

# Should the UK boycott the Beijing Olympics?

Recent weeks have witnessed protests all around the world regarding China's actions in Tibet, its lack of efforts to bring an end to the violence in Darfur and its human rights record in general. Protesters have so

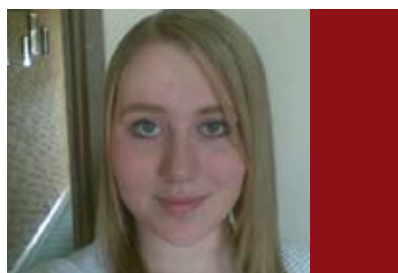
far called for a joint boycott of the Beijing Olympics Games in August this year. MYPs were asked whether they thought the UK should boycott the Olympic Games and whether politics and sport should mix.



## Josh Oddi

Aged 15  
Deputy MYP Cambridgeshire

Sport and politics mixed the day the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to award China the right to hold the Olympic Games. The motivation was perverse, solely resting on economic and diplomatic purposes. From the politicians' point of view, the West needs to engage with China. It's one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and without it, many of the day to day products we take for granted, simply wouldn't exist. I absolutely deplore what China has done for the Olympics, particularly in Tibet, but I believe the blood of the peacefully protesting Tibetan monk's lies as much on the hands of the IOC as it does on China. Gordon Brown should announce a boycott of the games immediately, and urge other Western leaders to follow suit.



## Sarah Shergold

Aged 16  
MYP Derbyshire

I feel that the UK should make a stand against China, however I do not feel that punishing the athletes from our country is very fair. They have not caused the unrest so why should they be the victims of it? Mixing politics and sport can be dangerous and can upset a large amount of people. Boycotting the Olympics because of a political issue shouldn't be connected as I feel that it is up to the politicians to sort out the issues surrounding China and to allow the athletes to continue their jobs. It isn't just athletes that are in China, there are many other resources and products that the UK is still accepting from China, so why penalise the athletes solely?



## Jesse Lake

Aged 18  
Deputy MYP Wiltshire

I don't think the UK should boycott the Olympic Games. It is something that, as far as I have seen personally, just isn't done, and unless our sports women and men are going to be put into an unsafe position, there is just no excuse why the UK can't go out and win medals, to be brutally honest. I have hopes of one day competing in the UK team as a swimmer, so it's inspirational to watch our athletes during their peak years. Politics is in everything we do these days. But really these two need to be kept apart. Politics and sport, in my mind, are two totally separate areas in society and should be kept this way.

**Should the UK boycott the Beijing Olympics?**  
Debate now at [www.ukyp.org.uk/forums](http://www.ukyp.org.uk/forums)

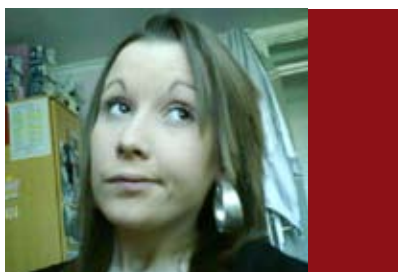


**Alaa Hussein-Ali**

Aged 16

MYP Hammersmith & Fulham

I think it's disgusting that millions of pounds are being spent all over the world while people are still suffering. I wouldn't normally say sport and politics should mix but I will in this case. I understand the Olympics have been going for over one hundred years, but people need to ask themselves, is it fair? I really think the suffering doesn't have to go on if we do something about it! But not just donate once and leave but do something dramatic.



**Chelsea Mabey**

Aged 15

Deputy MYP Southampton

I don't actually think we should boycott Beijing 2008 because it will just make China want to boycott the 2012 Olympics in London. I think it's a great competition and the athletes who compete from Great Britain need to be cheered on even if it is through the television screen. Sport is meant to be fun and if politics gets involved it starts to get too serious.

# FORUM RANT

**"Listen, if I'm paying God knows how much money for food I want something that fills me up, not an amount only fit for a stick insect."**

Rant by :Vampiress:

**R**eported in the press last month was the news of a new gourmet coffee, made up of rare coffee beans. I bet you're all thinking that isn't so bad.

The coffee beans are in fact made up of animal droppings. Droppings. Something that came out of God knows what animal.

Not only that, you have to pay £50 for a cup! That could feed a dozen homeless people or buy me a new pair of shoes. I'm personally swaying towards the shoes.

If I was them I'd wash out my mouth with bleach then run down to the nearest

KFC. What has gone wrong with cooking these days? Many restaurants' idea of a meal is a piece of food the size of a pound coin with a bit of oil dashed on for "decoration".

Listen, if I'm paying God knows how much money for food, I want something that fills me up, not an amount only fit for a stick insect.

Did I fall asleep the day they said pigeon is a delicacy? Apparently cooked pigeon can be pricey. My advice, go to Trafalgar Square and grab one yourself. It's cheaper too.

The cooking world has officially gone MAD.

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