

This edition's theme is Peace

What does peace mean to you? For some, it is silence after a noisy day. For others, it is the comfort of knowing they are safe, accepted and understood. At its heart, peace is more than the absence of conflict, it is also the presence of empathy, respect, justice and hope.

Peace begins with a smile." *Mother Teresa*

In a world full of noise, division and fast-moving change, peace can feel distant or even impossible. Yet as young people, you have the unique ability to shape the future and it begins with simple everyday actions. Saying hello to someone who is alone, listening with an open mind, choosing kindness when it would be easier to ignore or judge.

Peace is also about justice, and standing up for what is right. Whether it is speaking out against bullying, supporting mental health awareness or raising your voice for equality, real peace includes fairness. "If you want peace, work for justice", said Pope Paul VI. Peace that is built on silence or fear is not peace at all.



Isla Causon 9W

Sometimes the loudest battles are the ones that no one sees, fought in our minds and hearts, that is why inner peace matters too. Mindfulness, mental well-being and the importance of giving yourself space to breathe are all ways of feeling at peace because before we can create peace in the world, we must find it in ourselves. It is hard to spread peace when we are constantly stressed or overwhelmed, so taking care of ourselves through rest, talking to someone, doing things we love, or even just going for a walk, is part of building peace in our own lives.

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." *Indira Gandhi*

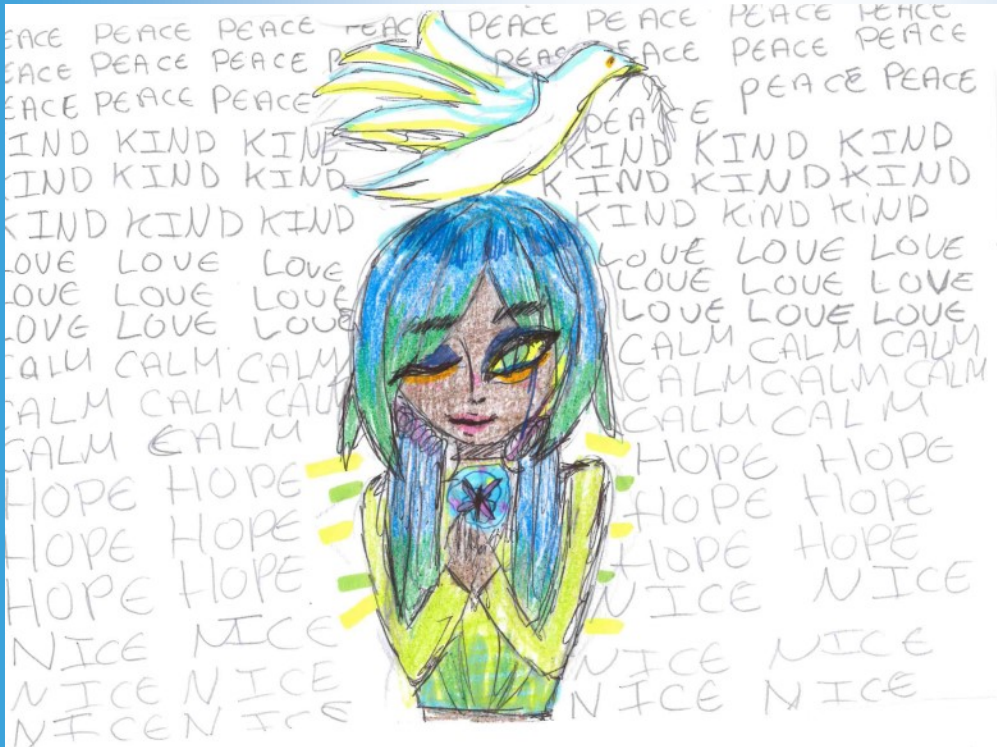
It is easy to be angry but real strength lies in choosing understanding over retaliation. This does not mean accepting injustice or pretending that things are okay when they are not. It means choosing dialogue over violence, cooperation over division.

Of course, we cannot ignore the bigger picture. Wars, climate change, inequality and injustice are all issues that threaten global peace and while we may not have the power to end wars tomorrow, we do have a voice. Joining campaigns, raising awareness, being informed and making ethical choices, such as how we treat the environment or what we post online are real ways in which we can contribute to a more peaceful world.

In a time when the world often feels uncertain, peace is not a passive dream, it is an active choice, and it starts with us.

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." *Jimi Hendrix*

By the Sixth Form Gazette Editorial Team



Ruby Meredith 9C

Peace is...

Peace is the hush for morning light,
A dewdrop clinging, soft and bright.
The whisper of the walking trees,
The hush between the breeze and breeze.

It's not the shout, the clash, the cry,
But children drawing in the sky.
It's hand once clenched now open wide
And wounds no longer need to hide.

Peace is not the silence born of fear
But hearts that speak and souls that hear.
A bridge built strong from you to me,
Across the depths of history.

It walks in shoes worn thin with grace
And plants wild flowers in each place.
Where hate once scorched and anger grew
It finds what's lost and makes it new.

Peace is a choice, a breath, a start.
A candle held against the dark.
Not something found, but something made –
A promise kept, a debt repaid.

So may we sow where once it burned
And tend the world for peace hard-earned.
Let every step and every voice
Declare that peace is still our choice.

Mirrin Watts 9B

Sunset

Waves crashing,
The sun setting,
All is quiet,
All is calm.

Tranquility.
Not a single soul,
Not a single word.

The world,
The people,
You,
Me,
Peace...

Brightening, beautiful sea,
Soft, shallow sand,
Shells on the seashore, starting to fade
Into the ocean.

The sea is awake,
The air is awake,
And the world is awake,
But all is quiet,
And all is safe.

The world,
The people,
You,
Me,
Peace...

Olivia Howard 9O



Aimie Lisle 9W



Saffron Burrows 9W

Flying Free

The word was conceived in our souls but born on our lips.
 It rattles around inside us, caged, trapped.
 For it is within everyone, but only a few let it fly free.
 For others it seeps through.
 But for many, it is trapped behind built-up walls,
 The weight of which are suffocating.
 The word is peace, and it doesn't matter how high
 You build up your walls, they will always crumble
 And peace will prevail.

Isabelle Truslove 9G

Peace Offering

I offer it to you as whatever makes you less anxious
 Less contempt to hate and less jealousy.
 I offer it to you as a photo you took.
 I offer it to you as your favourite books.
 I offer it to you as the people you love.
 I offer it to you as a white dove.

I offer it to you as whatever makes you
 Feel happy, safe and relaxed.
 I offer it to you as you're alone.
 I offer it to you as your favourite cologne.
 I offer it to you as your favourite sweets.
 I offer to you as your favourite unhealthy treats.

I offer it to you as whatever makes you
 Less stressed, less angry and less resentful.
 I offer it to you as myself.
 And you take it.
 Peace.

Alexandra Taylor 9G



Isabelle Truslove 9G

Peace Protest

People say they want peace,
They protest until they see police.
The wars happening are so severe
But nothing's happening here.

People are dying and nobody's taking action,
But they're just shouting to feel satisfaction.
We sit and wait acting like helping's a curse,
But it's only getting worse.

People say they want peace,
But our actions are not helping soldiers in the East.
They see the war and shiver and cower
But they sit and ignore like it would only last another hour.
We are all like the herd or sheep,
Believing and following lies ,waiting for a peep.
People are dying and nobody seems to care,
Waiting for the innocent to vanish into thin air.

Bombs are dropping like crumbs falling to the floor,
People refuse to help because "they've never seen anything like this before"
The sky rains upon the hour,
And many victims are left without any power.

People are acting like this is some sick TV show,
But it's real and happening outside their front window.
This war is not a joke,
But I'm not here to nag and poke,
I'm here to tell you it be seen as a problem, okay?
Not to be thrown away and say "not today."
People say they want peace,
But they aren't even doing the least...

