

Summer holidays

Summer holidays and what they mean to me

Education experts every year pose the question: 'do children really need such long summer breaks?' Apparently, such a long break disrupts their development and gets in the way of the learning process. Perhaps educationists aren't really aware of what children do during their vacations these days. A plethora of courses, classes, camps and workshops involving swimming, art, personality development, music, coding and the like have given rise to a new seasonal industry. Even the trips taken in the name of the holidays seem laden with exotic destinations and customized experiences packed into a short period of time. We can 'do' Europe in ten days and Australia in a week, and come back with overflowing suitcases and digital memories which have already been shared real time, and commented upon. Holidays are, in some ways, no longer a break but an intensified search for experiences not normally encountered in everyday life.

For me, holidays are a time for genuine relaxation: 'me - time' as many people like to call it. As I am about to go into an important year in two months' time, catching up on the subjects I have doubts about would do no harm, but still: life is too short. The best experiences need to be captured in these free days. The wonderful moments with your family and friends should be enjoyed and treasured. Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic, humanity has learned that anything can happen, and what lies ahead is unpredictable

The summer holidays should be embraced: it is not about how much work you get done over these two months, it is about having fun, and relaxing. Life is not the same anymore. However, we are all slowly getting back to what we did before; we are slowly getting into the groove of things. So let us really enjoy the summer break like we've never enjoyed it before. You may wish to develop a new skill, or a new interest? As for me, I have definitely found a few good series on Netflix to watch over the summer.

SMRUTHI KARTHIKKUMAR, THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

Summer daze

*lazy, sluggish summer afternoons
crawl by to the slow tick-tocking of the clock
tick-tock. tick-tock.*

*the shadow of laughter reverberating through the halls;
a remnant of the lunch gone by.
thus, lethargy hangs in the humid air.*

*tongue lolling, or drawling to the person behind
slow squeaks on the whiteboards resound through the room
subtle tap-tapping anticipates the end.*

*accompanied by laboured yawns,
pens click-clacking join the musical arrangement
of crickets chirping away*

*still clouds suspended in time
the trickle of breeze too weak to move anything
everything stops. stagnant.*

*sweat seasons the sultry air,
once pallid complexions now flushed,
as sticky strands cling to them.*

*burdening the heat on shaking shoulders
dragging feet huffing and puffing --
straining with the effort of existing.*

*these stifling summer days
are a static rhythm.*

NYSA UPADHYA & LAURYN OKERAGO,
THE HENRIETTA BARNETT SCHOOL

As this is the first year post-pandemic that students have been able to enjoy a normal summer break, we asked the SNY team to tell us what the summer holidays means to them...



(Photo: Jacqueline Botterill)

Calling all youth! Fellowship House is not Just For Oldies

There is a popular misconception that a child's foot never crosses the threshold of Fellowship House. Not so.

As a centre serving the whole community whenever possible, the younger generation has been involved for many years, for example:

- Artist Vera Moore runs popular after school art classes (veramooreinfo@gmail.com, tel 07741 126151).
- Henrietta Barnett girls have held exhibitions of their work in the art gallery.
- Brooklands School Infants come to sing for Fellowship Club Members every now and then.
- The 2nd Golders Green Guides Monday evening session has been a fixture for many years. (Natasha Radjabi at 2ndgoldersgreenguides@gmail.com)
- The hall can be hired for children's private parties most weekends (Elisabeth Kocen, bookings@fellowshiphouse.co.uk)