

Viking Voice



Shiplake At Risk!

The Labour Party says all endowments, investments and properties held by private schools should "be redistributed democratically and fairly across the country's educational institutions."

What will happen if Labour shuts down your school? If Labour win the next election Shiplake College could be nationalised by force. Labour has backed plans for private school abolishment, under which we would lose tax benefits and be "integrated" into the state sector.

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SHIPLAKE AT RISK

by Maddy Burwash

What will happen if Labour wins the upcoming election? Shiplake College could be nationalised. Labour has backed plans for private school abolishment, under which we would lose tax benefits and be integrated into the state sector. The Labour Party conference last month committed the party's next manifesto, which includes a section stating that endowments, investments and properties held by private schools should "be redistributed democratically and fairly across the country's educational institutions."⁽¹⁾ A Labour government would abandon exams at the end of primary school, replace the schools inspectorate, and abolish private schools altogether. Labour claims it's the party fighting for social justice rather than social mobility.⁽²⁾



Jeremy Corbyn: Leader of the Labour

So how would this affect you? Data released by the Department for Education today reveals that 8.4 per cent of all secondary school classes now have between 31 and 35 pupils⁽³⁾. In comparison, most private schools keep their class sizes closer to an average of 10-15 students⁽⁴⁾. As a result Shiplake would be moving from an average size of 10-15 students to an average size of over 30. This could mean less 'one-to-one' lessons with the teacher, which is essential to the learning of most of our pupils.

Fiona Boulton, chairwoman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), argued that shutting down private schools was "based on ignorance and the desire to damage".⁽⁵⁾

Nicole Dunn, Year 12 student, stated 'I disagree completely and wouldn't want it to happen under any circumstances. I believe that it should not be abolished, as private schools give you that extra independence and cater for the extra needs of pupils. It is the direction that the UK is moving towards. I think that it gives you a better chance in life because of the extra support and co curricular activities that they have to offer.'



Nicole Dunn, Year 12

However, Labour states that children's life chances should not be determined by parental wealth. Freddie Diver, also of Year 12, stated, "I believe that you shouldn't have private schools as it is unfair that some people get better opportunities in life dependent on the families they are born into."

The argument in favour of abolishing private schools centres on the view that private schools create an unfair society, ruled by an educational minority who dominate politics (well, certainly English politics), the law, 'good' universities, the Church, the arts and so on. In a major policy shift, a motion approved by delegates at the gathering in Brighton said a government led by Jeremy Corbyn would "challenge the elite privilege of private schools" and claimed that "the ongoing existence of private schools is incompatible with Labour's pledge to promote social justice".⁽⁶⁾



Freddie Diver, Year 12

Controversially, the party will also force universities to ensure that only seven per cent of students they admit went to private schools – the same proportion as in the general population. The shadow minister Angela Rayner stated, "Often the reason people turn to independent schools is because they want children to have more support... If the state system did not get some of those resources, then getting rid of those schools would not help. We want to lift the overall standard, not bring everyone down to the same level." She further added, "John McDonnell and I will set out the further steps a Labour government would take. But I can say today, that our very first Budget will immediately close the tax loopholes used by elite private schools, and use that money to improve the lives of all children."⁽⁷⁾



Jeremy Corbyn: Leader of the Labour

According to some, this is a debate which will be very repetitive, will lack evidence and contain lots of bile that's been waiting to be spilled for a long time.⁽⁸⁾

The fate of Shiplake may well be in the hands of the electorate on December 12th. How would you vote?



- 1 - www.thirdsector.co.uk
- 2 - www.theguardian.com
- 3 - <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/secondary-class-sizes-rise-for-fourth-year-running/>
- 4 - <https://www.thoughtco.com/major-differences-between-public-and-private-2773898>
- 5 - <http://vectornews.eu/news/182850-private-schools-say-abolition-would-be-vote-loser.html>
- 6 - <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/an-unexpected-reason-why-labour-s-pledge-to-abolish-private-schools-is-good-news-cameron-wyllie-1-5034723>
- 7 - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-public-private-school-abolish-eton-vote-conference-corbyn-education-policy-a9115766.html>
- 8 - <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/an-unexpected-reason-why-labour-s-pledge-to-abolish-private-schools-is-good-news-cameron-wyllie-1-5034723>

POP STAR, POET OR PRIME MINISTER?

By Jacob Kirby and Sam Wright

How are you finding your new house?

"It has amazed me just how quickly it feels like home. We moved in at the end of July and I was very keen for us to move early in the summer so we could unpack and settle in. It was important for me for my family to be settled. The timing was really good and it meant that I could spend quite a lot of time in Shiplake and at the school before term started. I've got to know lots of people here and it's meant that I've been able to start with more familiarity."



Mr Howe, Shiplake new Head

When you were a child, did you want to be a headmaster? Or did you want to be something else?

"I was asked this once before on a radio programme and on the spur of the moment I came up with Pop star, Poet and Prime minister – the three Ps! Those are the things I think I would have liked to have been when I was younger."

Moving to politics and the recent Labour conference, how do you feel about their announcement that they want to ban private schools?



Jeremy Corbyn

"I think that rather than trying to dilute what is great about independent schools, we actually need to build from the bottom up. I think that people should have the freedom of choice when it comes to how they spend their money and I know lots of parents who make serious sacrifices to send their children to an independent school and I think that that's a choice that they make and they should be allowed to have that choice. At the same time, I think it's really important that we work towards a better situation where we have equality of opportunity where people have the opportunity to come to an amazing school like Shiplake and that should be available through bursaries, even for those for whom it's not affordable."

Brexit. Did you vote in or out?

"I studied German as part of my degree and I lived in Berlin for a year and it was one of the best experiences of my life. So, I feel Irish, I feel British and I feel very strongly European as well. I look at it from a maybe too simplistic perspective. That said, I can understand that people have become frustrated with the bureaucracy and lack of accountability of Europe and their position but I think that the whole Brexit issue has now got to the stage where people are almost bored of the topic and it's become so complicated that everyone is getting confused and not understanding the key issues any more."

"I think that my instinct is that I want a close relationship with Europe. There were 12 people from Germany at my wedding and I have friends and effectively family from Germany. I know how hurt they have felt by our decisions, they have felt very strongly about it and we have Europeans here who are now making plans to return to their countries because they feel unwelcome and I think that's a real shame. Another thing that now frustrates me is that political campaigning is based on negative things, it's all about the risks. This disappointed me with the Remain campaign at the referendum, it was all about the risks if we came out rather than the benefits of staying in. There was nothing positive."



Brexit: in or out?

What would you say at the moment is the biggest selling feature of Shiplake?



Shiplake College

"I think that when people arrive here, they genuinely get a sense of the warmth of the community. They pick up on the positive relations between staff and pupils and I think that they see it as a happy place but also one that we offer something for everyone. Academically, people perform to their potential but we also offer sport, art, drama, and music. Also, our setting is amazing so I think that there are a lot of very powerful selling points."

To make the school co-ed, would it be a case of cutting out half of the boys, or It would it be a case of adding more numbers?

"I think that cutting boys would compromise a lot of the activities that we do, sports and the teams we can put out, so I don't think that that would be a good step at all. I'm really pleased with how competitive we are in the sports that we play and the fixtures that we have so I think it wouldn't be a good step to endanger that."

There are a lot of people who feel that Monday mornings take up a lot of time etc. What's the main reason behind the assembly?

"I think it's good that the whole school meets together. We're a really tight-knit community and we need to meet as a community. One of our core values is being 'inclusive' so it's good everyone is together. Another of our core values is 'individual' and we're celebrating the efforts and achievements of individuals across lots of different areas of school life. Our third core value is 'inspirational' and I think that having a head Boy who wants to be a vet and rows for GB, having a county cricketer, having somebody who gets a Grade 8 in musical theatre, having somebody who does a positive act – I think that's all inspirational for a younger member of the school. You know, us teachers are old and not very cool but actually for a younger pupil seeing somebody they can aspire to be is enormously powerful and I really believe in the power of positive role modelling. One of the reasons I went to the uni I did is that there was a senior pupil at my school that I very much looked up to who went to the same university. It hopefully lifts aspiration."

SPORTS REPORTS

By Viking Voice Team

A fantastic term of Shiplake sports saw our teams competing in hockey, rugby and rowing.

Girls' Hockey

Early on in the season, our girls' hockey team lost 2-1 in a hard fought match against Reddam House.



Maddie Simpson, girls' sports captain, said *"this was our first match together as a team and the girls all played amazing"*. Despite the loss the team remained upbeat and their positivity paid off as they moved onto their next match against Lord Wandsworth College - a game that could hardly have been more dramatic, and Maddie described as the "best moment" of the season. Trailing 0-1 for the whole match, Shiplake equalised with only 51 seconds to go. But the game was not over. Unbelievably, we scored again in

the last 10 seconds to win the match! Coach Mrs Bayley went on to say *"The ladies have really brought a lot of positivity to training and are starting to see the rewards of good team work and hard work."*

Since the win against Lord Wandsworth, things have got tougher for our girls' hockey team and we have suffered losses against some strong opposition in the very competitive Super 8 league. Well done to all the team for their hard work in training and for representing us so well.



Rugby

With so much rugby being played each week, we don't have enough space to cover all our rugby teams, but we did hear from Mr Beckett, coach of the First XV, Mr Dix, coach of the Second XV, as well as Josh Walne, captain of the 1sts. Mr Beckett noted the first XV win over Caterham as being the top moment of the season so far. The coach praised the players for their commitment to training noting *"how hard it is for the boys to go from period 6 business studies to being switched on for a good quality training session. They tend to train well and ultimately*



understand what is needed to be successful.” Skipper Josh Walne conceded that “the results so far have been disappointing for our standards... (but) I believe we’ve learnt from these for future matches and what we need to do to in order to retain a winning form.” He praised his physical and dominant forward pack as well as complimenting his very strong back line.

Our second XV have racked up wins against St George's College, Weybridge, University College School, and Merchant Taylors' School. But undoubtedly their proudest moment came when they beat Lord Wandsworth College by a whopping 62 points to 7. “The way the Y11s have stepped up and played senior rugby, without being phased” was the most impressive feature of the team for Mr Dix.



As ever, Friday Night Lights was a highlight of our rugby calendar. Despite having to switch venues at the last minute due to poor weather, many spectators supported our teams as they played under the lights at Maidenhead. Torrential rain made the conditions difficult and an even match was won at the end by the visiting St Benedict's team.

Rowing

So far this term the rowers have only competed in three events and have competed rather successfully at all three. Firstly Shiplake hosted the Viking Challenge Cup: a head race from Sonning to the Shiplake lock. Shiplake came away with the win over Eton and St Edward's. With a very dominant win in the coxless and coxed 4 along with the pair and single. This meant that Shiplake won in almost every event class easily securing enough points to win.

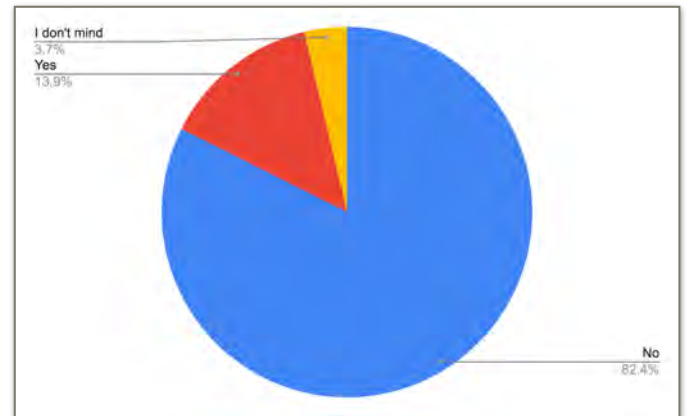
The next major event was the Pairs Head of the River. Hosted at the tideway in London, Shiplake entered two doubles and a few pairs. Shiplake went into the event strong with strong scullers in Frederick Focosi and Robert Humphris in the double and GB rower Rhys Ash with Sydney Burnard in the pair. Shiplake looked poised to gain strong results over their rival schools. Despite strong winds and wet conditions Shiplake came away with a huge win in the pair with Sydney and Rhys beefing all the senior men's pairs as well. This, boasted by the win in the doubles result, meant for a great weekend for Shiplake.



THE BIG QUESTION: PHONES

by Sam Wright and Jacob Kirby

This edition of the big question is about the current school mobile phone policy. We asked a mixture of general questions and year-specific questions. Some of these questions were “Are you happy with Shiplake's current phone policy?” “What would you use your phone for if you had it during the school day?” “What should change?” The majority of Shiplake students said they were unhappy with the current phone policy. We then asked the pupils:



Do you agree with the Phone Rule?



A student caught in the act

“Do you think your parents prefer that you do not have access to your phone at school?” Students gave a mixed response to this question. In Year 7-8, 36% of the pupils who answered said that their parents agree that they should not have their phone with 9% saying that the parents think they should have their phones with the rest not really knowing.

When asking:

“What would you use your phone for if you had it during the school day?” The Year 9 pupils responded with comments such as “easy access for emails and work”, “writing things down on it”, “school work” and “lessons calculator and SOCs”.

Having looked over all of the results, we can clearly tell that bar a few exceptions all students have a phone. As you may expect, many pupils feel as though they should be allowed their phone especially after talking with students in the sixth form. Many sixth formers feel as though they should be given more responsibility. Many argue that as older pupils that are soon to enter the workplace, they should be given the trust and responsibility to manage their phone time themselves. Many also believe that if the use of phones was still regulated but not banned it would give many the chance to learn from their mistakes and grow into responsible students.

There are psychological arguments that say if a child/young adult learns responsibility for themselves in both the long run and short run it could lead to lower phone usage. If a student could use their phone during school it might result in fewer students going home and spending all their time on their phones. We must acknowledge that kids get withdrawal symptoms if they don't use their phone enough. However, being taught to use it responsibly at school would take up some of that time and would mean there would be more time to talk to their parents.

Shiplake Rants

by Mrs Rapple Moore

I am honoured to be asked to write the inaugural Shiplake Rant. I can't imagine why I was chosen, calm and quietly-spoken as I am and surely not known for voicing my opinions...?! However, I am delighted to oblige.

Why does everyone have to carry their own water bottles with them these days? There are water fountains all over the school and plenty of time at break and lunch to get a drink of water. There's really no need to constantly cart a bottle



around, which inevitably gets left lying around the school. What's worse is that some people are still using plastic, single-use bottles that they just chuck away at the end of the day, which is completely irresponsible. Doesn't anyone consider the environment? It also makes me cross when I see pupils at



lunch taking two or even three glasses of water on their trays, creating extra washing up every day because they can't be bothered to get up and walk to the end of the hall to refill their glass if they want a second drink. All these people who spend hours in the gym each week and then can't cope with walking ten metres to get another drink!

While I'm on the subject, I can't believe how unbothered so many people are about the environment and how little people are prepared to do to try and limit climate change. It doesn't take much effort to reduce your use of plastics or recycle or take the bus or buy a bamboo toothbrush, but lots of people aren't prepared to put themselves out to the slightest degree. Which seems a shame, when it's the younger generation who are going to suffer the most in fifty years' time... Anyway, rant over.



Shiplake Mock Election

Shiplake College acknowledges and encourages active political participation. The school will be holding an internal mock election where you, the pupils, will vote for the political party of your choice, who will be represented by an A Level politics student. Parties you'll be able to vote for are; The Brexit Party, The Labour Party, The Conservative Party and The Liberal Democrats.

In the current political landscape, the people vote in the general election, is greatly important. It will make or carry through a decision on Brexit which is the largest change to UK politics since we joined the EEC in 1973. As the EEC has carried us into the EU under the Maastricht, as a decision on the way forward will give the British, a cure to both the psychological and economic impact of uncertainty.

Each Party brings a different perspective, raising major issues at the forefront of our society:



Anna Galpin - Labour - Raise minimum wage from £8.21 to £10



Poppy Whitfield - DUP - Cancel the planned high-speed railway line from London to Birmingham and to Manchester and Leeds (HS2). The personal tax allowance should rise in line with inflation each year.



Cameron Gass - Liberal Dems - Enable local authorities to levy up to 200% council tax on second homes and 'buy to leave empty' investments from overseas.



Will Symons - Plaid Cymru - To oppose the development of new sites for nuclear power plants.



Marcus Coulter - Brexit Party - said his party would scrap VAT on fuel bills and stop companies earning less than £10,000 a year paying corporation tax.



Freddie - Conservatives - He also promised 50,000 more nurses, at a cost of £750m a year.



SHIPLAKE ELECTION 2019
DECEMBER 12TH
VOTING TAKES PLACE DURING LUNCH TIME IN THE OVR
MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

THE SHIPLAKE QUIZ

Rules of the game:

- The first three correct answers for each question will receive an excellence slip.
- You can submit an answer to one, or all of these questions.
- Answers must be submitted within 2 weeks (the earlier the better your odds).
- Email your answers to 15mcoulter@shiplake.org.uk



Business Studies - Mr Olhausen

Why do Starbucks have round tables in their coffee shops?



Media Studies - Mr Milburn

Who is the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated?
Bonus question, who shot him?



Economics - Mr Read

How many days did the new chief of the IMF work at the World Bank before she took her new job?



T&P - Mr Woolner

What four letters link an eighteenth century philosopher, a professional footballer, and a drum and bass DJ?



Drama & Theatre - Mrs Davies

Name the method that physical theatre performers use to stay fit, which was created by a Judo master?



Mathematics - Mr Kirby

You have two children, given that one of them is a girl, what is the probability of the other being a boy?



Viking Voice Team

Sam Wright - Chief Editor

Jacob Kirby - Deputy Editor

Marcus Coulter - Political Correspondent

Maddy Burwash - Feature Article

Mr Read - Chairman

We are recruiting!

If you want to be a part of the Viking Voice Team sign up on SOC's for next term. The more, the better!

Thank you for reading this edition of the Viking Voice, we hope that with enough people joining we can bring out an edition every term or half term.



SHIPLAKE COLLEGE
HENLEY-ON-THAMES