



Summer Term 2020

The Junior Lawyers Club

Summer Newsletter

News from the Principal

As in so many areas of our lives over the last few months, the JLC has had to rapidly evolve and adapt. Moving all our workshops from being classroom based to online delivery has been our key focus this term. What an amazing testimony to all involved: parents, children and tutors, that such a radical transition has been achieved with few, if any problems. I must admit, my own experiences in delivering distance learning programmes for trainee lawyers for over 15 years put me in an extremely advantageous position in implementing this transition.

We have thoroughly enjoyed delivering the workshops this term. The level of student engagement has been exceptional. Their ability to face challenges and adapt has been amazing. Likewise, I am very grateful to tutors and parents for all their support and understanding during this time.

Given the success of the online programme we have decided to make it a permanent mode of delivery. Dates for our online workshops for 2020-July 2021 can be found under FAQs on the website.

I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable summer and very much look forward to welcoming you back for the Autumn programme.

Susanne Tayfoor (Principal)

Dates for Autumn Term I

Online workshops will be held in the weeks beginning:

12 September

19 September

26 September

3 October

10 October

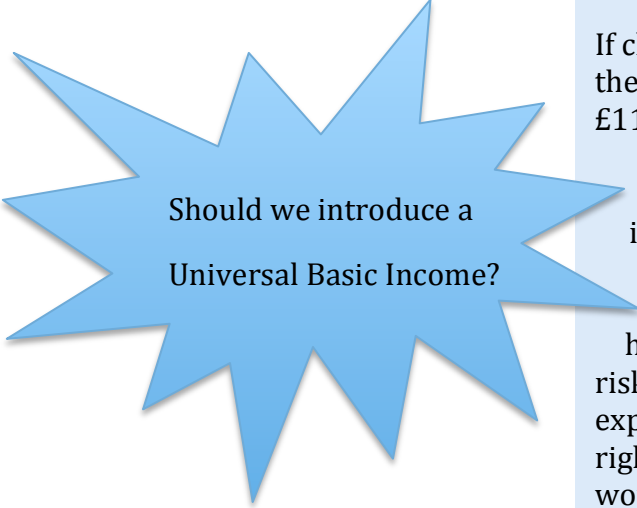
17 October

(Half term break)

Prices remain the same, with a 10% early bird discount



Some of our debate topics this term... We had some lively debates in the workshops, on a number of topics. Afterwards, participants in the workshops were invited to submit their views as concisely and clearly as possible. Here are some submissions from our members (names have been removed for privacy)...



Should we introduce a
Universal Basic Income?

O.F.'s thoughts...

If children were given £120 a week from birth up until their 18th birthday, they would have accumulated £112,320, that is a lot of money! Children all face very different financial circumstances, dependent on their parents or guardians. Children whose household income is low, may need to use the money as soon as, they receive it because their family are unable to afford necessities, such as food and clothes. Children are heavily influenced and rely on adults around them. The risks of children having money, would be adults may exploit their innocence, understanding and lack of legal rights for their personal gain. Additionally, capitalists would market their products to them, resulting in money spent needlessly. They could even be scammed by fraudsters and the black market.

In my opinion It would be an excellent idea for the government to give children money, however it should be conditional. Can only access at 18 years old and prove it is for a life investment for themselves, for example, to buy a

Why children should learn a second language (by S.A.)

Being bilingual is something that less than half of the world is. I believe that every child should try their best to successfully master a second language.

With the ability to speak a second language you are able to improve your understanding of the world, your intelligence and it can even open up new career paths.

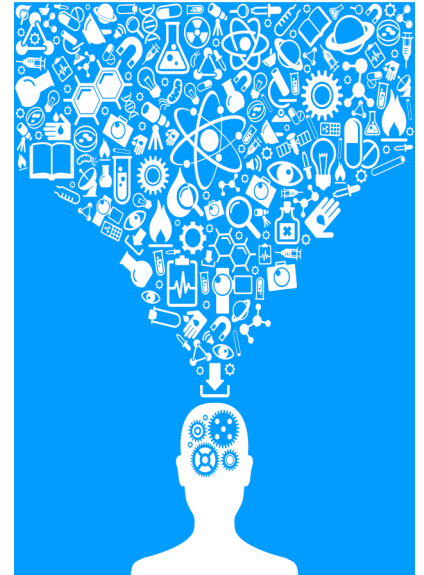
Learning a second language forces you to work your memory, which is strengthened by working out (memory is like a muscle in many ways). There are 6,000 languages spoken in our world so speaking even one second language helps us to access both foreign media and entertainment which can enrich our lives.

Will Neural Interfaces Spark the Death of Language?

by O.S. (age 9)

Neural interfaces are small computer chips which can be attached to the inside or outside of the brain or body to create a communication pathway between the human nervous system and an external device. These are being developed to treat health conditions, change how we use technology, and improve academic and sporting skills – but also as a means of communicating without the need for words or speech, using just the mind to be able to let someone else experience what you can see, hear, touch, taste, smell and think.

At the moment I think many people will not want to communicate using neural interfaces. People might find it scary, and it will take time for people to think it is safe. It seems strange (and probably unlikely) that people won't use language at all, because that is one of the things that makes us human. If we didn't speak then how would babies learn language? If we start depending completely on neural interfaces I wonder if we might lose our language abilities as a result of those neural pathways in the brain not being used. And would that have subsequent consequences for our species eventually evolving to not have language? But it is possible that at some point in the future everyone will use neural interfaces and people might find it easier and quicker to communicate through neural interfaces than language. A bit like how over the last 20 years people started texting more than speaking. Maybe using neural interfaces might mean people can communicate on a 'deeper' level than they would do with words and so people won't miss having language. But would it also mean that it might be easier to offend someone if you accidentally thought something which was rude or that you didn't actually want to share? How difficult would it be to keep some of your thoughts private? Also, information collected from people's brains or bodies might be harvested by companies or governments, who could use the data to control people or access private thoughts or personal information. So it would be important to put in place clear laws, safety measures and privacy guidelines before neural interfaces are used, to protect people's human rights.



In one session we talked about the process of lobbying and looked at the process of how a Bill becomes law. Students presented the law they would like to propose. Here was one excellent suggestion...

Online School Education: New Law Proposition

by P.T. (age 10)

As the coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of schools, according to the Guardian, 8 million pupils missed half this year's education. While private schools continued via online teaching, state schools struggled. With high chances of a second Covid-19 wave this autumn, we urgently need to take the necessary steps so that no child in this country is deprived of its education again.

I am proposing a new law, where state schools will be obliged to provide a comprehensive education via an online learning platform for pupils, when and where regular classes are not offered. This is required to ensure the sustainability of education, during times of school closure.

More specifically, all state schools must:

- A) Set up an online learning platform with resources & LIVE lessons daily.
- B) Provide complete coverage of all subjects according to the curriculum.
- C) Allocate the necessary funds for the supply of appropriate equipment and technology (ie laptops, internet connection) for the least advantaged including teachers and pupils, thus facilitating online access.

Finally, I would suggest that during a pandemic, children belonging to a high risk group or those living with high risk family members, should be given the option of online education via the platform, instead of regular classes, thus not compromising their health or that of their family's .

What are the benefits?

By introducing this law, state school children will never miss out on their education. They will not be at a disadvantage compared to their independent schools' peers. Last but not least, children's psychological well-being will immensely improve as they will be able to interact with friends and teachers.

To conclude, it is the UK Government's duty to provide top quality education children need, at all times. By introducing this law of online education, we are ensuring we do so.

And finally on the topic of social media – students first worked with actors on their voice tone and expression, then debated whether social media could ever replace face-to-face communication...

Is Social Media Improving Communication? by P.T.

According to Statista, 3.6 billion people worldwide currently have an online profile. Social media helps us connect and communicate with others at the mere click of our finger. It allows us to meet new people whom we would have not otherwise met. It allows us to reach out the whole world, learn about different cultures, different lives, even promote our ideas and businesses.

But do these amazing benefits outweigh the cost? Social media has become so fashionable in our days particularly with young generations, to the extent that people's value is measured by their popularity of their profiles and posts. As a result some people feel less worthy if they don't manage to attract many 'likes' or they make up a fake 'lustrous' life to hide their solitude or un-happiness. They falsely count their social media 'friends' as true friends but when they need someone to rely on, they realise that none of these would even notice their absence. Even when they socialise in real life, they lose interest in face-to-face communication with friends and family and shy away from meeting new people, out of fear of missing out from their 'perfect' virtual community.

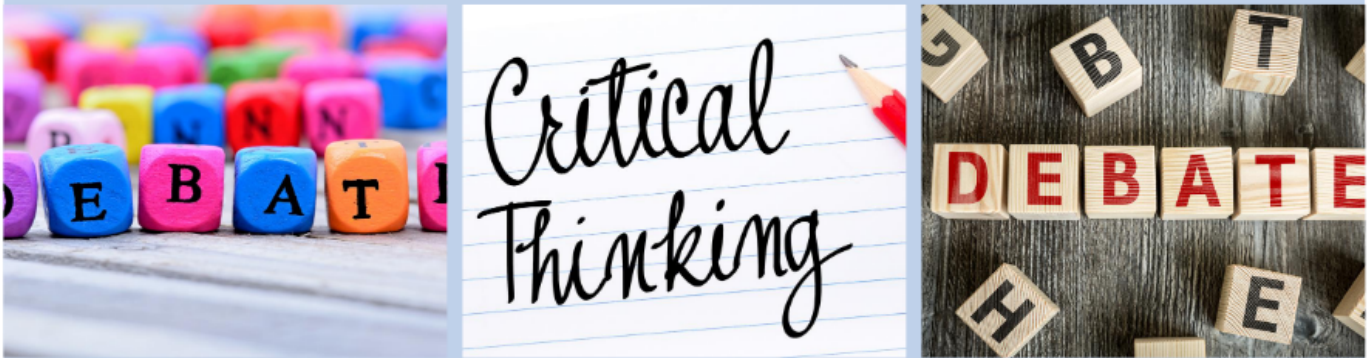
As a result, although social media is about opening up to the world, it appears that this amazing tool can have a massive negative impact on people's lives if it is not used correctly. Unfortunately, millions of people prefer to live in a 'social bubble' boasting of their numerous friends, but in essence, the more one gets plunged into this fake reality, the more socially isolated they get and cut off the real bridges of communication with the real world.



Congratulations from the JLC tutors to all our members who successfully passed the Bronze Award last month!

The Junior Lawyers' Club Online

ONLINE HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS 9-14 YEAR OLDS



www.juniorlawyersclub.co.uk

If anyone who would like to join us in August, we are running Holiday Clubs covering Debate & Public Speaking Skills

These sessions will focus on underlying debate and public speaking skills to develop confidence in:

- Mental agility and the ability to think and perform on the spot
- Ability to anticipate and respond to counter-arguments
- Recognising and identifying logical fallacies (flaws in arguments)
- Ability to analyse a number of different debate topics and build a logical case
- The ability to actively listen and understand other viewpoints
- To become aware of the ingredients that make a strong argument

Creative & Critical Thinking Skills

These sessions focus on developing the following:

- Critical thinking - deductive and inductive reasoning
- Interpreting and applying laws in engaging role-plays
- Games with critical thinking scenarios
- The ability to evaluate situations and information
- Coming up with new ideas, fresh perspectives and unorthodox solutions