

## NEWS IN BRIEF 7

January 4th –10th 2025

## BBC NEWS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation as the party leader, and will leave the office of prime minister once a new leader of the ruling Liberal party is chosen.

Trudeau said that internal battles in the party had made it impossible for him to face off against his political rivals. The prime minister had been under growing pressure from within his party and elsewhere to step down.

He has announced that the parliament will be now prorogued until 24 March, which means parliament's operations are frozen until then.

## THE INDEPENDENT

Meta is to scrap its longstanding fact-checking programme in favour of a community notes system similar to that on Elon Musk's social media platform X. Instead of using news organisations or other third-party groups as it does currently, Meta will rely on users to add notes to posts that might be false or misleading.

## SKY NEWS

What is Starmer's plan for NHS and will it work?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FlyNay7usU>



Ø **Ca'nadian** /kə'neɪdiən/ **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** : Justin Pierre James Trudeau (born December 25, 1971) is a Canadian politician who has been the 23rd prime minister of Canada since 2015 and the leader of the Liberal Party since 2013. ▲ Notez l'utilisation de l'article Ø devant un titre suivi d'un nom propre

**resig'nation** /ˌreziɡ'neɪʃən/ : démission

**once** /wʌns/ = here, as soon as

**'ruling** = currently in power

The Canadian **'Liberal Party** espouses the principles of liberalism, and generally sits at the center to center-left of the Canadian political spectrum, with their main rival, the Canadian Conservative Party, positioned to their right and the New Democratic Party positioned to their left.

**to face off against** : faire face à, affronter

**to step down** [aʊn] = to resign, to quit

**to be pro'rogued** /prəʊ'rəʊgd/ : être suspendu

**freeze** [i:], **froze** [əʊ], **frozen** [əʊ] : geler

**to be to** : "be + to + verb" is a construction that is used either a) to give an instruction or command, or b) to tell what is going to happen in the future.

**to scrap** /skræp/ = to stop, to get rid of

**long'standing** /ˌlɒŋ'stændɪŋ/ : de longue date

**that** : ici, celui

**'currently** /'kʌrəntli/ = now ≠ actually = really

**in'stead of** : au lieu de ▲ Notez l'emploi du -ING après OF

**to re'ly** [aɪ] **on** = to count on, to be based on

**mis'leading** [i:] : trompeur

**The National Health Service (NHS)** is the public-funded healthcare system in Britain.

0:05 – **a CT chest scan** : un scanner du thorax

0:12 – **to pack up** = to give up, to quit

0:22 – **lung cancer** : le cancer du poumon

0:17 - **Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs)** are healthcare centres aimed at replacing hospitals for tests and scans.

0:44 – **a shopping mall** = a shopping center

0:44 – **a High street** = the primary business street of a city, in the UK

0:50 – **care** : les soins

0:56 – **to bring down** = to decrease

0:59 – **an appointment** : un rendez-vous

1:05 – **a hub** = a centre

1:12 – **an X-ray** : une radio, **an ultrasound** : une échographie

1:59 – **a target** : une cible

2:09 – **the workforce** = workers, staff

2:29 – **bold** = very ambitious

## Forget the ‘red wall’: the ‘graduate without a future’ is the voter politicians need to woo.

Dan Evans, *The Guardian*, Mon 6 Jan 2025

Some groups loom larger in the national imagination than others. It has become a shibboleth that economically left, socially conservative ex-Labour voters in the “red wall” are the UK’s political kingmakers and therefore must be wooed. Yet there is little mention of the graduate without a future, a group that first emerged after the 2010 student protests and continues to grow in numbers. Across the UK there are nearly 5 million graduates working in non-graduate roles. The much-vaunted graduate premium – the idea that graduates earn more than non-graduates over their lifetime – is in drastic decline. New research from the Resolution Foundation shows that new graduate salaries have fallen sharply in real terms over the past two decades, while the minimum wage has risen slightly. With the exception of Stem, law, finance and management, university is no longer a guaranteed ticket to social mobility and a better life.

The collapse of the graduate premium is part of a bigger story. The British middle-class dream is falling apart as new graduates are unable to join its ranks. There exists a shrinking core who came of age when the graduate premium was still high and enjoy high wages, own their homes and remain insulated from the worst effects of government policy. But large swaths of young people, born in the 1980s and after, have been “proletarianised” and are experiencing the jarring shock of downward social mobility. Today’s graduates, facing stagnating wages and saddled with enormous debts and an exorbitant marginal rate of tax, are far less likely to have savings or to own assets than their parents. Hundreds of thousands of young people are either renting a tiny room in a city or living back home in their regional town with Mum and Dad. Many of these young people will gradually realise that their dream career is a mirage: all that work for a life of permanent debt and struggle.

Of course, history tells us that a desperate, falling middle class has enormous political implications. The middle classes function as a stabilising rod for society, and the crumbling of this pillar has driven the febrility of modern politics. As Phil Burton-Cartledge, a lecturer in sociology at the University of Derby, has outlined, through its ruinous economic programme the Conservative party ultimately ended up decimating its own base, digging its own political grave. If Labour does not change anything soon, it will do the same.

It is clear that many in government do not understand the material conditions that drove young people to leftwing politics, as seen during the Jeremy Corbyn years. They feel that this group is not electorally significant and is worth losing. But much like Peter Mandelson’s hubristic quip that Labour could afford to abandon the working class because it had nowhere else to go, this underestimates a potent political force. While Reform UK’s appeal to the white working class dominates the news cycles, it is these young, downwardly mobile graduates who have driven the rise in the Green vote and the collapse of the Labour vote in places such as Bristol.

Ironically, as well as shedding Corbynite graduates, Labour has also failed to win over its traditional voters in the red wall. Labour may well end up losing its old *and* new base. But this also presents a political opportunity. A recent briefing by the World Economic Forum stated that if this new generation of devastated white-collar workers can link up with the blue-collar workers gutted by the first wave of deindustrialisation in the 1980s and 90s, we could have a political revolution on our hands. There is a huge opening here for a progressive party that can address these issues, but it needs to emerge soon – otherwise, popular anger will be funnelled into the right.

**to woo** = to court, to seduce    **a shibboleth** = custom or tradition, usually a choice of phrasing or single word, that distinguishes one group of people from another.    The **red wall** is a term used in British politics to describe the UK Parliament constituencies in the Midlands and Northern England that have historically supported the Labour Party.

**a kingmaker** = a person or group that has great influence

**5 million** : ▲ Notez l’absence de -s et de préposition.    **vaunted** = too much praised

**STEM** = science, technology, engineering and mathematics.    **to fall apart** = to disintegrate

**a shrinking core** : un noyau qui se rétrécit    **swaths of** : des masses de    **jarring** : qui secoue

**saddled with** : affligés de    **less likely to** : moins susceptibles de    **assets** : les biens

**hundreds of thousands** = des centaines de milliers    ▲ Notez l’emploi de -s et de la préposition OF dans les estimations.    **a rod** : une barre    **hubristic** : prétentieux, arrogant    **quip** : blague, boutade

**potent** = with potential, powerful    **to shed** : se débarrasser, se défaire    **Corbynite** = who support Jeremy Corbyn, a British politician who has been MP since 1983. Corbyn was a member of the Labour Party from 1965 until his expulsion in 2024.    **gutted** : éceûrés