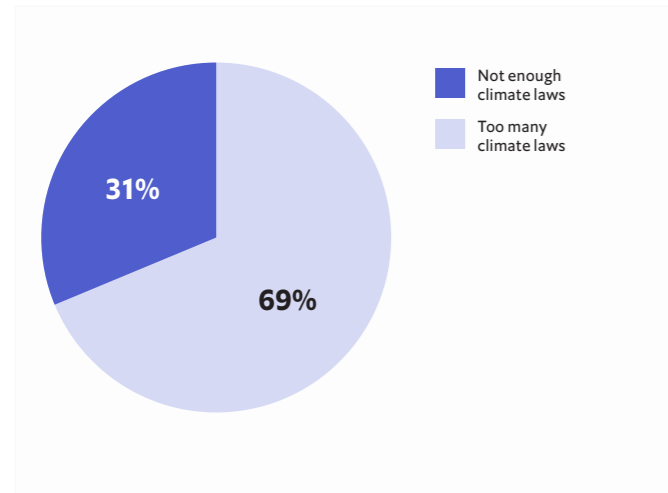
**Competition winners**

Student	School	Country
diplomatic_river	Shri Natasen Vidyasala Mhss B	India
active_black_bear	Usra Academy	Nigeria
secure_seahorse	Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America
accurate_atom	Cheam Fields Primary School	United Kingdom
breathhtaking_grasshopper	IB Arthur School A	Ghana
outgoing_world	Cheam Fields Primary Academy	United Kingdom
jolly_context	High Lawn Primary School	United Kingdom
easygoing_song	Livingstone Academy F	United Kingdom
charismatic_ukulele	Rhemaville Christian Academy	Nigeria
charming_lime	Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America
great_coyote	Rex Mill Stem Middle School J	United States of America
blithesome_pie	Rhemaville Christian Academy	Nigeria
buzzing_opinion	IES Al-Qázeres	Spain
openminded_bassoon	Livingstone Academy F	United Kingdom
mindblowing_aspect	GGHS NO1 Chakwal A	Pakistan
vibrant_acorn	Usra Academy	Nigeria
succinct_peach	Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America

## Weekly Poll results:

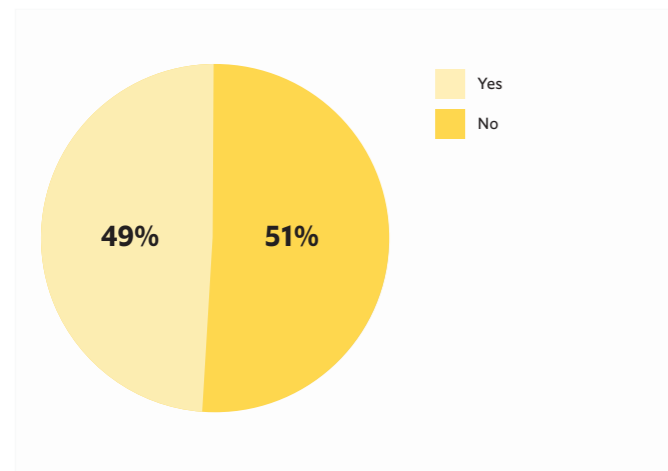
### POLL 1

What's worse: too many climate laws? Or not enough climate laws?



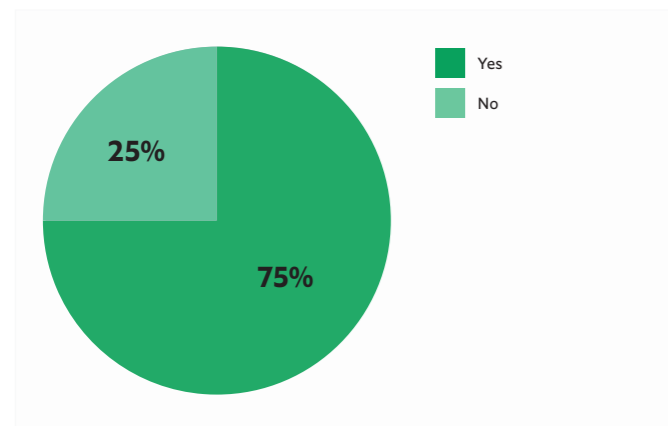
### POLL 2

Would you choose to create a character and join the metaverse? Yes or no?



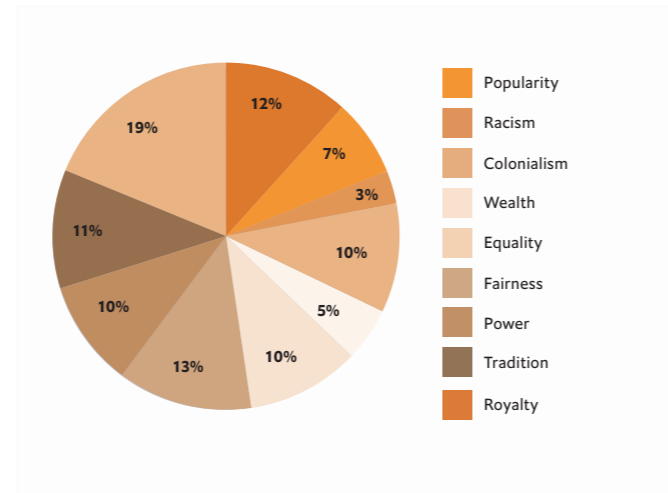
### POLL 3

Should everybody be allowed to go on strike?



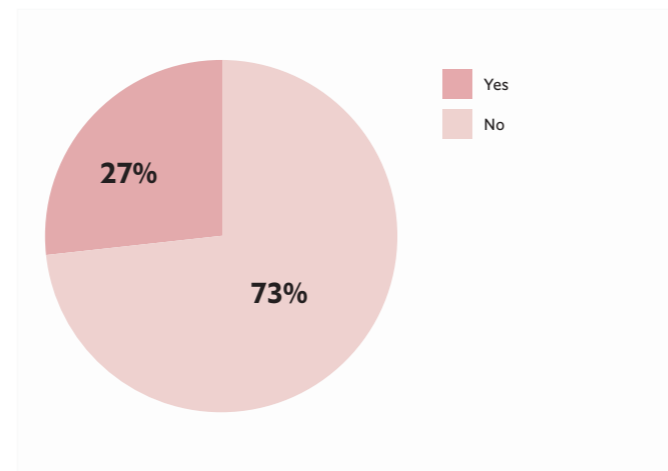
### POLL 4

Which of the following keywords is the most important for discussing royals in the news?



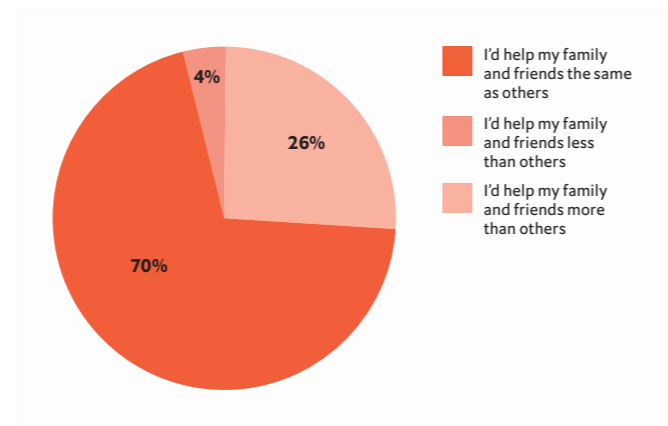
### POLL 5

Can AI, or someone who uses AI to create art, be called an artist?



### POLL 6

If you had the power to, would you help your family and friends...more than others? The same as others? Or less than others?



## Award winners

### Alastair Burnet Award

The Alastair Burnet Award is named after the former editor of *The Economist* newspaper. This award goes to one outstanding class who've shown an impressive commitment to the Festival and made exceptional contributions throughout the project. The award was given to Rhemaville Christian Academy in Nigeria.



Scan the QR code or [watch the class accept their award.](#)

The school receives £1,000 to spend how they choose, as long as it builds on students' achievements in the Festival. For example, they may choose to buy recording equipment to set up a news club in school or give students a budget to take action on one of the topics that most inspired them during the Festival.



### Standpoint Awards

Standpoints can be in written, audio or video formats. Five winning Standpoints are selected by three expert judges from *The Economist*. Standpoint winners receive a certificate, a personalised feedback video for one of the judges and a bag of prizes for budding journalists.

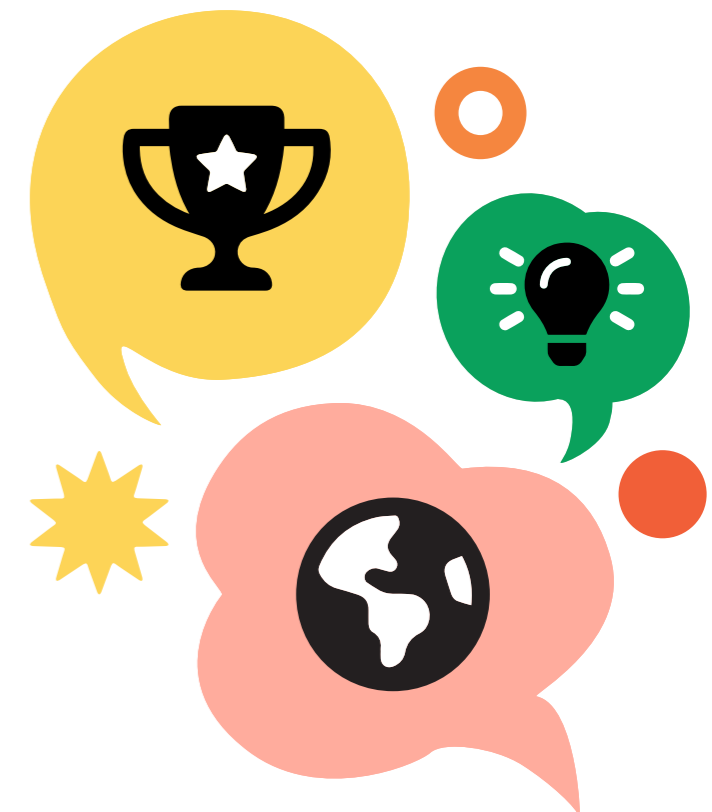
Winning Standpoints are included in this Festival Highlights magazine.

### Standpoint award winners

Student	School	Country
determined_lake	High Lawn Primary School	United Kingdom
outstanding_raspberry	Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America
remarkable_wasp	Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A	India
interesting_penguin	Alqarara Prep Co-ed "A" Class A	Palestine
quiet_forest	Bomas Academy	Nigeria

### Global Discussion Awards

Ten students and ten classes are selected for Global Discussion awards. These awards are given to those with the most stars. Stars are awarded on the Festival Student Hub for contributions to discussions that showcase Topical Talk skills and knowledge – for example, for students who communicate effectively with each other and creatively solve-problems.





Student leader board

User	School	Country
accurate_atom	Cheam Fields Primary Academy	United Kingdom
flowing_chocolate	Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss	India
thoughtful_cliff	Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhs	India
spirited_gazelle	IB Arthur School A	Ghana
productive_redcurrant	Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss	India
centered_moose	St Saviour's C of E Primary	United Kingdom
remarkable_wasp	Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss	India
quiet_swan	Beit Hanoun Prep Girls A School	Palestine
amazing_horse	Usra Academy	Nigeria
succinct_peach	Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America



Class leader board

School	Country
Rhemaville Christian Academy	Nigeria
Beit Hanoun Prep Girls A School	Palestine
Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss	India
Usra Academy	Nigeria
New Khan-Younis Prep Girls School	Palestine
Elite Scholars Academy	United States of America
Alkhansaa Prep Co Ed School B	Morocco
Jabalia Prep Girls B School	United Kingdom
Cheam Fields Primary Academy	United Kingdom
IB Arthur School A	Ghana



Three classes were particularly outstanding throughout the Festival. They were:

**Shri Natesan Vidyasala Mhss A  
India**

**Bein Hanoun Prep Girls A School  
Palestine**

**Rhemaville Christian Academy  
Nigeria**

**Rhemaville Christian Academy  
Nigeria**

**Student**  
 "I think that the best thing about it is that schools all over the world can contribute with Topical Talk and share their own opinions on some interesting topics."



**Teacher**

"I enjoyed having my students communicate with other students from around the world and exchanging opinions online which I hope to be face to face one day."



**Student**

"It was an great experience for me to participate in such a complex program were people from all over the world are sharing their opinions the statistics which showed how many people were commenting in daily basis was huge and I was surprised seeing those numbers."



**Student**

"The best thing about the Topical Talk Festival is the ability to be able to communicate to other students around the world."



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**The Economist** The Economist Group

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