

The Joint Sixth Guardian

Beverley Joint Sixth Form

December 2010

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Students Protest Against University Cuts

Students of both Year 12 and Year 13 went to voice their opinions of the Coalition Government's higher education spending cuts.

Last Thursday, the students of our sixth formed gathered outside the local Conservative party offices for a peaceful protest against the cuts to Higher education spending. The coalition government plans to cut university funding by £4.2 billion, and raise tuition fees from the current cap of around £3,000 threefold - to a possible £9,000.

The demonstration was organised by Tom Dolman and Ian Lunny of Year 12. The rise in tuition fees is to commence in 2012, the year that current Year 12 students will be applying to university. The rise in tuition fees does not affect those in Year 13 who are applying to begin their courses in September 2011. However many Year 13s also joined the protest, as the cuts to university funding will still



have a dramatic impact on their education.

The police were present at the demonstration, as well as a helicopter which was rather pointlessly dispatched, however there was no violence or disruption and the protest went ahead successfully and peacefully. After releasing a statement urging students to understand the necessity of the proposed cuts, which was set alight by the protestors, Graham Stuart voted for the rise in fees in the House of Commons that night.

Students chanted "No ifs, no buts, no education cuts" and "Freeze the cuts." Some students even lay on the snow outside the offices. Many of the banners and artwork displayed by demonstrators focused on Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, head of the Liberal Democrat party, who, prior to this year's general election, signed a pledge not to raise tuition fees. Abolishing tuition fees has always been a flagship policy of the Liberal Democrats, however 28 Lib-Dem MPs voted for the fee rise whilst 21 voted against and 8 abstained.

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Nick Clegg himself supports the rise in tuition fees. The protest was a contrast to that in London, at which anarchists caused havoc in Parliament Square and the surrounding area. No such violence was present at the Beverley protest, and students even applauded the Police for their cooperation. Mr Richardson, English Literature and Media Studies teacher at Beverley Grammar School, said students "made an old teacher feel like a very proud old teacher."

The protest only lasted around an hour before the Police asked students to vacate the area. Demonstrators were also denied requests to march through Beverley town centre.

The following day, several Year 13 students attended 'The Politics of the Coalition', a conference at Hull University, which featured a heated question and answer session involving Conservative MP for Beverley and Holderness Graham Stuart, Chief Executive of the Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce Dr Ian Kelly, Lib-Dem Councillor Carl Minns and Labour MP for West Hull and Hessle Alan Johnson. The Labour party opposes the rise in tuition fees and supports a Graduate Tax system.

Unfortunately, the vote passed through the House of Commons, with a majority vote of 21. However it is unlikely that the students of the UK will have finished protesting.



Report by **James Brown**

Year 13 Christmas Party

This year's Year 13 Christmas Party takes place on Thursday 23rd December at **Lattitude**, Newland Avenue, Hull. The Year 12's Christmas party took place at the same venue and was a great success. Our Head Girl Imogen Cuckson particularly 'enjoyed' it.

Tickets are on sale at just £3 each from Thursday, with all profits going towards the prom fund. A DJ has been hired for the party and as ever,

ID is required. If you arrive in a disorderly state you will be refused entry and anyone who has too much to drink will be ejected, so please stay sensible.

The party will run roughly from 8:00pm to 2:00am.

For more information, please ask a member of the Student Leadership Team.

Hope to see you there!

Ian Lunny's What's Hot and What's Not

Ian Lunny discusses his best and worst of recent music.

So I'll be honest, I don't like Cheryl Cole. In fact I would go as far as to say that I would rather sit and have acid chucked in my eyes than listen to this but I did (due to the fact that if I hadn't I would just be ranting about rubbish instead of music). I would rather have the acid.

The album is over-produced with synthesizers that would make La Roux sound organic and vocals so processed they might as well have called it a Big Mac. The first single of the album, *Promise This* (already a UK number 1) gives little, *Raindrops* is a shrieked horror and *The Flood* - well, the less said about that the better.

It saddens me that talented pop writers like Janelle Monae are over-looked whereas people like Cheryl Cole are the flavour of the month. Send Cole back to Newcastle.

I would recommend this if you are into mindless pop tunes that won't last and soon fade away into nothing. I look forward to reviewing *Insatiable* by Nadine Coyle to see which I care less about.

2 out of 10

Right, I know the main review was short but there was very little to say, and I will not speak of that album ever again. But on to something different, a band that people might know but only one song or two.

The Strokes

I'm not going to lie, I'm a huge fan of The Strokes. I will be buying their new album, and I will be seeing them live at least 12 times when they tour, but I want to review their first album *Is This It*.

Is This It was the beginning of indie as you know it (yes indie music has been around before, The Smiths, Joy Division and The Velvet Underground) they took a sound that

was already around and made it their own.

Tracks like *Hard To Explain*, *Someday*, *Soma*, *Last Night* and the title track *Is This It All* stand out as classic tunes with great guitar lines, lyrics and strong drum beats. I would recommend this to anyone (even that guy, you know the one).

Of course if you like metal or anything that sounds like Cheryl Cole (I know I said I wouldn't bring it up again but I did, sorry) you might not like this album but I would be shocked if you didn't; it's a great album for everyone, even you.

10 out of 10 and the best album of the last decade.

Track of the month

I didn't know whether to write about a song I like at the moment or a song in the charts that is good; so I have chosen to do a bit of both. I chose a track I love at the moment *and* a track out that I think is good.

The one I like at the moment is *This Is How It Feels* by Inspiral Carpets. This song is everything that was right with brit pop. Not the stupid rivalry between Blur and Oasis (we all know who was better there- Blur by far) and not the rubbish little tunes in between (Spice Girls), but a great Manchester band making great music.

9 out of 10

A song in the top 40 (although I don't like much in there) is Michael Buble's *Holiday*, at the moment only at number 11. It has a great pop and jazz feel to it and it's fun. You get what you want with Michael and it's a great track! Buy it, give it a listen.

9 out of 10



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Parents Evening

As you will all be aware, both the Year 12 and Year 13 parents' evenings were cancelled due to the lingering bad weather. Both parents' evenings are postponed until after Christmas. Year 13's Parents' evening will take place on Thursday 20th January, and Year 12's Parents' evening will take place on Tuesday 15th February.

Medicine Conference

The Medicine Conference "Uncovering Medical School: What, how, and why?" was also unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather and has been postponed to February 2nd. For more information on this conference, see Miss Challis.

UCAS Deadline

The UCAS deadline of January 15th is looming ever closer, and if you have not already sent your UCAS form off, it should be very nearly ready.

If you have not sent your form off, make sure it is completed and ready to send when we return after the Christmas break.

If you need help with your personal statement or any other aspect of your form, ask your form tutor or Mrs Walters.

Any Year 13 students who would like to arrange a practice interview are welcome to go and see Mrs Walters to organise it.

Have a Happy Christmas!

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