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Alanna Leslie:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Kenya, Scotland and Trinidad and Tobago.

But first...

Universities in Australia are going to reintroduce more pen and paper exams in a bid to prevent students using AI software like ChatGPT to cheat in assessments.

ChatGPT is an online chatbot which uses artificial intelligence to mimic human conversation.

The software's sophistication is leading some educators to worry that students will use it to write essays and pass them off as their own.

Sarah Alleley has this report from Sydney.

Sarah Alleley:

The AI software ChatGPT is getting a lot of attention in Australia as the academic year kicks off.

Some schools and universities are reacting by banning the software or changing the way assessments are done. But many educators and writers are instead figuring out how to help students take advantage of AI as an educational and creative tool.

Judy Kaye:

A recent meeting I was in had two analogies. One is, it's a fire and we really have to respond. And the other was it's sort of like the change when we had calculators.

Sarah Alleley:

Judy Kaye is a professor of computer science at Sydney University. She specialises in human computer interaction and artificial intelligence in education. She says students need to be taught how to use AI software like ChatGPT effectively.

Judy Kaye:

There are already tools, and new ones every day, to help people be more productive programmers.

The important thing is that, right at the moment, if you use those tools, they often give answers that are correct and often give answers that are not. And being able to judge the difference requires considerable skill.

I've played with it quite a bit and I think it will be great for the problem of the blank sheet of paper. You throw in stuff and it's much easier to look at and say, Hmm, yeah, alright, but I can do better than that.

Sarah Alleley:

Miles Merrill teaches creative writing in Australian schools and is director of the literary arts organisation Word Travels. Miles put a section of his novel manuscript into ChatGPT.

Miles Merrill:

I took my first road trip when I was three months old. My father had joined the Air Force as a conscientious objector. So that's what I wrote.

Sarah Alleley:

Then Miles told ChatGPT to rewrite the passage from his novel in the style of Tolkien, author of Lord of the Rings.

Miles Merrill:

It was in my third month of life that I embarked upon my first road trip. My father had joined the Air Force as a conscientious objector, and he often spoke of the time an army recruiter came to his school. What manner of business brings you here?

Sarah Alleley:

Miles says he would encourage students to use AI software as an editing device to learn how to improve their writing.

Miles Merrill:

Turn every passive sentence into an active sentence. I wouldn't take that as a verbatim, this is done. You know, use it on a sample of your text and then see what it does and then go, Oh okay, that's a really good suggestion.

Sarah Alleley:

Sydney student Lucas Smith is 16 and in his second to last year of high school.

So have you considered or have you used ChatGPT?

Lucas Smith:

I was using it once in class. I typed in some prompts for some of the work. Kind of gave me some weird answers. Yeah and then I guess I just gave up using it, so I figured it'd be easier if I just wrote my own stuff. Yeah.



Sarah Alleley:

High school student Anna hasn't used it herself and thinks it has its place for study notes, but not formal tests.

Anna:

A lot of kids have been using that to cheat in like a lot of tests and things, and the school started to get us in trouble for it.

Sarah Alleley:

Why are they using it, do you think?

Anna:

Kids are using it because they are, like, they're trying to be, like, lazy about doing their work and they just prefer this to do it for them.

Judy Kaye:

We definitely need our graduates to be competent users of these tools, aware of their limitations, able to use them well, but also to know enough to be able to do that and to be responsible for what they do, accountable for what they say is their own work.

Sarah Alleley:

This is Sarah Alleley, reporting from Australia for Newsreel World.

Alanna: Thanks Sarah.

Alanna:

A politician in Kenya was forced to leave a senate meeting for ‘violating’ the dress code after she wore a white suit that appeared to be stained with period blood.

Senator Gloria Orwoba is campaigning to provide free sanitary towels for school children across Kenya, where more than half of the female population can’t afford monthly menstrual products.

Her protest involved spreading red dye on the crotch of her trousers and provoked a huge online backlash. But the organisation Global Citizen Africa applauded Senator Orwoba, saying ending the stigma around menstruation is ‘essential’ to ending period poverty.

Alanna:

Employees at a tech start-up in India are being told by their computers to stop work on time as part of a new scheme to promote a healthy work/life balance.

The company, Softgrid, has developed software that gives staff a ten minute warning at the end of the day before turning the computer off automatically.

Writing about the software on LinkedIn, one employee said, “If you are working in this type of culture, you do not need any Monday Motivation or Fun Friday to improve your mood!”

Alanna:

That was a short clip of ‘Shine Some Light’ by the artist Eunice Peters. It’s an example of Calypso music, a genre which originated in Eunice’s home country of Trinidad and Tobago.

The lyrics in the song’s chorus – “Forget the hate and spite, if we unite, we could put up a fight” – refer to the Caribbean nation’s defiance to unite against the rising crime on the twin island republic.

Alanna:

60% of Scottish entertainment venues won't be opening for their full hours in the first three months of 2023 because of rising costs - that's according to a survey from the Scottish Licensed Trade Association.

One sector that's been badly hit is nightclubs.

Cameron Angus Mackay is in Edinburgh to find out more.

Cameron Angus Mackay:

In Scotland, nightclubs are open again but are young people returning to them with enthusiasm?

It's 11:00 on a Wednesday night in Edinburgh City Centre. I'm standing on George Street, which hosts a variety of bars, restaurants and entertainment venues. Students from local universities are midway through a night out, queuing to get into nightclubs whose doors are open this evening.

COVID restrictions were lifted in Scotland in the first half of 2022, a major milestone in the pandemic after two years of disruption for homes and businesses. A year later, nightlife excitement among students appears to be strong.

Student 1:

It's quite weird because when I turned 18 we had COVID, so we weren't really going out much. But then as soon as that lifted, started going out a little bit. It feels like it's getting back to normal with the whole COVID thing and I think everyone's sort of happy and everyone's sort of over it.

Student 2:

Going back from lockdown, the numbers have been lower. But the numbers are picking up and have been picking up since September when uni obviously started back and places were opening back up again.

Cameron Angus Mackay:

The Night Time Industries Association says the electronic music industry, which includes concerts, festivals and clubs, is worth more than £2.6 billion to the UK economy. However, a new report by the organisation reveals that more than 300 UK nightclubs have closed since the start of the pandemic.

The pandemic itself is acknowledged as having played a role, but the report says that the cost of living crisis is more of a challenge than COVID 19.

Here's Edinburgh pub manager Robert Jarvis.

Robert Jarvis:

Prices have gone up. You know rent, gas, beer is a big one, but fundamentally we found that we are doing quite well. It's been very steady. There's always people coming along. We're in a good spot.

Cameron Angus Mackay:

On George Street in Edinburgh I asked young Scots to tell me why nightclubs are important to them.

Student 3:

I mean, it's a part of university life that, like, so many people have missed out on because of COVID.

Student 4:

When you're in a nightclub with your mates, you can have a group of 30, 40 of you.

Cameron Angus Mackay:

So, what can be done to tackle the threat of nightclub closures around the UK?



Well, the Night Time Industries Association is asking the UK government to make it easier for clubs to get a licence. They're also asking for more financial support.

My conversations with students in Edinburgh suggest that the experience of the pandemic hasn't dampened youth enthusiasm for late nights on dance floors. But individuals and organisations representing music and entertainment say further government support is required to protect the cultural and economic value of the electronic music industry.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Cameron. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!