

**The
Economist**

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New Horizons Children's Academy

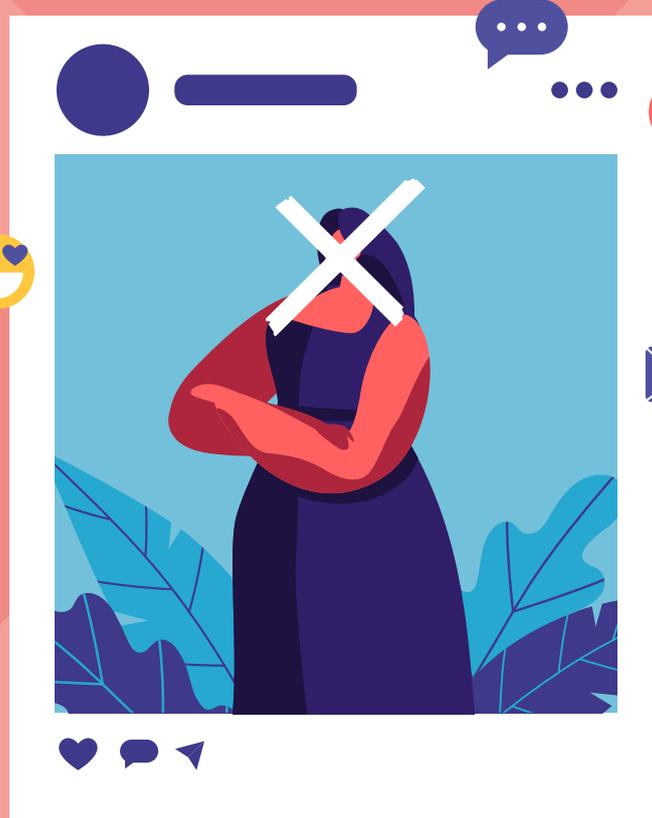
The Ruth Gorse Academy

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

Ormiston Park Academy

Cheam Common Junior Academy

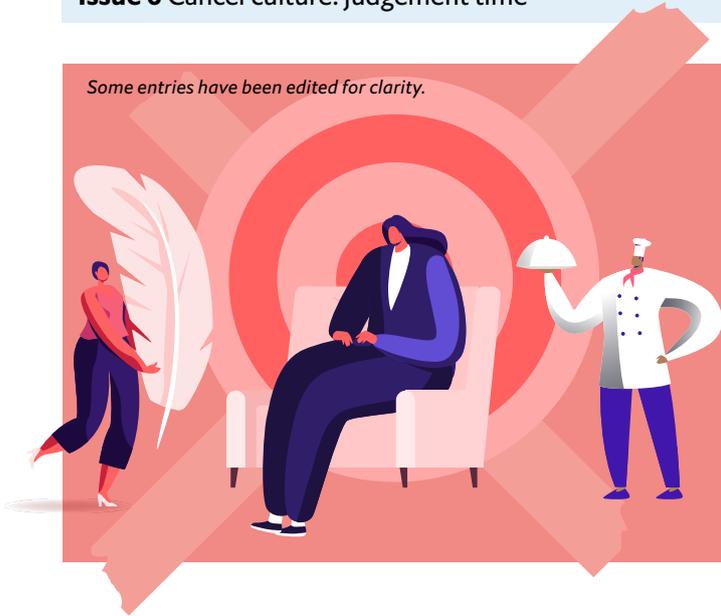
BURNET NEWS CLUB 2020-21 • ISSUE 6



CANCEL CULTURE

JUDGEMENT TIME

Some entries have been edited for clarity.



Is it ever OK to stop someone from sharing their opinion? Some people think so - and news stories about cancel culture are on the rise. But does cancelling someone achieve justice? Or is there a better option?

Through June and July, it was judgement time, as the Burnet News Club took part in sessions that put cancel culture in the dock to decide whether it should be allowed to continue.

In this edition of Hub Highlights we showcase some of the best student contributions.

Should people be able to say whatever they want?

At the end of the Issue, we asked students to make their minds up about cancel culture: should it be allowed to continue? Or should it be stopped?

Comments

eager_reflection

Cheam Park Farm Primary

I think that people should not be able to say whatever they want. People should put some thought into what they say or write before they do it, and realise that they could potentially make someone very upset or insecure. Sometimes, the internet makes things worse, because people think that they cannot be found as they are behind a screen. But I think if you know something is not right, then you should not post it, even if it is not against the law.

Jonathan Hooker @ KPMG

Expert

Hi eager_reflection, some really interesting points in here – I particularly like the idea of there being a difference between what is said and what is written (on an internet post), and the idea of putting yourself in someone else's position before saying something.

loved_river

The Ruth Gorse Academy

I would argue that it is sometimes OK to say what you want however, it is crucial to remember that opinions are all different. It is imperative to show respect – even if you feel like someone has said something wrong, you should still try to share your point of view in a mature way. You may be educated by what they have to say and, if needed, you can educate them. You should always respond in a way that shows you appreciate their argument.

resilient_mandarin

The Ruth Gorse Academy

I think it's OK to say what you want but you should still think. Think about what you are going to say and how you are going to deliver the message – will it affect your reputation? Think about how your friends might contradict with what you said – will it cause any disruption? Think about how your statement might affect others – is it racist, homophobic, sexist etc? By thinking before you act, it might change other people's opinions for the better.

discreet_drum

Upton Cross Primary School

Everyone deserves the right to speak their mind, reject, protest and refuse. Freedom of speech protects the right to protest and fight against what we don't want, and to argue for what we do. We need to have opposing views co-existing with one another to free our minds and challenge us. We shouldn't allow ourselves to let "political correctness" make us afraid of sharing views. People use opinions to guide their life actions. Freedom of speech is the gateway to being able to question consensus, and to challenge what is being presented as truth. I think it's everyone's right to share their own investigations and critiques, to challenge the cultural consensus.





MAKE UP YOUR MINDS

Cancel culture: judgement time!

At the end of the Issue, we asked students to make their minds up about cancel culture: should it be allowed to continue? Or should it be stopped?

THE EXPERT VIEW

Best of the questions



impartial_shark

Boucher C of E Primary School

asked Billy Bragg, singer-songwriter and activist

Do you think cancel culture affects freedom of speech?



Caitlin Prasad, Burnet News Club

volunteer, Clifford Chance

asked Alex Miller, journalist

What's the best approach to television shows that contain content that is no longer acceptable?

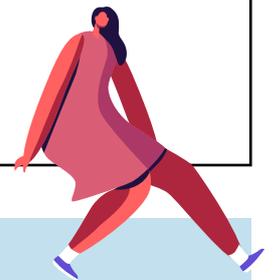


serious_night

New Horizons Children's Academy

asked Lily Silverton, well-being coach, speaker and journalist

Do you think it's possible to stop cancel culture?



Comments

selfreliant_rainforest

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

Cancel culture isn't completely innocent because it has cancelled people who do not deserve it. However, it should not be banned because some people need to have that pressure to own up to their mistakes and apologise for the harm they have done. I believe cancel culture should be allowed to carry on but on a supervised level. For example, where people can still be cancelled for a good reason – but the process should stop after the person being cancelled has apologised and understood their mistakes.

admirable_camel

Cheam Common Junior Academy

Cancel culture can lead to negative effects on people's mental health. Hearing something that you don't agree with doesn't mean you should just cancel someone – and you should be able to express your own opinion without fearing cancellation because of what others might think.



serious_night

New Horizons Children's Academy

Cancel culture does not result in fairness as it is a one-sided argument. People often don't see the perspective of the person being cancelled or think about the impact on them too. Their apology and reasons often aren't listened to – which is unjust.

hardworking_dinosaur

Ormiston Park Academy

Cancel culture, commonly referred to as call-out culture, is a modern form of ostracism. Cancel culture has many negative connotations but I think it has an equal amount of positives. For example one of the pros might be that vulnerable people get their voices heard. But an example of a con is that it could lead to cyber-bullying.

astounding_black_bear

New Horizons Children's Academy

Cancel culture ruins lives, it isn't always right (as some people get cancelled for false accusations) and it does not always result in justice. I think cancel culture will make the future worse because the worry of being cancelled might mean people won't want to go on social media anymore. Cancel culture should be stopped.

GREAT QUESTIONS**Is it easier to justify some cancellations more than others?**

Is cancelling someone more acceptable if it took place a long time ago? For example if somebody did something offensive 20 years ago, should they be “punished” in the same way as if they did it last week? On a related point, does the age of the person matter? Should kids/teenagers be forgiven more easily than adults?

These questions from **Arjan Bains, Senior Audit Associate at KPMG**, got everyone thinking.

spectacular_keyboard

The Ruth Gorse Academy

I don't think that it is fair to cancel someone based on something they did many years ago, as people make mistakes and learn from them. If you give them a chance to become a better and a more sympathetic person then they might change. In my opinion, talking to the person and explaining to them why they might be wrong or hurtful towards others is the right thing to do, as they are just a human being – like the rest of us. However, there are incidents when it is the right time to give someone a more severe consequence, for example if someone is extremely hurtful continuously and does not learn from their mistakes but instead proceeds to say even more disrespectful things.

admirable_camel

Cheam Common Junior Academy

I think if the cancelled person is oblivious, their punishment should be lessened because you cannot punish someone if they didn't realise it was wrong. I think an oblivious person is an innocent person.

warm_boysenberry

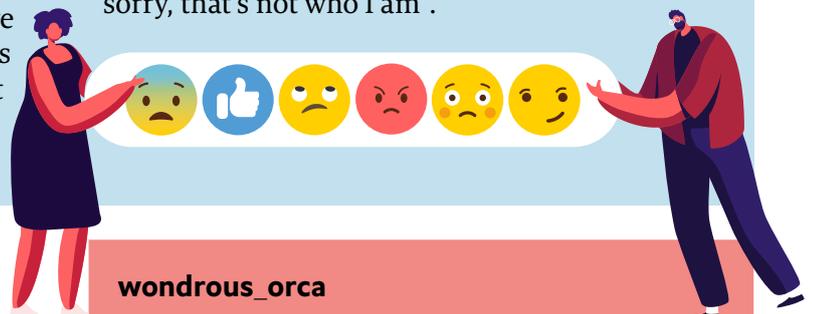
Lyons Hall Primary School

In my opinion, if someone is cancelled for something they did years ago (say five or ten years ago) it's unfair since they might have grown past their mistake. But on the other hand if their comment is really recent then I think cancelling them is more fair.

Billy Bragg

Expert

I've certainly said offensive things... but at the time I was a teenager. I didn't know any better. I think everyone deserves the chance to redeem themselves, apologise and admit they were being immature. On social media perception trumps intention – so you might offend people. But everyone deserves the chance to come back and say “sorry, that's not who I am”.

**COMPETITION****Good advice**

Lily Silverton, one of our experts on cancel culture, got students thinking about what advice they would give to someone who had been cancelled. Here are some of their top tips!

sceptical_rock

Preston Manor School

One piece of advice that I would give to someone who has been cancelled is to get off social media – because social media can cause distress to you and affect your mental health. Then see if you actually did anything wrong. If you did, then apologise to the people you upset or for what you did. This should have a lot of sincerity and truth. Afterwards, get some time alone or find comfort in your loved ones. By following this advice, you are most likely to both redeem yourself and feel good!

wondrous_orca

Cheam Common Junior Academy

One piece of advice that I would give to someone who has been cancelled is don't lose hope and don't give up trying to be heard. This advice is important because everyone deserves to be heard, whether it's an apology or a statement saying that you were falsely accused. I also think it's important to have hope because it's what keeps you running. Whether you have someone trying to persuade the people to uncanceled you, or whether you are alone and everyone disrespects you, you should always have hope that one day your voice will be heard and that people will forgive you.



SEE MORE ENTRIES
bit.ly/cancel-comp