



TEAM Global

**The European Atlantic
Movement**

An independent, non-party-political educational foundation. Founded in 1958, TEAM's vision is to promote an understanding and discussion of world affairs, which empowers young people to be active global citizens and to aspire to leadership roles within their communities.

NEWSLETTER

April 2021

**President: Lord Watson of
Richmond, CBE.**

Chairman: Laurence Smy

Vice Chairman: Antony Frost

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TEAMGlobal UEA Research Project
November 2020-March 2021



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20 October 2020



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EDITORIAL

A year to Remember

2020. A year we would prefer to forget – but should remember - for the impact of the pandemic and what we have learned from it. All of us. The Government and national and local authorities and those in public administration. The health and care services. The justice system. Businesses, entertainment and sporting organisations, and of course, schools, colleges, and universities. There is probably not a single person and not a single organisation or institution that has not had to drastically alter their way of living and working or modify their habits.

COVID-19 has selectively impacted on various sections of the population. The poor and the deprived, ethnic minorities, and the elderly have all suffered the worst symptoms of the disease and registered higher rates of mortality than the young, fit, prosperous, and middle class. But the young have suffered especially in another way. Lockdown and the closure of schools and higher education institutions has disrupted young people's education and learning more than in any year since the second world war, a trauma that vanishingly few now alive actually experienced.

Let us remind ourselves of what is the purpose of TEAMGlobal: its stated mission is **“to promote an understanding and discussion of world affairs, which empowers young people to be active global citizens and to aspire to leadership roles within their communities”**. So how has TEAMGlobal worked with its limited resources through these months of crisis?

It might be expected that nothing could be accomplished while the whole country was in lockdown and students and staff confined to their homes. It meant of course that the usual Members' Day activities and the visit to the House of Lords could not go ahead; in fact, the last occasion that TEAM visited Parliament was in 2019 when Baroness Smith, Labour leader in the Lords addressed us, as reported below. Added to this TEAM Vice Chair Antony Frost was prevented by the pandemic from using his energies and enthusiasm to able to organise the annual study tour to Brussels. Yet TEAM have still been able to continue with an admittedly limited programme. Electronic communication and Zoom have been the essential medium by which we have been able to operate.

Zoom enabled TEAM's controlling Executive to hold its annual AGM and other meetings through the year. A judging panel, linked by Zoom, received by electronic mail the entries for

the Essay Competition and decided on the winners – details of the winners are listed below, and if you wish to read the prizewinning essays of Mansimar Singh and Kamran Vaishnav, click on the two links on page 5 . Another essay written by Conor Walsh but not entered in the competition, came to the editors and was of such merit and interest with its controversial argument that it too has been posted on the blog. Perhaps the highlight of the year has been the Zoom and Microsoft Teams enabled sixth form conference at the Ursuline school, organised by Polly Harrison and John Wilson. The topic was “**Will Biden top Trump?**” chosen as the world, often with fascinated horror, the dramas of the presidential election in the USA. And finally, there is something to look forward to: below you will find a brief summary of what should prove an exciting and worthwhile project planned and overseen by Chris Poray, and aided by other TEAM members. Needless to say, this initiative would have been near impossible under the present circumstances without technology platforms.

It has been a traumatic year. Hopefully, we are seeing glimmers of hope through the darkness. The impact of the pandemic has been savage and worldwide, but nations and peoples have been resilient, as health services around the globe have brought healing and comfort to millions. It is surely essential that citizens, nations, all peoples around stay determined to face the challenges together and to move united towards freedom from the scourge of COVID-19. We might be reminded that at the height of the pandemic, groups of health workers around the country would raise their voices to sing the inspirational Rogers and Hammerstein anthem from the musical *Carousel*, the song that the late Captain Tom took up: let us all join in and never walk alone.

When you walk through a storm
 Hold your head up high
 And don't be afraid of the dark
 At the end of the storm
 There's a golden sky
 And the sweet silver song of the lark

Walk on through the wind
 Walk on through the rain
 Though your dreams be tossed and blown

Walk on, walk on
 With hope in your heart
 And you'll never walk alone
 You'll never walk alone

Michael Ghirelli

TEAM GLOBAL

STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

2020

The idea of the Student Essay Competition held in 2020, was to encourage Year 12 students - tomorrow's citizens - to think about the democratic process, politics, economics, and political leadership in post-Brexit Britain.

The focus was on Year 12 school students who are approaching the age when they acquire the right and responsibility to vote in elections, but are not yet feeling the full pressure of A-level examinations.

The title selected was challenging, but did not require specialist research or literature that the students couldn't access – especially under the conditions imposed by lockdown.



Following the 2019 election, Boris Johnson urged “let the healing begin”.

What do you suggest could be done to bring this about?

The Prizewinners

A panel of judges drawn from the TEAMGlobal Executive Committee assessed the entries and are pleased to recommend the following prizewinners.

1st Prize Mansimar Singh £200

2nd Prize Kamran Vaishnav £100



Mansimar Singh



Kamran Vaishnav

To read Mansimar's essay, click on

<https://www.teamglobal.org.uk/post/2020-winning-essay>

To read Kamran's essay, click on

<https://www.teamglobal.org.uk/post/essay-competition-2020-2nd-place>

The prizewinners would have also been invited to tea at the House of Lords on the occasion of TEAMGlobal's Members' Day, but due to the imposition of lockdown, the day's activities could not take place.

A prize of £100 was also awarded to Queen Elizabeth School, Barnet, which had the highest number of eligible entries for the competition.

We would like to express our warm appreciation to all participants who submitted essays and contributed to developing this first essay competition.

Maureen Ghirelli

A Case Study of Yemen:

Does the British Arms Industry have a place in our modern world?



Conor Walsh

Conor Walsh describes himself as an enthusiastic reader, writer, and 2020 A-Level algorithm survivor. He is hoping to study PPE at University College London. Conor has written “A Case Study of Yemen: Does the British Arms Industry have a place in our modern world.”



Yemen

He argues that, because of the detrimental human impact of the arms trade, the British Arms Industry should not have a place in our modern world. Instead, the Renewables Industry could be a prime replacement for arms-related employment and research.



**Guns
Or
Butter**



To read “A Case Study of Yemen: Does the British Arms Industry have a place in our modern world”, click on <https://www.teamglobal.org.uk/post/a-case-study-of-yemen>

Angela Smith, Baroness Smith of Basildon

Address to TEAMGlobal at the House of Lords



Baroness Smith

You cannot fail to be impressed by her very clear and persuasive arguments, and you may well come to have a very positive opinion of the value of the House of Lords.

To hear her address, click on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guTI8nFxYo&t=814s>

The House of Lords is much criticized as an unelected debating chamber, and an expensive anachronism. Perhaps you agree, or perhaps you have never given it much thought one way or another. Listen to the address given by Angela Smith, Baroness Smith of Basildon, to TEAMGlobal. She is the Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, as well as the Leader of the Opposition in the House.



Chamber of the House of Lords

TEAMGlobal University of East Anglia

New Research Project



In recent years, strong links have been established between the University of East Anglia and ourselves at TEAMGlobal: a high proportion of those participating in our annual Study Tours to Brussels have been students from the university. Among those on the 2018 tour was Chris Poray, now a graduate of the UEA. The intention of this project was to understand how TEAMGlobal can best meet the needs of students at UEA, and was explored through focus groups conducted-at UEA online via Zoom.



Chris Poray

Chris was appointed Project Lead, and a small project group comprising Maureen Ghirelli, Antony Frost, and Kevin and Brendan McSharry, supported Chris by meeting every three weeks to plan and review the progress of the project.

Fifty undergraduate and postgraduate students from UEA participated. They had been chosen to ensure a balance of year of study, backgrounds age and career ambitions, and were divided into ten focus groups of five members in each group; the group meetings were two hours long.

The findings uncovered and the recommendations from the analysis of the data will be published in the next TEAM newsletter to be summarised in the Autumn.

Ursuline High School Sixth-Form Politics Conference

The Presidential Election – Biden v Trump



This year, the Ursuline School's sixth form politics conference focused on the drama that has surely been an object of fascination for watching millions around the world – the spectacle of the 59th US Presidential Election between the incumbent Donald Trump and the challenger, Joe Biden. The conference was organised by **Polly Harrison**, Director of Extended Learning at the school, while **John Wilson** of TEAM Global helped find speakers and provided advice and support. Feedback from the students was very positive shows the conference was a great success.



There were special challenges in organising the conference this year as a result of the covid 19 regulations. The Ursuline students heard the talks either in classroom, or in the main hall, and had to sit in rows rather than around tables, which hinders group discussion. The students and staff from other participating schools were not able to travel to Ursuline, and instead, they were linked electronically by Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Seven other schools widely dispersed around London were able to link up, and there was the added involvement of Ursuline's sister school in Dallas, Texas.





Mike Pence



Kamala Harris

The day was divided into five sessions of about 35 minutes, with the first speaker appearing live from Ursuline, and the other four linked remotely. The speakers were:

Augustin Tanner-Ihm – “Making America Great? Black Lives Matter, Racism, and the Future of the USA”.

Chris Wolfe - “The Lincoln Project: Renegade RINOs or Principled Patriots”.

Iwan Morgan - “The 2020 Election in the Context of American History”

Natasha Lindstaed - “Trump, Populism and Democratic Decay”.

Michael Johnson - Why the US Election Matters to All of Us”.

The conference was a truly international event. Ursuline had contacted their sister school in Dallas Texas. They were so enthusiastic about being involved in the day that their student team made a film that focussed on the election from a student point of view. This was shown after the last talk in the afternoon.

Erasmus and eTwinning

Have you heard of the Erasmus scheme? It is the world's most successful student exchange programme that has, since 1987, enabled, millions of young Europeans to study or train in another EU Member State. Are you aware that the government has decided to withdraw Britain from the scheme? Dirk Hazell, one of the Team Global Executive Committee members, considers this a retrograde step. Dirk points out that Erasmus+, focuses on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions and promoting young people's participation in democratic life. These are all



Dirk Hazell

causes consistent with TEAM Global's ambition for Britain's young people. Furthermore, the Erasmus programme is not just for students in higher education. The eTwinning scheme enables pupils aged from 3 to 19 years and their teachers to network with peer groups within other counties participating in Erasmus+.

To read Dirk's article, *E isn't only for Etonians, Mr Johnson - it's also for Erasmus+ and eTwinning*, click on <https://www.teamglobal.org.uk/post/e-isn-t-only-for-etonians>

More information about eTwinning can be found at <https://emoxfordregion.org/2021/03/01/link-listen-learn/> and the European Movement's petition to save eTwinning is at https://www.europeanmovement.co.uk/save_etwinning
