

PROMOTING GLOBAL AWARENESS AND CITIZENSHIP AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL



Prefects' address to the school

Will and Lilian delivered our most recent school talk...

To have global awareness is to have the capacity to incorporate the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary for a person to navigate the world. In other words, this enables us to gain different perspectives and views about the world around us and how it works.

Almost all the social media and streaming apps we use are American, most products that we use are made in China and a great deal of our energy, as we have experienced in the last few months, is reliant on Eastern Europe. This highlights just how globalised we are and in turn how much things going on in other countries impact us. Yet how many of you know about the riots which are happening in Iran over women's rights and the theocratic regime? It is stories like these that may seem far away and unlikely to affect us, but are more important than Matt Hancock's forthcoming appearance on I'm a celebrity.



Not only can exposing ourselves to global issues help us become well-informed individuals it also allows us to gain some perspective. Perspective is incredibly important and can help us to realise the scale of our issues when we're feeling down. That is not to say things which might be worrying you don't matter if they aren't life or death situations, but perspective can help us to recognise all of the positive things in our lives.

We would like to stress that becoming globally aware is not actually that difficult. It can be as simple as reading the headlines that pop up on your phone or listening to podcasts on your way to school which is enough to give you an idea of what is going on in the world.

Our generation is able to be globally connected unlike any before us; we can access information from around the world and talk to friends instantly thousands of miles away. It has never been easier to be globally aware, and therefore we urge you to engage more with the wider world around you.

Thank you, have a good week.

Upcoming Curriculum Topics...

Y7 History - West African Power
Y7 History - Feudal Japan

Y13 Business - International Investment

Y7 Design Technology - Plastic Recycling
Y8 Design Technology - Cultural Dishes

Y7 Geography - Antarctica (Past, Present & Future)
Y8 Geography - Africa
Y9 Geography - Natural Disaster Planning in Japan
Y13 Geography - Carbon Cycle & Climate Change

Y7 PRE - World Festivals

Y10 Physics - Nuclear Fission & Fusion Power

Y10 Art - Personal Identity & Heritage Project

Y10 Media - Cultural Demographics
Y11 Media - Ethnic Representation and Attitudes

Y9 Classics - Religious Influence on Social Norms
Y10 Classics - Relationship of Religion and Politics
Y13 Classics - Art & Literature as Propaganda

Y7 Languages - Christmas in European Culture
Y8 Languages - Pen-Pal Programme
Y10 Languages - Language and Employment

**UPCOMING DINING HALL EVENT -
INDIAN CUISINE POP-UP EVENING -
18TH NOVEMBER**



RECENT EVENTS...

Recent RHS events with a link to global awareness include Model United Nations, MFL karaoke, the Black History Month Art exhibition and our "Grow With Us" sustainability campaign.

ANCIENT ROME AND RUSSIA - CLASSICS

It has been announced recently that the latest move in the Ukrainian conflict is Putin's conscription of reservist troops. This got me thinking about the Roman (and Greek) practices of conscription as a way of raising forces and I wondered if the one might help me think more deeply about the other.



On the top right is map is a geography of countries' military service (the idea of service being to provide a body of reserve troops to call upon in times of need). What patterns are there?

Geographical

Looking at the map (on the right) of Roman territory it is easy to see that a regular standing force would be necessary to maintain borders that might be constantly under flux. A map of the Russian Empire (up to the 1st World War - below) quickly reveals the changes of territory in the difficult-to-police Western border (the rest of Russia's landmass being protected by various fundamental topographical truths; its vastness, its mountain ranges, its cold!). Is this perhaps why island nation Australia feels no need for conscription but land-locked Switzerland does?



Ideological

Perhaps this map reveals ideological differences? The traditionally communist countries of South America still have military service but capitalist USA does not. However, you only have to look at the ancient Greeks, who values military service as an essential fulfilment of democratic responsibility to see that it is not so simple. Could not conscription be the ultimate expression of dutiful patriotism?

The Russian Empire's influence left this same legacy and raised issues of identity that form part of Putin's claim over Ukrainian territory. Do Ukrainians speak Russian because they are fundamentally somehow Russian or is it a relic of previous boundaries?

Where does this leave us?

It has not escaped my notice that many of the sentences in this article are questions. Looking at current affairs through an ancient lens will only ever be a way to prompt more questions rather than provide answers. However, it is comforting, not disheartening, to recognise that issues of conscription and territory have plagued geo-political interactions for millennia.



The Roman army played a massive role in Rome's success: it was responsible for gains in territory, money, manpower. In return, it spread language, currency and knowledge; but did this provide a carrot for would-be soldiers or were they forced by the stick of conscription?

In our Studd Society discussion, questions quickly turned to issues of identity and empathy. Our conclusion was that intellectual and emotional curiosity are the only way to face such massive issues. How would our views be different if we were seeing this from the other side? Or even if we were simply exposed to the media of the other side? The Classical culture was no stranger to 'othering' everyone else in their self-superior identification. Surely that is one legacy that it is time to let go of.

