



# The RGS Gazette

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## Money, Migration And Marriage. Wycombe MP Steve Baker's Visit To The RGS



By Henry Anderson - Year 12

During April this term, RGS welcomed our local MP Steve Baker to talk to Sixth Form politics students about life as a Conservative backbencher, his take on political life and to answer the burning questions of Years 12 and 13. Mr Baker's past remarks on everything from the EU to gay marriage made for enthralling dialogue between himself and the students, and I'd argue he left the school with as much learnt about the political vision and viewpoints of the next generation as taught to the captivated audience.

Firstly, Mr Baker was posed with a question on what the government had to gain from austerity, which he declared was one of his favourite topics. The

Mr Baker braving the Wycombe 'mayor weighing ceremony'

answer was simply no, because it isn't in the public interest to pay high taxes with low government spending – however, Mr Baker warned that the trend of deficit spending, such as the creation of money by the Bank of England to pay for Covid relief, could lead to 'debasement of currency' seen in countries like Zimbabwe (the country which produced the trillion dollar note that Mr Baker passed around the room). In summary, Mr Baker believed that the art of economics, quoting a book, 'is to see not only the short-run effect on a particular group, but the long-run effect of a policy on all groups'. Moreover, Mr Baker stressed that 'consumption must be paid for by production', and that frankly left-wing economic

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thinking failed to realise this. Following the subsequent question on the topic of Europe and the role of the EU, Mr Baker didn't hold back. Having stated he was pro-euro and pro-federal Europe prior to 2007, his dissatisfaction with the EU came about following the Treaty of Lisbon, an amending Treaty consisting of exactly the same amendments and provisions rejected by Europeans in two separate referendums on the adoption of a European Constitution for a federal Europe. As Mr Baker put it, 'rather than saying we won't do it, they just did it anyway and lied about it... and here I am twelve years later... and I am in the history books because I won this one'.

When it came to myself to ask a question, I probed Mr Baker on the Home Secretary's Rwanda Plan and whether it was 'a viable solution to the problem of channel migrants', and with hindsight (the cancellation of the first Rwanda flight in May of this term) it made for stirring conversation. Mr Baker said he understood the problems being tackled, the issue of deaths in the English Channel and criminal gangs involvement, but that he didn't like the thought of voting to ship people to Rwanda as the plan in itself 'sounds ridiculous' and has its faults – but as a Conservative MP he would have to vote for the plan as it's a major government policy and because the issue of migrants putting themselves at great personal risk from the safe country of France requires at least an attempt at

being resolved. Following on from the issue of migration, Mr Baker stressed his belief that you can either have 'open borders or the welfare state', and that this is something that those on the left of politics can't seem to understand. The final question of the day was on the topic of civil rights, and how Mr Baker can reconcile his self-declared classical liberalism with his past opposition to gay marriage. Mr Baker stated that since he voted against the 2013 Same-Sex Marriage Act, he's voted against the views of his constituents on bills and instruments that have furthered gay rights ever since the bill, and in fact the Justice Secretary Dominic Grieve tried to persuade David Cameron to incorporate into the 2013 bill Mr Baker's stance that marriage should be denationalised, with state civil unions open for all

individuals regardless of gender.

At the end of the talk, Mr Baker reiterated his belief that tolerance was the most important thing to take from his visit, respecting the views of others and listening to them even if your views constitute a stark difference in opinion. Looking back on the session, I think Mr Baker has to be one of the most fascinating backbenchers in Parliament, independent and not afraid to criticise government and their policies. I think Mr Baker's stance is best summarised by his admiration for Auberon Herbert, a man so radically liberal he was kicked out of the Liberal Party, and Baker's professed 'great admiration to be the same' summarises the freedom of thought and discourse he promoted throughout the q&a.

## As Nationalists Win Big, What's Next For Northern Ireland?

By Aydin Aslam-Denn - Year 10

History was made this month in Northern Ireland as Sinn Féin, led by Mary Lou McDonald, became the first ever Irish nationalist party to win a majority of seats in the Northern Irish Assembly commonly known as Stormont. Unionist parties such as the DUP, which favour Northern Ireland's continued union with the United Kingdom, have dominated the assembly since the country was established 101 years ago. However, the government of Northern Ireland requires the largest nationalist and unionist parties to cooperate in a power-sharing agreement (set out in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that sought to end the period of violence during the Troubles) – a process that has

been stalled by issues such as the Northern Ireland Protocol and Brexit. Regardless of how much progress is made, the vote carries huge symbolic importance for the people of Northern Ireland, and the idea of an Irish reunification referendum has once again been placed on the table.

### 'The vote carries huge symbolic importance for the people of Northern Ireland'

Northern Ireland's political situation has long been tense, and was exacerbated by previously spoken about Troubles – an ethno-nationalist conflict which raged from the 1960s until 1998. It was often claimed that Sinn Féin had links to the IRA, one of the paramilitary forces that engaged in fighting with the British Army, although most of these allegations came from unionist parties with violent connections of their own. However, the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 negotiated the disarmament of all paramilitary groups and

crucially gave Northern Ireland the right to reunify with the Republic if a majority of its voters wished to do so in the future. While this has been a prominent policy in the Sinn Féin manifesto, issues such as the cost-of-living crisis have also likely caused an increase in their share of voters. The party is hoping to put forward Michelle O'Neill for the role of First Minister. However, the matter has been complicated by the rise of parties which do not conform to the nationalist-unionist divide. The most notable example is the rise of the Alliance party, which takes a neutral stance on unification and won a record-breaking 13.5% of the vote in the assembly elections. This could show that the people of Northern Ireland are not divided by the historical differences and are instead destined for a more united future.

The nationalist victory has stirred up the issue of the Northern Ireland Protocol, an agreement signed by both the UK and the European Union. A material border has never

existed between the Republic of Ireland, an EU member, and Northern Ireland, which exited the EU with the rest of the UK. This means that goods can pass relatively freely between the two countries, without having to go through any customs. While this was never a problem when both countries were EU members, Brexit has resulted in a situation that could see British goods pass unregulated into the EU, which has strict laws regarding items such as food. The protocol attempts to resolve this problem by implementing border checks on British goods in Northern Ireland's ports. This way, any goods that might pass into the Republic of Ireland would already meet EU standards and the border between the two Irish

states would remain completely open. Sinn Féin, which has long been campaigning for Irish unification, has supported the protocol. However, the DUP, which favours unity with Great Britain, has opposed the move, claiming that it diminishes Northern Ireland's role within the UK. The complex political system in Northern Ireland requires the largest nationalist and unionist parties to form a mandatory coalition, but the DUP has refused to do so until its concerns about the protocol are addressed, preventing Sinn Féin from holding the position of First Minister just yet.

**'This could show that the people of Northern Ireland**

**are not divided by the historical differences and are instead destined for a more united future'**

While the future of Northern Ireland remains unclear, Sinn Féin's victory has renewed nationalist hopes for unity across the island. However, it is certain that the power-sharing coalition must put aside their differences in order to combat the cost-of-living crisis that has struck the country - although with hostile unionist parties like the Ulster Unionist Party and Democratic Unionist Party, how likely this is remains a matter of speculation.



Sinn Féin Party Leader in Northern Ireland Michelle O'Neill speaking after the Party's election results in Belfast saying that the election 'ushers in a new era'

**To contribute to the RGS Gazette email section editors via their school emails or email [16HAnderson@rgshw.com](mailto:16HAnderson@rgshw.com)**



# Features

*'Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance' - Plato*

## Are We On Track To Meet The Goals Of Cop-26?

By Oscar Panayi - Year 9

During the COP-26 conference in October 2021, over 100 countries worldwide agreed to mobilise their governments to curb the worst effects of climate change, with the end goal of keeping the net rise in temperature under 1.5 degrees Celsius over the course of the century. At the time of the conference, to younger people especially, this seemed like a resounding success in international diplomacy and a strong reinforcement of the pledges laid out in earlier documents such as the Paris Agreement. However, as is the very often the case with international law, the realisation of these carbon goals will be an uphill battle, as individual countries experience government changes, economic hardships and the slow corrosion of the prior urgency surrounding the topic of climate change. But where does the UK fit into all of this, and how have we responded to these goals over the last 8 months?

A month before the COP26 conference, in September 2021, the UK government published a document titled 'Climate Change Strategy 2021-2024', detailing their plan of action over the next 4 years to combat the worst effects of climate change.

This document laid out a few key pillars of their proposed climate change response upon which their strategy would be based, largely centred on increasing support of climate change adaption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through legislation and policy changes. It is based on the government's thus far improvements in these two key areas that we can judge the effectiveness of our response to the issues raised at the COP26 conference.

Firstly, how has the government increased its focus on adaption to climate change? Over the last year, the government has planned and allocated priority funding to two major carbon capture projects, one cluster covering the north of England and Wales, and another cluster stretching across the East Coast. Further projects have been placed on the reserve list for government funding, in areas such as north-east Scotland. If completed, just one of these carbon capture projects has the potential to store as much carbon as 40 million trees, with the end goal of storing between 20 and 30 million tonnes of

CO2 by 2030. This may allow UK industry to move away from fossil fuels at a less harmful pace, without causing disruption to energy prices and jobs. In addition, due to the coastal erosion and sea level rise expected over the next 30 years, plans have recently been released to increase coastal defences in the form of rock armour (boulders that absorb the force of wave action) and groynes (large structures built from the shore into the sea).

In addition, the document laid out a set of plans for the UK's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050. Firstly, a major part of the UK's mitigation of climate change will be reliant on our use of fossil fuels over the next 30 years. While PM Boris Johnson set a goal of using exclusively sustainable energy sources by 2035, it will no doubt be a difficult and laborious project to remove all fossil fuel subsidies and decommission power plants without causing a major shock to the economy. Offshore wind infrastructure may be an answer to this: as a world leading country in offshore wind generation, with a capacity of 10 GW, scaling up this industry may be a solution to rising energy demands

without sacrificing climate security. Because of this, the government has plans to increase this capacity to 50GW by 2030. As well as this, moving to electric vehicles will likely be a necessary step to meeting the COP26 agreements, with plans by the

**'My basic optimism about climate change comes from my belief in innovation. It's our power to invent that makes me hopeful'**

government indicating that petrol and diesel cars will be banned altogether by 2035, in order to make way for the electric industry's growth.

While these shifts certainly do not comprise the government's entire plan laid out in the 64-page document, the changes outlined here will be some of the most important to the COP26 agreement's success. As well as this, it is worth noting that even with these plans, we are still not on track to meet our carbon

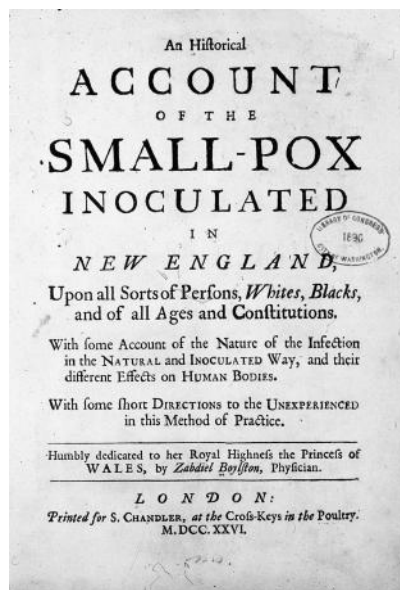
budget over the next 20 years and have a long way to go before the goals of our international and national policies are ever enacted fully. However, slashing the fossil fuel industry and moving the economy to renewables before it is ready is also undesirable, as we instead need to focus on intelligent solutions and technologies, which will facilitate advancement in the right direction. To quote Bill Gates, 'my basic optimism about climate change comes from my belief innovation. It's our power to invent that makes me hopeful'.

## The Surprising History Of Vaccines: From Jenner to Onesimus

By Boran Celik - Year 9

The vaccine is a wonderful thing, saving millions of lives every year. A man named Edward Jenner is credited with its invention in 1796, but this isn't completely accurate. The first vaccine was used to treat smallpox, which was a devastating disease that caused millions of deaths around the world. It caused rashes all over the body and often left scars. Edward Jenner may have been the first man to create the vaccine for smallpox, but people had been treating it for centuries prior to Jenner's innovation, in Africa, India and China.

They took pieces of smallpox scabs and put them into healthy people, this is called variolation. They would often do this using a small iron needle to make a hole in the skin and put pieces of the scab inside, or they would blow it up their nose.



Article recording the 1727 Boston Smallpox outbreak

A man named Onesimus, who was an African slave, was enslaved by Cotton Mather. Mather wanted to make a cure for this deadly disease, and in 1707 he was told by Onesimus how the doctors within his tribe treated smallpox back in Africa. Other slaves confirmed this, and Mather was convinced he

found the cure for smallpox. So, he started variolating as many people with smallpox as he could convince that this method would work. And indeed it did. Only 2% of the people Mather variolated died, compared to an average 30% fatality rate of the disease.

So, you're probably wondering what Edward Jenner has to do with all this, as all of this happened 50 years before he was born. But he did in fact help, as he found a better and safer way to variolate everyone with smallpox in 1796. He used cowpox instead to stop the body from getting smallpox. So, Jenner is credited with making the first vaccine, but in fact the vaccine was around hundreds of years before he was born. In reality, the credit should go to Onesimus and the other slaves who told everyone about their smallpox variolation methods.

# Is Holocaust Education A Missed Opportunity?

By Alex Morrison - Year 12

Under English law, children must be taught about the Holocaust during Key Stage 3 History, and while it is not a requirement in academies, private schools, and the other home nations, many other children also have some understanding of the Holocaust. Much of the syllabus for this topic is what you would expect – a focus on the definition of the Holocaust. This can best be described as the murder of approximately six million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War, the background to Jewish persecution in the pre-war period leading up to this, through events such as Kristallnacht and the implementation of the Nuremburg Laws, and the consequences of this persecution by discovering the incomparable horrors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp and how it systematically murdered 1.1 million prisoners through its gas chambers. While the shock effect of these revelations will no doubt leave a lasting impact on students, there are key aspects and lessons of the Holocaust missed by teachers across the country, to the

detriment of pupils' understanding and society at large. According to a report by HET and UCL, of the 2,108 teachers in the survey, 43% had never taught about the Holocaust before, with 590 explaining that it was not an expected topic area. Many also felt uncomfortable discussing a topic they felt would be best managed by a specialist. The report then moves on the most common sub-topics, such as the individual experiences, the actions of bystanders, and the camps themselves, but in all these cases there were between 10-40% who had not covered them. Others, such as its impact on the Declaration of Human Rights, came to just over 25%. The result of this is clear to see; despite the commonality of individual experiences, the six million victims of the Holocaust are often treated as objects, and a lack of understanding of pre-war life and post-war consequence, leads to a situation where the full impact of the Holocaust is lost. Only 16% of schools invite experts or guest speakers, 25% a survivor.

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So, what are these missing lessons that I have referenced throughout this article? Earlier this year, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons From Auschwitz' programme – a three seminar opportunity to cover all aspects of the Holocaust, from pre-war Jewish life, to the experiences of individuals, to the motives and reasoning of the people who took part in the only attempt in history to completely exterminate a group of people. These lessons proved invaluable to me, and I would highly recommend to anyone who reads this article to try to take part. And while it expanded my knowledge in the field, it was the moral, philosophical, and ethical questions that most impacted me. The one that stuck

**'Only 16% of schools invite experts or guest speakers, 25% a survivor'**



with me the most was a peculiar yet powerful example of resistance from Steven Frank, who whilst held in the Theresienstadt Ghetto at just 8-years old, took over the growing of tomatoes in the camp after the initial custodian – another member of the camp – had been removed. To this day, he still grows tomatoes, a powerful sign of resistance, which while seeming insignificant in the grand scheme of things, resonates one of the crucial messages of the Holocaust, that it must never be forgotten. Since if we forget, we are condemned to repeat the catastrophic mistakes of our past, and

subject another generation or peoples to a similar fate, such as the Uyghur Genocide, which is a cautionary and very real example of what happens when these lessons are not learnt. Another aspect that is relegated to the background is that of the perpetrators, the camp commandants, SS soldiers, and other collaborators. Whilst it is easy to wash them away as simply inhuman, insane, or convicted through fear or force to carry out the atrocities that they did, it is another area which must be given more weight, as, despite what people may think, these were rational and often intelligent people carrying out these orders, ones

that were exposed to anti-Semitic attitudes from a young age, and people that were even willing to move with their families to the camps.

By analysing the root causes of these attitudes, I believe that we can build a more culturally intelligent and tolerant society, one which will never come close to repeating what those six million suffered again. It is thus these lessons, ones which can permeate though society at large, not just the test paper, which are overlooked, not just in this country but globally, and ones that must be swiftly integrated into the curriculum of every school.



May 8th of this term marks the end of the Holocaust - with the systematic murder of Jews continuing until the war in Europe came to an end

# 50 Years On, Silicon Valley Is In Decline

By Oscar Panayi - Year 9

Since the 1970s, Silicon Valley has been a global hub for technological innovation, recognised throughout the world for advancements made in microprocessors and other forms of machinery. Located in the San Francisco Bay area of California, it has hosted some of the largest technology corporations over the past 50 years, including over 30 businesses in the Fortune 1000. However, despite this prosperous history, evidence suggests that Silicon Valley will not maintain this success for much longer. Not only has there been a significant exodus of IT leaders from the area, including Dropbox, Pinterest, Tesla, and Twitter, but the inflow of specialists to the area has abruptly dropped, as net migration has decreased by 72 percent since 2019. This does not bode well for the future of Silicon Valley, and without immediate action it has the potential to radically alter the position of both Big Tech and smaller startups, changing the technology industry for better and for worse. But before we examine these effects, it is important to understand the causes of Silicon Valley's decline.

As the Valley's name recognition and influence has

grown, it has become increasingly expensive to start a business there. Not only are real estate prices skyrocketing, at an average house price of 1.3 million dollars, but goods and services are also 27 percent higher than the national average. This is exacerbated by the corporate tax rate in California, currently standing at 8.84 percent, the highest in the entire western US. This makes starting a company in the area particularly difficult, requiring an exceptionally large amount of seed capital which many small businesses simply do not possess. Even if this money was not a barrier, there are further challenges to starting a business in Silicon Valley. While in the past startups could persuade specialist employees to take the risk of working with them, due to the promise of large equity payoffs if the business took off, this is no longer viable. Now, with the rise of Big Tech corporations such as Facebook, Apple and Google, engineers have far less incentive to take this risk, with the average salary of a Facebook engineer a staggering \$268,000 per year.

The cost of building a business in Silicon Valley from scratch, however, is not the principal issue causing the area's decline. The Valley has always been

expensive, and yet it is only now losing momentum. This is because while previously these problems would have been tolerated out of necessity, starting a successful company in a well-connected area is no longer the only option. With the rise of constantly evolving networking technologies created in the Valley, such as smartphones, video conferencing software and messaging apps, companies can find engineering talent and investment regardless of geographical location. Not only is staying in one location not required, but it has become a detriment to the functioning of a corporation. This has massively undermined the control of Silicon Valley, facilitating its decline.

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The so-called 'Apple Park': Major tech company Apple Inc's HQ in Silicon Valley. Opened in April 2017, it epitomises the technological progress and importance of the place despite its usefulness to companies waning as the growth of business communication platforms have reduced the need for a good business location for companies

As the pandemic took hold and work was forced online, this has become even more widely accepted among CEOs, especially with the rise of flexible working hours, with Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky stating in a recent interview that companies which do not embrace remote work will be at a 'disadvantage', and that 'The most talented people aren't in San Francisco anymore'. And this is not just limited to American companies either. Across the world, in areas such as Tokyo, companies have followed suit, with remote work allowing them to leave larger urban

areas in favor of rural Japan.

But what does this mean for the future of the industry? At this point, it is uncertain. What we can be sure of is that there will be positives and negatives to the transition. Different companies will be affected in different ways, and while some will be able to adapt to the new, worldwide approach to technology production, many corporations within the Valley will have to die to facilitate this. While this may cause a brief recession in the area, this evolution is inevitable and overall, desirable. Not only is

the shift from specific areas allowing new markets to develop and prosper, but the ease of digital workflows is vastly accelerating the development of innovative technologies, reducing prices for the consumer. To quote Reid Hoffman, 'Silicon Valley is a mindset, not a location', and while Silicon Valley, and other strictly location-based work environments, may no longer be as relevant as they once were, innovation and skill will persist even as technological production evolves.

# The Arts • The Tragedy Of Macbeth: A Modern Shakespearian Masterpiece

By Christian Cotter - Year 10

The Tragedy of Macbeth surely needs no introduction: Shakespeare's haunting Scottish tale of greed, power and prophecy. It has not been long since the play's last significant adaptation in 2015, starring Michael Fassbender, however, the acclaimed multi-Oscar-winning director Joel Coen (working without his brother Ethan for once) has recently released his own interpretation of Macbeth, with Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand in the lead roles.

True to form, Denzel Washington delivers a very convincing performance, nailing the emotionally charged Shakespearian monologues to convey his internal conflict, albeit with an American accent. Washington accepted the role because he saw it as an opportunity to work with "three of the greats" (Joel Coen, William Shakespeare and Frances McDormand). Surprisingly, Washington had never seen a production of Macbeth, and intentionally did not use any past performances for references. McDormand, however, had recently played Lady Macbeth in an onstage production, which led to her encouraging her husband, Joel Coen, to direct this adaptation. McDormand and Washington's great chemistry makes the adaptation all the more incredible, and the couple pull off an older representation of the Macbeth couple very well.

Other stand-outs were Corey Hawkins as a younger-looking Macduff who is full of hatred for the tyrant who murdered his family. His duel with Macbeth is brutally and realistically choreographed, with the two men both physically exhausted and mentally tortured from the ongoing battle. A welcome surprise to me was the development of the king's messenger, Ross, who acts as a neutral force, watching the plot unfold and eventually finding his own purpose in the story.



Macbeth Director Joel Coen pictured at a film premiere back in 2019 (working without his brother Ethan for once)

In addition to its excellent cast, The Tragedy of Macbeth was filmed entirely on sound stages, adding a sense of claustrophobia to the sets. The castle of Dunsinane, the principal

location in the play, is depicted as a vast modernist fortress, surrounded with foreboding fog in keeping with Shakespeare's depiction of the ominous Scottish north. We rarely see Dunsinane from the outside; we are almost always trapped within its disturbingly minimalist walls. These settings are framed in a square 1.19:1 aspect ratio, and the film is shot in black & white, almost resembling the tense atmosphere of a 1940s crime drama.

For the first time directing without any involvement from his brother, Joel Coen has done a fantastic job with this adaptation of Macbeth. And to top it all off, Carter Burwell, a frequent composer for the Coen brothers, provides an ominous score broken up with mournful violin solos to reflect Macbeth's bloody rise to power. The Tragedy of Macbeth has certainly cemented Macbeth as my favourite Shakespeare play. I love the gritty realism (apart from the witches) and I cannot wait to begin studying it further in my English GCSEs next year.

'True to form, Denzel Washington delivers a very convincing performance, nailing the emotionally charged Shakespearian monologues to convey his internal conflict'



# Golden Photos From The Year 13 DofE Practice Expeditions



Pictures by  
RGS Gazette  
Photographer  
Gianni Mura  
- Year 12



# SPORTS



## The Secret Behind The Success Of Klopp's Management Style

By Oli Partington - Year 12

Klopp's success in Liverpool was due to a multitude of reasons, first of which was his clear vision and identity, an example of this being his very emotional approach to man management, which allowed him to project this and motivate his team and the fans to be passionate about the game. Klopp once said in an interview 'I believe in a playing philosophy that is very emotional, very fast and very strong'.

This mantra of having your heart on your sleeve, has also affected his back-room staff. An example of this is Robertson, the new left back was due to be a father, and a member of staff didn't know, Klopp said confusedly, 'How can you not know that? That's the biggest thing in his life now. Come on!'. In addition to this, he said that it's important to have

experts around him, as he is only an expert in a few things and that is enough, therefore he has the confidence to allow people to grow and support them. In other words, Klopp has been a massive influence on both the coaches and players as Liverpool.

This idea of creating an emotional connection between the team and the staff has had scientific research backing its importance, similar to a shared goal and philosophy, so when Wijnaldum chose to join the club, he said that Jurgen did not only speak about football, but was also interested in Wijnaldum the person, something that set him apart from other managers that are purely focused on results rather than developing the character and sportsmanship of their players.

Finally, Klopp's enthusiasm and philosophy has allowed him to promise big and deliver, as he stated he would win the premier league in four years, and he succeeded, as ultimately, leaders need to demonstrate improved performance for players and fans alike to buy into their approach - which Klopp has certainly done at Liverpool having won the hearts and minds of the Anfield faithful.

Klopp has certainly achieved all of this and will no doubt enjoy further success later as his managerial career develops and he builds on previous success like Liverpool clinching the coveted Premier League title in just four years and Liverpool winning the Champions League in 2019 after beating Spurs in the final.



Jurgen Klopp and former-Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum during Liverpool's title-winning Champions League run in 2019

# With 5 Months To Go, What Will A World Cup Hosted By Qatar Look Like?

By Luke Baker - Year 12

On the 20th of November 2022, 32 teams from across the footballing world land in Qatar, all filled to the brim with the unfaltering ambition to become champions. Yet over the course of 4 weeks of world class football, only one of these teams will be crowned champions of the world. This year is the first time a World Cup is being held in an Arab country. Not only that but Qatar is the smallest country ever to host the World Cup. For over 4 weeks in the winter, more than half of the entire globe's population will watch the pinnacle of footballing quality unfold before their eyes. How is Qatar going to cope with the influx of more than a million fans descending onto the peninsula which only stretches 50km across they call their homeland?

In 2010, Qatar ended up winning the right to host the World Cup after beating the USA and Australia. However alleged corruption that gave Qatar the World Cup led to a catalyst in changes within FIFA, the most prominent including the dismissal of the President of FIFA, Sepp Blatter. Despite all the accusations, awarding the tournament to a Western superpower that has already hosted it wouldn't leave the same impact as introducing the World Cup into places where football has thrived under the radar for years. FIFA is committed to take the

game to wider audiences, which is what's happening this year in Qatar.

Soon after Qatar was awarded with the opportunity to host the World Cup, it began its preparation. 32 teams, 32 team bases, 32 sets of fans, world media, sponsors and dignitaries all hosted on their small peninsula, with one and a half million people expected to attend. That's half of Qatar's population! In twelve years, Qatar was tasked with building a new city, 130,000 hotel rooms, with two huge cruise ships each containing 3000 rooms and in addition to this, dedicating a place south of Doha (the capital) to creating a huge campsite in the desert where tourists could sleep and embrace the culture of the local Bedouin lifestyle. It is only a race against time, for in Spring 2022 just seven months until the World Cup, only 33,000 hotel rooms have been created and two dozen huge apartments housing 27,000 fans have been introduced. In total that is 80,000 rooms... yet, it is still not enough.

People often wonder why Qatar in the Middle East, which is historically not known for its football, was chosen as the destination of the 2022 World Cup. Yet, they would be surprised to know how football-crazy the Middle East actually is. Even though Qatar's history of football

began as recent as in 1950, its love of football and commitment to the game is one of the most passionate around the world. Football is played everywhere, in stadiums, training grounds, parks and beaches all over the country. The fan's love of football is what allows such a small country to make its mark in the game. In fact, Qatar's national team is the current winner of the Asian Cup no doubt to their annual spending of 250 million Qatari Riyal just on football. People from all over the world visiting Qatar allows them to share cultural aspects of their country with the visiting fanbases, creating a long-term lasting effect over foreign fans.

For the actual matches, Qatar is building a city solely for the purpose of hosting the World Cup and it is the first World Cup that is carbon-free with all the stadiums creating a solar 'cloud' that is powered by the sunlight and moves above the stadium to protect fans from the heat. For the stadiums, summer isn't a problem. On top of that, all the 8 stadiums will be in close reach to a metro, allowing fans to watch more than one match a day.

Qatar will hopefully quickly resolve its issues and deliver what is set to be the most futuristic World Cup ever, which will have widespread positive impacts on the rest of the region's tourism industry.