

# THE EAGLE

BY THE PUPILS. FOR THE PUPILS.

ISSUE NO 67 | MARCH '21 |



This Easter issue includes: new discoveries in science, your experiences with online learning, American politics, and how our actions, and lack of them, can have a profound effect on other people and our planet.

We hope you enjoy reading and are happy to be back together after such a long break!

## ARTICLES

Freezing Temperatures in Southern America

The Brink of Extinction

The Rise of Asian Hate Crime

President Biden's First Term

Black Hole Breaks Science

Covid-19, Education and Mental Health

Book Review: A Horse for Angel

# Freezing Temperatures in Southern America

By Emily Newman and Angel Varghese ,Y7

In recent weeks, it is estimated that over fifty-seven citizens of Texas lost their lives due to a winter storm. Temperatures dropped to under  $-23^{\circ}\text{C}$  and shortages of electricity proliferated, meaning people could not warm their homes. Water shortages also broke out and what was once a vaccine centre turned into clean water distribution camps. While residents struggled through hardships of the cold, a mayor of Texas said that 'no one owes you anything' and called their calls for help 'quiet crying'. After posting these remarks, he then resigned from being mayor and further inquiries will be made by the press. Negligence of his people led to consequences resulting in angered individuals caused by his selfish attitude. Although some leaders have made careless decisions, there are some who are keeping the foundations of Texas strong and sturdy. We do sincerely hope that the residents of Texas power through and come out of their war with the cold victorious!



## The Brink of Extinction

By Tristan Goodwin ,Y7

The rate at which species are slipping away into extinction is rising at an alarming rate. In the last century around 550 land vertebrate species were lost, and in the next twenty years we seem set to do the same to others. Whilst people's minds are occupied by fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, the pressing issues of the natural world seem to have been put aside. But still those problems remain. If we do not act now it is bound to escalate!

Through deforestation, global warming, hunting and overfishing, the human race has brought many species to the brink of extinction. Now human intervention seems the only way to resolve the problem. While in some instances we may be in time to save them, many have already fallen. If we do not act now many more beloved species will never be seen on the face of the Earth again.

The Pinta Island tortoise (*Chelonoidis abingdonii*) species was thought to have died with Lonesome George, supposedly the last of his kind, but recent developments may prove that it is not the end for these creatures. Hybrid tortoises were discovered on Isabella Island and, with around two-thousand tortoises inhabiting it, the odds seem likely that a Pinta Island tortoise is hiding on the island. It is with hopeful cases like this that we must act.

Another example of an animal facing extinction is the scimitar oryx. Similar to an antelope, the scimitar oryx lost many of their numbers when the northern regions of the Sahara were decertified. The southern population still remained, but soon European hunters dived in, with the aim of claiming the long antlers of the oryx. By the time 2000 came they were extinct in the wild. However, some were kept as livestock and so a few remain. With captive breeding programs and modern technology we can help to reduce the chances of their extinction and possibly set them back on a route to a sustainable population.

If we choose to neglect these animals they will not survive and at the rate extinction is moving now, many others will die too. We need to cut down on deforestation and habitat destruction, in particular hunting, if we are to make a difference and save these creatures. Whether you donate to a charity who supports animals or produces medicines, or even just show your support through a petition or protest, you can help save these species.





# The Rise of Asian Hate Crime

By Arabella Doan, Y7

Everyday thousands of Asian lives are affected by Asian hate. Whether it's name calling on the street or violent crimes, racism towards people of Asian ethnic backgrounds is becoming more and more normalised, especially due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Since then, numbers of hate crimes have been rising at an astonishing rate.

Statistics in the UK show that more than 200 incidents of Asian hate crime have been reported in London alone between June and September 2020. Recently some light has been shed on the problem on the internet due to the news that 8 women were killed in a spa shooting, 4 of them being of Korean descent. A 21-year-old male was arrested under suspicion of some involvement in the attacks. Despite no current motive, people are theorising that these attacks have been targeted towards Asian women. This tragic incident is only one of many cases of reported Asian hate crime in the last few months.

Due to China's involvement in the pandemic, people are constantly blaming people of Asian backgrounds, with offensive and hurtful terms being thrown around casually. This blatantly racist language is becoming more and more normalised and can have a negative effect on Asian lives, such as myself.

Walking home from school, or being out in public, being made fun of for my race is not an irregular occurrence, and I know it is the same for my family and so many other Asian lives. To help stop the rise of bullying or racial ignorance, always ensure you help educate people on the subject. If you hear anyone ever make a joke that could be somewhat offensive, dehumanising or ignorant, please correct them and explain the power and pain their words can hold. These kinds of jokes are not okay in any context.

The subject of Asian hate crimes is unfortunately not getting the attention it needs and deserves, so by reading this you have already helped by becoming aware.

**Asian lives matter.**



## President Biden's First Term

By Jacob Elliot, Y9

On the 20th of January, Biden became the 46th president of the United States. Everyone knows that it will be a hard job, especially after the Trump era. His goals were to: beat Covid-19, create a job and economic recovery plan for working families, give Americans more affordable healthcare and much more! However, in his first term Biden was immediately put under pressure. The State health secretaries said that by April 30th (Biden's first 100 days in office) he should have vaccinated 100 million Americans.

Also, Biden wants to deliver economic assistance to families in need. This means that people will work more and have more jobs, obtain more education and provide for children that live with working families.

However, even if Biden's plans to speed up vaccine distribution are successful, the country is not expected to revive the economy until summer. The economic plan proposed by Biden is largely focused on easing the pain until then. The proposal extends weekly unemployment insurance in September, increasing the amount from \$300 to \$400. It also sends \$1,400 in direct payments to most Americans for healthcare. The plan would also give \$130 billion to schools to help them reopen safely. It also gives \$15 billion to small businesses to help with previous lost money.

Biden has also planned to ease climate change and stop Racism.

On January 20th, he planned to ban white supremacy in an Inauguration speech. This is a bold statement because he will lose supporters and be threatened by these people who will do anything to stop this. Despite this, it proves that Biden wants to make the world a better place and is a kind person himself. His proposed plan addresses several items raised by the Black Lives Matter movement, including assistance for communities hit disproportionately hard by the pandemic, funding to expand community health centres and giving money to minority-owned small businesses.

On the same day he also claimed that America will strive to be a 'green' country by using less fossil fuels. Biden also wants to tell federal agencies to buy low-emission vehicles and other eco-friendly goods, which is a great start to easing climate change and a great first term in office.



## Black Hole Breaks Science!

By John Lymath, Y8

Since April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, we have had an idea of a black hole that is approximately 7,200 light years away from Earth named Cygnus-X-1. Although this a huge area of space, this is much closer than most scientists thought it would be. This specific black hole was initially theorised to exist in 1964 after two Geiger counters were launched into space from New Mexico on a sub-orbital rocket.

However, with new information acquired, we know that Cygnus-X-1 is much bigger than had previously been understood, so large in fact that it is now challenging what astronomers thought they knew about how black holes are formed. With new techniques and advanced telescopes, we now know that the black hole is 50% bigger than what we initially thought and is 21 times the mass of the Sun. Compared to other Black Holes, this is huge! The reason of its abnormal size is the fact that it is a stellar black hole which is usually made when a massive star collapses in on itself.

According to these new findings, it was also found that the black hole was 20% further away from Earth than had previously been thought.

On the matter, Professor Miller-Jones of Curtin University said: "Over six days we observed a full orbit of the black hole and used observations taken of the same system with the same telescope array in 2011. This method and our new measurements show the system is further away than previously thought, with a black hole that's significantly more massive."

Additionally, astronomers from Australia's Curtin University have also described this as a new record for a black hole that has been observed directly as a result of matter entering it.

This black hole is also unique because if you were to look through a telescope, you could locate roughly where it is by looking for its accompanying blue star (which it draws its energy from). However, finding that specific star is proven to be very hard as it is very far away and can be lost in the array of stars in the night sky.

The fact that Cygnus-X-1 is challenging modern day astrophysics makes me ponder whether we know our universe to the extent that we previously assumed. What if everything we knew was incorrect?



## Covid 19, Education and Mental Health

**By Anonymous, Y8**

In my opinion, Covid-19 will have a long term impact on education. Many students have been falling behind on work since March 2020 because of this gap in education. For university students, not only are they not getting the education they paid for, the presence of Covid is also affecting their mental health severely due to an increase in isolation and anxiety surrounding whether they will ever catch up on their work.

The uncertainty and ever changing nature of school environments between March and now is also to blame for an increase in reported suicidal thoughts and young people reaching out to mental health services. Anxiety, depression and eating disorders are some of the conditions which have most affected students of secondary school age. The lack of face to face support and motivation during online lessons for some may have contributed to these issues.

Now that schools are running in person, and mental health services can also resume face to face, hopefully this crisis in education and mental health can begin to heal.

**By Elissa Conn, Y7**

Recently the whole school was instructed by the government to go into lockdown. This meant that online learning had to occur. At first online learning was a struggle, however, I quickly adjusted to the new environment and made my own setup.

Every morning was a repeat of the last: wake up, get ready, lesson 1 and 2, break, lesson 3 and 4, lunch, last lesson, then anything else I had to do before laying down knowing nothing exciting was going to happen. It was very repetitive. When December came about, I was so excited to go back to school after the Christmas break...until it got postponed to March. This impacted my mental health as it seemed as if it was never going to end.

I did some research to see what could help me and I remembered to always try to fit in some daily exercise which helped a lot. Learning to focus on my wellbeing also helped me to calm down and concentrate more on my lessons. I tried my best to stay positive during these times and so I motivated myself to get up and do something. I know it might seem silly, but cleaning was very therapeutic for me and so each morning I found myself cleaning my work area and making sure I had all my supplies there for when lessons began.

After school I would sometimes go out on my bike or scooter which gave me some freedom from the house. I did also attempt to avoid social media! In conclusion, online learning taught me to focus on my mental health to ensure I stay happy whilst learning, and to make the most of whatever situation I am put in, even if it isn't ideal .



## **Book Review: A Horse for Angel by Sally Lean**

By Deshna Nagarajan , Y9

Special friendships can be found in the most unlikely places...

Sometimes when things are broken you cannot fix them on your own, no matter how hard you try. When Nell is sent to stay with distant family, she packs a suitcase full of secrets. A chance encounter with a wild horse draws Nell to Angel - a mysterious, troubled girl who is hiding secrets of her own. Both girls must learn to trust each other, if they are to save a hundred horses...

This novel is a good read for mythical and fantasy lovers. It also explains how both the main characters, Nell and Angel, overcome some tiny tragedies in life and save the Hundredth Horse to complete the tale. It was interesting how small beliefs expressed by her cousin Gemma could make Nell wonder and find out the hidden mysteries of life. I would recommend this book to many readers as it makes me feel that even the smallest problems in life affect how we choose to move on or how we end up withholding the memory throughout life.

The overall theme in the book is how things are not always what we see them as on the surface. As an eleven-year-old, the toughest part of life is what we choose to face, even if it triggers some unforgettable memories. I would give this book a rating of 4/5.

