

THE RUISLIP EYE

The latest news and updates from Ruislip High School



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Reservada Duplicada: Spanish Play Review

by Eleftheria (8S)

At the beginning of languages week, on Monday 3rd of March, Year 8 and Year 9 Spanish students were lucky enough to get to watch the Spanish play, "Reserva Duplicada"!

Firstly, what is the play about? The story is set in an Airbnb, and follows two couples: Carlos and Carlotta, and Antonio and Paloma. The owner had accidentally booked both of them at the same Airbnb at the same time - and you slowly see the couples starting to realise that they are not alone. However, the main plot here is that two of the characters, Paloma and Carlos, had just broken up before this. The plot thickens as Carlotta and Antonio find out.

It was a great play, and all performed in Spanish. It was

performed by only two actors, who played two different characters each (by quickly changing clothes behind the stage). There was also participation from the audience from three year 8 students - who all did very well! The play was period 2 on a Monday.

We were all really happy to have the chance to experience the play, and we're very thankful to the actors for their time. Hopefully, we will be lucky enough to have the same experience next year!

Lights, Camera, Action! Inside the World of Drama Club

by Amber S and Lili (Year 7)

What is Drama Club?

Drama Club is one of the many extracurricular clubs at our school. It runs every Tuesday at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm and is led by Miss Garner. Drama Club is open to students in years 7-9, providing a safe space for fun, creativity and socialising with fellow peers. Everyone leaves with a smile on their face and challenges themselves through exploring different roles. Everyone in drama club always comes back next term to continue performing and sometimes even putting on plays for the teachers and parents.

Importance of Drama:

Drama provides a canvas for self expression. No matter how experienced you are the stage becomes a mirror for reflecting our emotions. You get to step into other people's shoes and understand other perspectives. It builds up our confidence for job interviews and everyday situations. It also teaches us teamwork: we learn to listen, adapt, grow and develop with other people. Drama teaches us resilience and how to deal with different situations. This helps with life as life too throws curveballs such as dealing with conflict, relationships and problem solving.

Interviews Insights with Miss Garner and Mr Randall

Mr Randall is an English and Drama teacher at RHS and former actor. He values drama for fostering and understanding other people, expressing yourself and having fun.

Miss Garner is a Drama teacher at RHS and leads drama club. She is passionate about creativity and enjoys bringing worlds and imagination to life through drama while having fun.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Drama Club is a vital part for building your confidence and self esteem. It teaches you about the world, each other and yourself. We hope we will see you next term in Drama Club!



Goodbye and Good Luck, Miss Sakr: The Final Words

by Zaynab (Year 8)

One of our favourite teachers, Miss Sakr, is unfortunately leaving the school in April and many of us will be sad to see her go so I interviewed her to say our last goodbye.

Here are the questions we asked her.

How long have you been teaching at RHS?

I have been teaching at this school for nearly 2 years. I teach English to a range of students from Year 7 to Year 11.

Why are you leaving?

I am leaving RHS and England to move back to my home country Canada, where I will be surrounded by my family once again, as I have missed them for the past 5 years. I also feel that I need to take a break from teaching, as much as I love it and being in the classroom!

What are you going to do when you leave?

I am going to go back to university to learn about the Canadian education system and compare it to the British one. In doing so, I hope to gain my Masters in teaching and learning.

What do you love most about RHS?

I really love all of my Year 10s this year because they are such conscientious students and really value their learning. They remind me why I love teaching and reignite the passion I have for it. I also really love my lunch time hangouts with Ms White; Ms White is my best (teacher) friend - she's so supportive and kind, and I'll miss our daily lunchtime chats.

What is something that students do not know about you?

I used to be on my high school's swimming team, and my main stroke was breaststroke. I couldn't do the butterfly - it was my worst stroke, and I'd move backwards!

What will you miss the most about living in London?

There are quite a few things I'll miss about it here: definitely the way there's always a Pret around every corner; the way you pronounce the word 'Tuesday'; the way you can never be bored in this city as there's always something to do or see. What I won't miss is the weather - the way it can be all four seasons in a single day - or the screeching noise some of the tubes make on the underground.

Overall, it is clear that we will all miss the fantastic Miss Sakr, and we wish that she has a lovely future!



Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?

by Ethan (Year 8)

A pivotal question in street art and urban culture is that of the legality and artistry of graffiti, and today I am going to share my views on the matter.

I personally believe that it is mostly art, disregarding a few exceptions. I believe this because any way to express yourself, written or drawn, painted or sketched is and should be considered art, and that art should be protected as part of the right to freedom of speech, which we in the UK have.

However, despite 90% of street art being genuine - beautiful art, with hours of time and effort poured into them by a well meaning artist - there are the odd few that will use public space on walls and trains, etc. to spread hateful messages, and that should be dealt with as hate speech. I firmly believe that it is the fault of these few that give all street art a bad reputation, because they are simply a loud minority.

On the other hand, others see graffiti primarily as vandalism, especially when it's done without permission on private or public property. They argue that it defaces surfaces, causes property

damage, and can contribute to a sense of disorder and blight in communities. Another reason is that people don't believe that graffiti is a valid form of protest, as the aforementioned damage to property makes it non-peaceful, and that it should therefore not be allowed in public spaces.

Another way that graffiti should be considered art is the fact it can bring millions of people to a town or city, and it can give tourists special insights into the current political and social issues as well as giving information about that specific place's unique cultural heritage. Graffiti also offers an opportunity for people to fit in, and creates subcultures within urban environments.

When all is said and done, graffiti should be considered a form of art due to its ability to let anyone express themselves as well as letting tourists learn more about a specific place's unique, individual history and social commentary, and I believe that these aspects of graffiti clearly outweigh the reasons for defaming it as vandalism.



Mural - Banksy

Image taken from: https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/mural-by-banksy/GQG_ZP7C2QF5gQ?utm_source=google&utm_medium=kp&hl=en-GB&avm=2

Inside Out 2: New Information Revealed!

by Eleftheria (Year 8)

If you have read the previous edition, you may have seen the article on Inside Out 2 - and what to expect. If you haven't, go check it out in the LRC! On another note, the official trailer for Inside Out 2 has just come out. I won't spoil it for you readers, but it includes so many new elements, like officially introducing us to the characters, and revealing the plot of the movie! I recommend checking out the trailer as soon as you can! It's going to be a long wait for the movie release...

Saturday Night Takeaway Returns to Our TV Screens!

by Tommy B and Joshua (Year 7)

A British ITV classic returns to TV on Saturday, 24th February: *Saturday Night Takeaway*. Even though they have said it was airing its last season, in 2026 they will return. Let's hope it is the best series yet!

This show first debuted on 8 June 2002 and was hosted by the famous British duo, Ant and Dec, who present funny sketches and invite celebrity guests. They also interact with the audience in various games.

It was announced that the show will enter an indefinite hiatus after the twentieth series, scheduled to be broadcast in 2024, due to the extensive planning that is put into *Saturday Night Takeaway* and Ant and Dec's workload with other shows. The show has many segments, including the ads. As the *Saturday Night Takeaway* live studio audience is back for the new series, so is *Win The Ads*. This segment sees a random member of the audience be picked for their chance to win a whole jackpot of prizes. In order to win, they must answer as many questions correctly about the week's news and then they can choose to 'stay or play'. 'Stay' means they get to keep the prizes that they have won, and 'play' means you go to have another question,



Image taken from: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NINTCHDBPICT000643841469-2.jpg?w=1280&quality=44>



Image taken from: <https://uk.harlequinfloors.com/en/news/ant-and-dec-saturday-night-takeaway>

if you get it correct you win all the prizes.

Episode 1 was amazing with Stephen Mulhern and the crew. Every week, anticipation built to see the episode out, as Ant and Dec introduce the End Of The Show Show. This is where a famous singer performs one of their songs, and includes Ant and Dec involved in some calamity in the background. They also have holidays and prizes you can win, and you could win BIG with *Saturday Night Takeaway*!

You might have read it in the news but if not Ant is becoming a dad. Dec is already a dad. So the new little Ant and Dec had their first mission to meet and interview Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley. It felt great as the audience to see this new phase of their lives.

Overall, this series will be an absolute banger and a staple of British television. We hope this article has enticed you to watch it! It is on ITV 1 at 7:00 PM and ends at 8:30. The happiest 90 minutes of the week!

How The Beatles Changed Music Forever

by Ethan (Year 8)

The Beatles were a pop/ rock band formed in 1960. The band consisted of 4 members, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison in Liverpool. Some of their most famous songs are: Hey Jude, Yellow Submarine and Eleanor Rigby. They made 13 albums and 5 movies, as well as going on to produce their own record label!

The Beatles pioneered music videos, having one for many of their songs and revolutionised the importance of the album in music culture, as well as changing the meaning, as at the time albums would have neatly recorded recordings of live performances, rather than the studio recordings we see today. The Beatles also caused an increase in youth experimenting with art, music and fashion to an unprecedented degree. Being one of the earliest British rock bands, they were popular in both the UK and USA after the 'British Invasion.'

Their songs were typically responded to with great praise, some saying that there had "never before been a song... that had blended so many [unique] elements so imaginatively" (Prof. Bruce

Ellis Benson). This quote from a respected professor exemplifies The Beatles' impact on music and how they shaped it to fit their vision rather than sticking to the norms of the time, as many failed artists of the time were forced to do.

Overall, The Beatles were one of the most influential bands in music history due to their pioneering works in music videos, musician's films, and their groundbreaking experimentation with studio recording techniques and instrumentation.



Pictured: All 4 Beatles (John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr)

Image taken from: https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fentertainment-arts-67285117&psig=AOvVaw1ifkfuwhpxFECWgVgfi3tI&ust=1710948380342000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBMQjhxqFwoTCk20orSgIUDFQAAAAAdA_AAAABAD

Recommended Sounds from the 80s and 90s

by Emma and Lucy (Year 7)

In this article, we will share with you some of our favourite 1980s-1990s music! Definitely take a listen, and maybe you'll find a new favourite tune or two to add to your daily playlist.

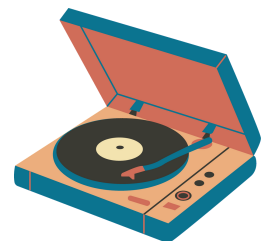




Image taken from: <https://recordingarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/1980-banner-16x9-1.jpg>

We will recommend a range of songs that come from a variety of different genres that were popular during this time.

Bigmouth Strikes Again by The Smiths

This song is an alternative song and it was released in 1986 from the album, *The Queen is Dead*. Its most iconic and most popular line is “and now I know how Joan of Arc felt.”

Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want by The Smiths

It was released in 1984 on the B-side of the song, ‘William, It Was Really Nothing’, and is featured in the film, ‘(500) Days of Summer’. The B-side (or “flip-side”) is musical term that refers to the other side of the CD/vinyl that features less popular songs; although some B-sides have been as successful as, or more so than, their A-sides. In this song, it repeats the line “please, please, please let me get what I want.” It is quite a sad song with a slow tune.

Boys Don't Cry by The Cure

This song is by a band called The Cure, and it was released in 1979. It isn't quite an 80s or 90s song but we still include it. It is about how toxic masculinity and pure ignorance affects many boys and men. It's really important, and even though it was from the pre-2000s, it is still very relevant today.

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper

This song is by Cyndi Lauper is very popular, even today, despite its release in 1985. It is catchy, and it is a pop song, explaining that women just want to have the same fun experiences men have. They should be unapologetically themselves.

Livin' on a Prayer by Bon Jovi

This is a rock song released in 1986. It's very famous, and it's about letting people know that they can make it through any troubles they have. It's also a very good song to dance to!

Smells Like Teen Spirit by Nirvana

This is the most popular Nirvana song, and if you listen to alternative genres you would've likely heard it. It's from the album ‘Nevermind’ and came out on 10th September 1991.

Everybody Wants to Rule the World by Tears for Fears

This song was released in 1985 and was from the album ‘Songs from The Big Chair’. It is one of the most popular songs by Tears For Fears, along with ‘Head Over Heels’. It is a new wave and synth song; the song was a last minute addition to their album.

All About K-pop: The Most-Heard and Trending Korean Songs



by Hayley (Year 7)

Do you like K-pop? In my opinion, K-pop is the best and is a genre that is widely listened to with many big hits! I listen to it almost everyday. There are lots of popular groups - one being BTS, who are currently in the military because the South Korea law says that men aged between 18 and 28 must serve in the military for about 20 months. Fans have missed them! If you are a fan of K-pop, you should read this article: this article's purpose is to encourage you to listen to k-pop if you haven't already done so.

K-pop is a musical genre and industry loved by many. The letter 'K' stands for Korean, then pop. It officially began in 1992, when the group Seo Taiji and Boys performed their music on TV for the first time with the song 'I Know'. It was really popular back in the 2000's in Japan, along with Korea.

So, why is K-pop so popular these days?

The songs have a lot of catchy rhythms and choruses, outstanding choreography, impeccable music videos and attract lots of fans! Most groups have a 'leader'; some may have no leader. They are the ones who mostly write the lyrics. They combine ideas together from the other members to create magic to our ears.

Entertainments and Their Bands

Entertainments are companies which are focused on managing groups with a hip-hop background. For example, Blackpink is in YG Entertainment. They basically 'work' for them to produce their music.

Popular entertainments and their bands include: Stray Kids, TWICE, ITZY, NMIXX and GOT7 who work for JYP Entertainment. BTS, LE SSERAFIM, TOMORROW X TOGETHER, ENHYPEN, Seventeen



and NewJeans work under HYBE Entertainment. NCT who work for SM Entertainment is divided into 6 different sub-units like NCT 127, NCT U and NCT WISH. There is also WayV, which some of the members work for some of the NCT sub-units.

Get to know a few K-Pop groups:

- NewJeans: 2022 - now. This group includes Minji, Haerin, Hanni, Danielle and Hyein. They have no leader, so they write songs together.
- Seventeen: 2015 - now. Members are S Coups, Joshua, Jeonghan, Vernon, Dino, The8, Seungkwan, Hoshi, Woozi, Wonwoo, Mingyu, DK and Jun. There used to be 3 other members until they left due to disagreements and The8 joined.
- ITZY: 2019- now. Its members include Lia,

Yeji, Ryujin, Yuna and Chaeryeong. Their recent album is called 'Like Magic'. Also, the name ITZY comes from the Korean word to mean 'there is' or 'has it'.

- Tomorrow X Together (known as TXT for short): 2019 - now. Its members are Kai, Taehyun, Soobin, Beomgyu and Yeonjun. Their group writes music with romance as the main theme.

Get to know a bit of K-Pop language:

- Aegyo: someone acting cute, as much as they can.
- Hyung: younger members call the oldest member hyung, as a sign of respect.
- Maknae: youngest member of the group.
- Fandom: the term for the group of fans e.g Enhypens' fandom name is Engenes.

As you can see, there is, of course, a lot of information out there, but these are some basic things about K-pop. Hope you enjoyed the article and make sure to go and listen to catchy songs! I would recommend starting with Butter by BTS, Super Shy by NewJeans or I AM by IVE.

The Fasting Month Explained



by Zaynab (Year 8)

What is the Fasting Month?

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the ninth and most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. Due to the Islamic calendar following the moon, the month will start 11 days earlier than the previous year if compared to the common Gregorian calendar. (For those of us who do not know what the Gregorian calendar is, it is the calendar that we follow all the time and that goes January, February... etc.)

How long is the Fasting Month?

The fasting month lasts for 29 or 30 days depending on the sighting of the moon with a celebration at the end of the month called Eid-ul-Fitr. A common greeting on the day is 'Eid Mubarak' which translates to Happy Eid and is marked by an Eid prayer in the morning and it is a day when families and friends get together for Eid parties and gatherings. In these gatherings, Muslims exchange gifts and sweet dishes.

How long does each Fast last?

Each fast starts at dawn and ends at sunset. During these hours, Muslims do not eat or drink anything whatsoever. Many Muslims wake up in the early hours of the morning before dawn to have a meal known as suhoor. This is in essence a very early breakfast.

Why do muslims Fast?

In Islam, fasting is obligatory on every Muslim who has achieved the age of maturity. There are many reasons behind fasting and these are all very beneficial. These benefits can be divided into 3 categories which are physical, emotional, and spiritual. The physical benefits are body detoxification as well as promoting healing. For the emotional benefits, we fast to empathise with those who are less fortunate especially for those who are on the poverty line and are unable to afford food to eat. As a result of this empathy, Muslims give a lot of charity over this month to help such people. And finally, for the spiritual benefits, fasting helps us exercise discipline and self-control. It also allows one to look within oneself to improve one's character which brings a person closer to God.

Now to answer questions I get most commonly among the topic of fasting:

Do you have to fast if you are ill?

No, you do not have to fast if you are ill but, when you have the chance to, after the fasting month, on any day, you have to repay the fasts.

Is it true you have a feast every night?

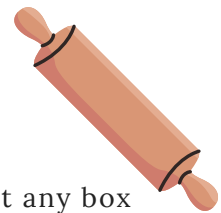
Every night, we break our fast with a meal called Iftar. Traditionally, Iftar will start with some dates – which is a great gift to give for Muslims in Ramadan! But we do not have huge feasts because your capacity to eat reduces as a result of not having eaten all day.

How do you feel when people eat in front of you?

Muslims don't mind if you eat in front of them; they understand not everyone is fasting!

These questions should hopefully give everyone a good insight of what Muslims go through over the fasting month of Ramadan. And if you have any friends who are Muslims, please ask them what you want to know as they will happily answer you.

Simple Bakes for Everyday



by Anna (Year 7)

Baking is one of the most fun things to do, in my opinion, even if you're really bad at it because it's something you can always improve. But the biggest problem that can stop you is not having all the ingredients for it. So what are some simple, delicious and easy recipes that you can make without lots of ingredients?

The first sweet recipe is jam shortbread bites. These are tasty and very easy to make! Preheat the oven to 150 degrees Celsius on the fan setting. The only ingredients you need are flour (159g), caster sugar (50g), butter (100g) and jam – any type. To make the dough mix all the ingredients together, except for the jam. Once it is all mixed, and it isn't too sticky, cut into as many pieces as you want then use your thumb and make a small dent in the middle of the dough pieces. Add the jam into the dent, and the last step is to put your cookies into the oven for 10 to 15 minutes. There you have it!

Some people think that any box baking kits are bad and don't taste fresh but not all of them are bad. So, to change your mind here's a recipe for an Oreo brownie! All you need is a brownie mix and some Oreos. To start, preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. But once you have done that, the fun starts! Use the instructions from the mix you're using to make the brownie. Next, add half the Oreos to a bowl then crush them all up. Then, add the crushed Oreos into the mixture. Once it is in a tray ready to go in the oven, use the other half of the Oreos on top of the brownies (either in half or whole). Last step is to leave it in the oven for 35 to 45 minutes, or however long it says on the packet of the brownie mix. Then, enjoy this tasty treat!

The last and final recipe is a simple, classic recipe but with a small twist to

make it even better. It's banana pancakes! For this you will need 1 banana, 2 eggs and 1ml ground cinnamon. First, mash the banana, then crack the eggs on top of it. Whisk together with a fork. Season it with cinnamon. Then, cook on a pan like you could normally with pancakes. To finish add honey, chocolate or anything you have for the toppings. These are also really good for a weekend breakfast!

Now whenever you feel like baking, or if you're just bored you can look back here, and find something you try and love! No matter what the occasion, hopefully you can find a recipe that will be something you can make to enjoy. If you want any more new and exciting recipes, make sure you go check out the Ruislip High Recipe book.

The Unfair View on Young People

by Adam (Year 7)

Have you ever been at the shop and treated differently due your age? Well, if so, this article is all about that very topic.

Why do I think this?

I think that people shouldn't be judged because of their age. My reasons for this are based on this anecdote: friends and I would go out and go to the shops to look at things. The employees would watch us intensely until one asked us, "What are you looking for?" and we responded with, "Fake plants" for decorating my friend's gaming room.

After looking at plants, we went to see clocks. The same employees came up to us and said, "You have nothing to get here, go back to the plants." We were so surprised because he didn't know what we needed. So we left in frustration as we could not tolerate the idea that we could be treated in such an unfair way just because of our age. People often make assumptions about kids being immature, but that's not the reality for all of us.

Why does this happen?

I think this happens because of the popular crime of kids stealing, but do you think it's fair for all the innocent kids to suffer the consequences because of a few foolish kids? I asked Ethan in Year 8, for his opinion and he said, "Once I was at the shop and an employee was following me around expecting me to steal something." This shows how most innocent kids unfortunately pay the price for other foolish kids.

How can we solve this problem?

We can solve this problem by not shoplifting until people can realise not all kids are thieves. We can also ensure that even if we are not treated in a fair way, we still treat others in a fair way and call it out in a calm and respectful way, so that the perception around kids is changed and more positive.

In conclusion, I hope that one day the world corrects this mistake and its assumptions, and we are all looked at in the same, equal way.

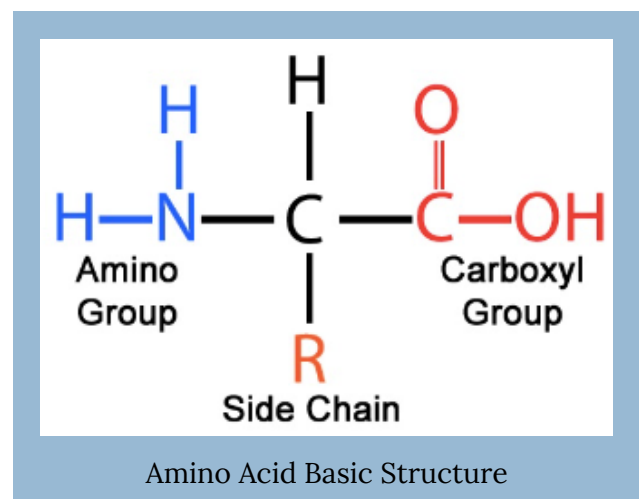
How can AI be used in molecular biology and what are the risks?

by Alexia (Year 12)

The human body is made up of over 30 trillion cells. Each of them constantly undergoes various chemical reactions that are vital for our survival. It is these complex mechanisms that allow us to grow, to repair damage to survive. If we are able to understand the processes that occur, we could find out why they go wrong, and most importantly how to fix them. But this poses many challenges: cells are incredibly complex, and each person will have unique differences in their genetic code. So how can these barriers be overcome? An exciting new avenue of research is currently being explored. What if technology could think for itself, analyse data and determine its own conclusions? All within a few seconds. The introduction of AI could prove groundbreaking for not just research but application of these findings. But with all new technological developments we must ask vital questions. Do the benefits truly outweigh the risks?

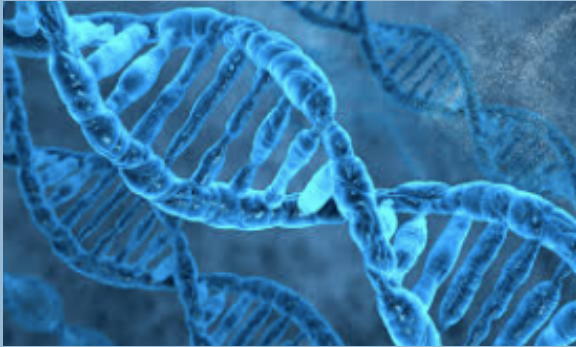
Molecular biologists study many complex processes. They investigate the structure, function, processing, regulation and evolution of biological molecules and their interactions with each other. To put it simply, they give us an insight into how life works, how we are able to survive.

There are thousands of different molecules and structures inside the human body, but molecular biologists often choose to focus on genes and proteins. Proteins are structures called **polymers**, made up of **monomers**, called amino acids



Proteins are essential for life. They have a role in all biological processes, for example acting as enzymes which help to **catalyse** reactions. Genes are the code that allows our cells to make proteins, each gene will code for a protein and are sections on chromosomes, which are coiled strands of DNA. There is a complex relationship between genes and proteins, if a gene is altered slightly, it can cause a completely different protein to be made, which is often the cause of many different diseases or genetic disorders. Proteins are then involved in many multi-step reactions throughout the body.

If molecular biologists are able to understand the process of all these reactions occurring in our body, they could potentially understand what goes wrong and why, allowing us to cure certain diseases permanently at their cause. However, although the idea of this is very exciting, often technology is not always available to make these theories a reality. Current methods that molecular biologists use can include **molecular cloning**, **chain reactions** and **gel electrophoresis**.



DNA - Double-Helix Structure



Chromosome Structure

They allow for the collection, isolation and **quantification** of molecules of interest. These methods can be time consuming and not always possible for all molecules. Yet the research and technology in molecular biology is still behind the potential theories of what we could create. So, what if technology existed that was able to do all of these processes with minimal sampling techniques? What if AI technology was used in this research?

The difficulty with the introduction of AI is that each person has a different interpretation of what it truly is. But a collective agreement seems to recognise it as: the ability of machines to simulate the intelligence of higher organisms. Ideally, it would be self-aware, able to learn from its experiences, to perceive and react to external environments. Deep learning is a type of machine learning based on **artificial neural networks**, in which multiple layers of processing are used to extract progressively higher level features from data.

Currently only narrow/weak AI practically exists, unable to conduct these processes. However, they are still very useful in daily life, they enable automation of tasks eg facial recognition, Alexa or Siri, programmes on social media that target your interests. Strong AI would be far more complex, deep learning processes would allow it to think and control a system on its own, simulating human intelligence and problem solving, able to complete numerous tasks simultaneously.

Deep learning would allow models to be created and analysed with minimal sampling techniques. It could allow the diagnosis of disease, weighing up the outcome of diagnostic testing to improve the accuracy of results. It could also allow researchers to manage challenging issues for example quantitative and predictive **epidemiology**. Machine learning models can take into account the complex interactions between individuals' genetics and their lifestyles. Which could allow the creation of precision based medicines that are personalised to each individual. This would help better visualise the effect of drug doses on living tissue over time which could minimise cost of treatment as well as side effects of drugs. The introduction of AI that would be able to analyse data and make its own conclusions, in essence a deep learning process, would decrease the time required to make these discoveries by many years, providing potential treatment for millions of people suffering from disease.

But with all new technology there are drawbacks, and the development of a machine with sentient thought processes has perhaps some of the most catastrophic. If a machine makes a mistake, who should be held accountable, is it the person who created the machine, the clinicians involved, the machine itself? AI programmes must also be coded initially, and often personal biases can be passed onto this code. A study found facial recognition software coded to identify those with down syndrome was 80% accurate for those with European origin, but only 36% accurate for people with African heritage. This is an incredibly large disparity that if employed into research technology could greatly increase the levels of discrimination and disparity in accessing treatment and care.

AI has a huge potential in the field of molecular biology. It provides the opportunity to develop disease prevention and cure that could not have even been imaginable just 20 years ago. It also could allow for a huge understanding of different structures and processing, giving us insights that were previously only questions and theories. But it must be approached with a cautious mindset. Human input must always be necessary, not just to ensure equal and accurate results but to allow for accountability if mistakes inevitably occur. So do the benefits outweigh the risks? With the right accountability and intentions of development this technology could improve the lives of millions, not just those who are alive now, but future generations. Often the technology is not the cause for concern, but those who have the power to control and distribute it.

Glossary

polymers - substance of large molecules made up of smaller repeating units (monomers)

monomers - small repeating units that can bond together to make a larger substance.

catalyse - to speed up.

molecular cloning - isolation of a DNA sequence and inserting it into another organism (vector) so it can be replicated as an exact copy many times.

chain reactions - when a reaction occurs continuously, used in molecular to rapidly produce many copies of a segment of DNA

gel electrophoresis - laboratory method used to separate mixtures in DNA, RNA or proteins according to their molecular size.

quantification - expressing a measurement or quantity of something

artificial neural network - neural network is the connection of neurons in a brain that allows thought processes. Artificial neural networks allow the replication of this process to allow multi-step cognitive thought in machines.

epidemiology - the study of the spread and cause of health-related states e.g. disease growth, across a population and the application of this to control health problems.