

STEM CLUB

Can you survive a a zombie apocalypse? during STEM club students designed shoe covers that allow them to move silently over a variety of surfaces and avoid zombie detection, testing their ideas with a decibel/sound pressure meter.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE WEEK: ENGLISH

Miss Stevens has been getting her Year 12 English Literature class to compete against one another for scholar points and stickers. In this lesson, the class are annotating sections of the poem 'Effects' by Alan Jenkins and comparing notes- it is all to play for!



Our English Department also created a display to celebrate 400 years of Shakespeare's first folio



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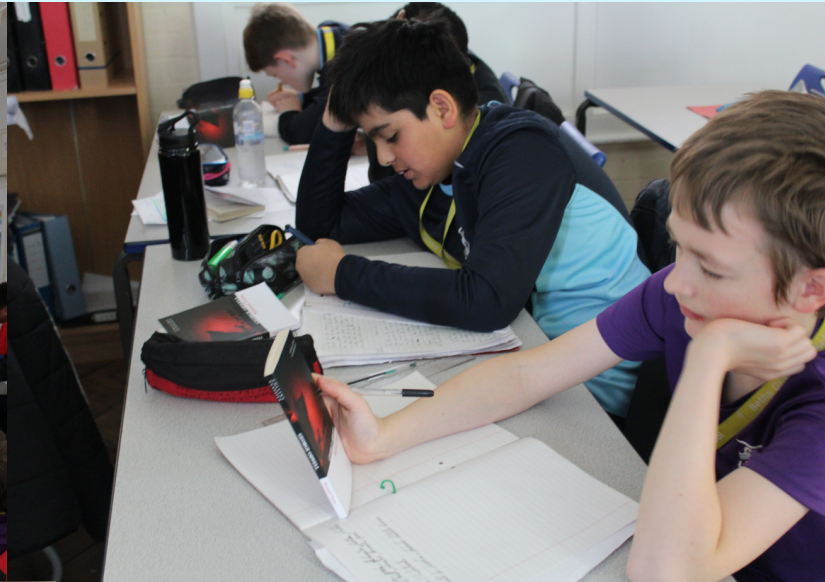
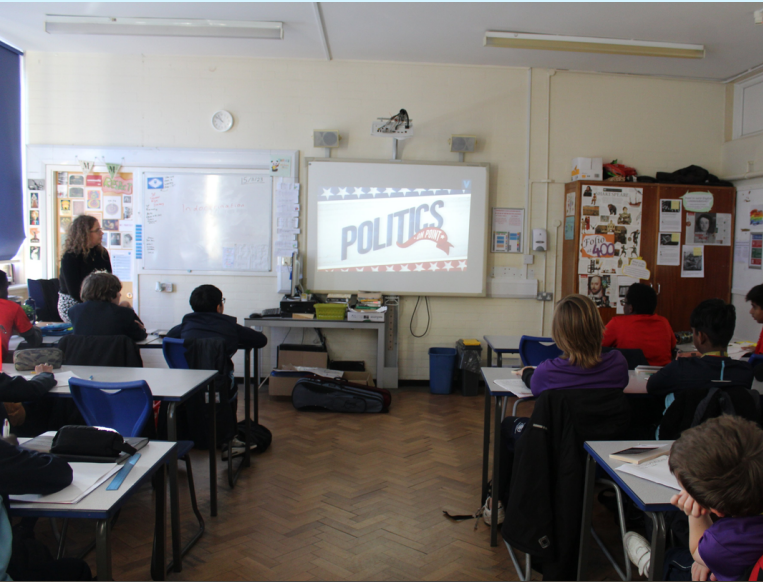
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DEPARTMENT OF THE WEEK: ENGLISH


Our Year 8 English students are hard at work studying *Animal Farm*. In lessons, students discussed the themes dictatorship and democracy and analysed Orwell's presentation of Napoleon in the novella.



Napoleon's Dictatorship

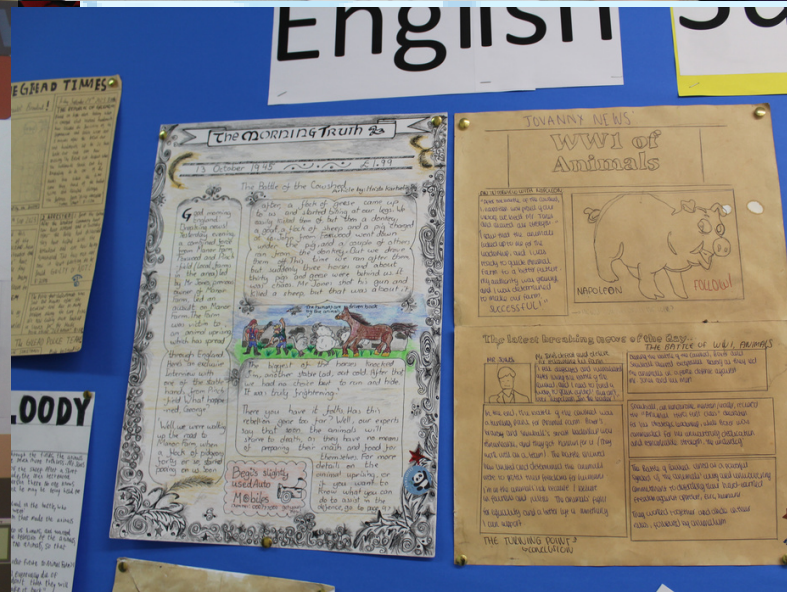
Answer the following questions about the events of chapter five?

1. How could Napoleon be classed as a dictator?
2. Why do you think Napoleon planned to banish Snowball?
3. How does Napoleon take control of the farm?
4. What evidence is there that Napoleon was always planning to take over the farm?
5. What could the dogs be an allegory for?

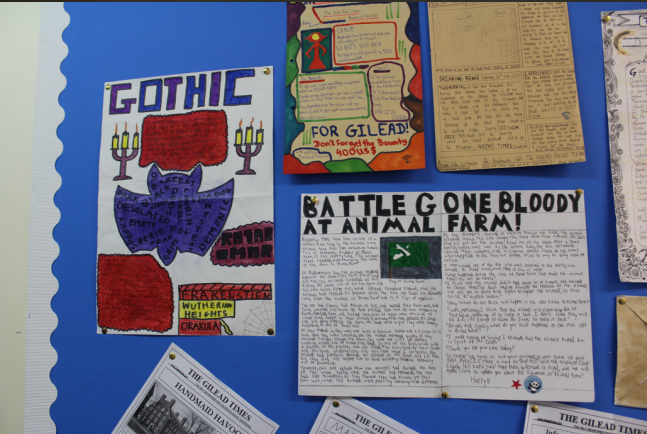


Extension:
Write a paragraph explaining why Orwell may have presented Napoleon as a dictator making sure you link to context.

Learning Objectives: TBAT explain the differences between a democracy and a dictatorship. To analyse Orwell's presentation of Napoleon.



English



BATTLE G ONE BLOODY AT ANIMAL FARM!

Our English Department also has a fantastic display to celebrate students work across all year groups.



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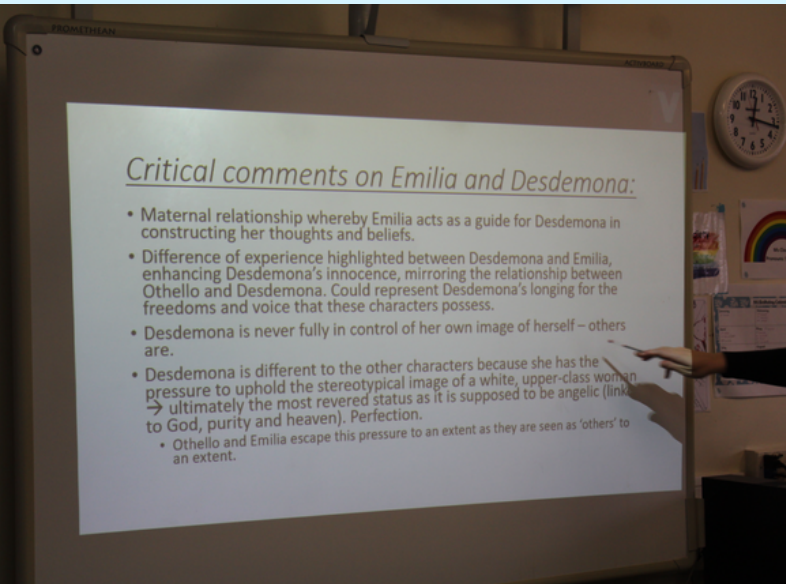
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DEPARTMENT OF THE WEEK: ENGLISH

In Year 12 English Literature lessons with Ms Quinn, students developed their critical analysing skills, while reading Othello. They looked at the relationship between Desdemona and Emilia, and what each character represents.



Our Year 7 students are getting in the Christmas mood here at Beths. Students had the opportunity to read A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens as a group around the (virtual) fire place. It was a wonderful chance for students to develop their confidence in reading out loud, while enjoying a book together.



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DRAMA WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 7th November 22 students were involved in a 4 hour workshop learning about Frantic Assembly and their use of building blocks for devising to create their dynamic work. They learnt and developed their understanding of ensemble work and how timings of performances are important when creating high energy performances. Students got to work on a variety of exercises and lifts, including flying and walking on the walls and finished with short performances of the material they had made during the last part of the workshop.



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MUSIC CONCERTS

Beths Grammar School warmly welcomes you to their annual Winter Concert Series. Students from years 7-13 look forward to entertaining you with a wide variety of music, including holiday favourites. On 30th November you will see soloists, chamber groups, the Beths Orchestra and Year 8 Band Class all come together in magical evenings of music. We look forward to seeing you there!



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BEST OF THE BETHS STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Please find the October edition of Best of the Beths, the first edition of the academic year! In this edition you will find: Year 11 Work Experience By Damilola 11H, Rugby World Cup Knockout Phase Review by Riley 11W, Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS by Ronnie 11H and much more! The newsletter can be found here <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Best+of+the+Beths+Newsletter&pid=403>



BEST OF THE BETHS



2023/24
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE BEST OF OCTOBER

Reviewing the iPhone 15

By Eden 10H

On September the 22nd, Apple released their latest batch of iPhones, the 15 series. There have been many major changes differentiating the 15s from the 14s, such as the new addition of USB 3 on the pro models, and USB 2 on the non-pro models. This was due to a new European regulation which was meant to reduce landfill waste. The change does mean you can carry one USB cable to charge all your apple products, however it now means any lightning ported gadgets made specifically for iPhones are now useless. There is also a cool new action button which is in the position of the traditional ring/silent slider we've seen since the iPhone 2G. Not only does it do the same functions as the ring/slider, but it also allows us to quickly launch an app or do a specific task, custom to whatever we programme it to do. All iPhones have a larger battery and all come with dynamic island and are all lighter than their predecessors. However, only the Pro models come with titanium sides. The titanium helps with the lightness and durability of the phone, but it is only 1mm thick and it only wraps around the phone, so you still get standard aluminium on the back. They have also supposedly made iPhones easier to fix, something that people have been waiting ages for. This is because you can open it from the front, back and you can easily access the internals of the phone.



iPhone 15

As for photography, all phones come with a 48 megapixel main lens, the non-standard ones having a f/1.6 aperture and a 26mm focal length. Furthermore, they can now digitally zoom in twice and get a clean 12 megapixel shot as the resolution has been quadrupled from last gen. The Pro Maxes have a f/1.78 aperture, however they have implemented a new technology into the main cameras which means it can have a 24, 28 and 35mm focal length points. The Pro Max model also has a telephoto lens which can do up to 6x optical zoom.

Black History Month

By Nathaniel 11A

Black History Month (UK) is the annual celebration of black heritage and culture. It provides us with the opportunity to learn new things about African and Caribbean culture, but also to reflect on key figures in Black British History. Generally, the contributions to society made by black people in British history have often been overlooked and underappreciated, with only a small selection of the general public knowing key events in Black British History. This was mostly because for many children in the UK, this month would be the only month of the year which they would have learnt about black history. However, in 2022, Wales became the first nation in the UK to introduce mandatory changes to its curriculum, including lessons about the contributions of figures from ethnic minority groups. England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are yet to do the same. Luckily, I had the opportunity of learning about some of the key historic events/figures in Year 8, some of which I have detailed below:



Bristol Bus Boycott



In 1963, a young black man named Guy Bailey was refused an interview for a job at the Bristol Omnibus Company because of the colour of skin. This sparked a boycott of the company's buses, led by youth worker Paul Stephenson and the West Indian Development Council. Eventually, this boycott attracted national attention and ultimately paved the way to the country's first ever race discrimination law, the Race Relations Act, five years later. This act

Barcelona Tour

By Thomas 10A

What percentage of kids want to be professional footballers? Research shows that 23% of boys' childhood dreams are to become professional footballers, the most sought after job worldwide.

Beths had a lucky taste of this last week when the year 8 and year 10 football teams along with Mr Webb, Mr Waite and Mr GS embarked on a three night trip to Barcelona in order to participate in the world schools games competition. Sad to say, I had a broken collarbone so had the honour of recording and watching the games.

The weather, the bungalows we all stayed in and the facilities were great, with a basketball court, mini golf, a bar, a swimming pool and a five a side football pitch. We ate at a buffet and the weather was almost always hot and sunny (except on the last night when there was a massive storm) and although we had a great time lounging in the pool and filling up on chicken and fish, the main thing we came for was the football, something our school has a great reputation for. We just had to let Beths work their magic.

The multiculturalism and diversity at the small sporting complex was incredible, there were schools from Dubai, Kazakhstan, Germany, South Korea and others scattered across the world, just showing how big this tournament was.

On the first day we arrived, after an early start for a flight from Gatwick, the under 15s played their first match. Beths won 3-0 against a school from Malaysia, which was to set the tone for what was to come. The under 15s team rampaged through the rest of the tournament, winning all eight of their matches over three days. The goals rained in from all directions, with Raynon Richmond and Daniel Francis leading the way.



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 13th November

| FOOTBALL | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|---|-------|------------|
| Date | Competition | Team | Opposition | Venue | Result |
| 13.11.23 | ESFA | U14A | V Grey Court School | Away | Won 0 - 1 |
| 15.11.23 | KSFA Cup | 1 st XI | V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys | Away | Won 0 - 1 |
| 15.11.23 | KSFA | 2 nd XI | V Farringtons School | Home | Lost 2 - 3 |
| 16.11.23 | KSFA | U16A | V Hurstmere | Home | Lost 1 - 4 |
| 16.11.23 | KSFA | U15A | V Bonus Pastor Catholic College | Away | Won 5 - 1 |

| RUGBY | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Date | Competition | Team | Opposition | Venue | Start time |
| 13.11.23 | Kent Shield Final | U14A | V Norton Knatchbull Grammar School | Neutral | Won 12-10 |
| 15.11.23 | Friendly | 1 st XV | V Wilmington Grammar School for Boys | Home | Won 24 - 0 |

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.
Beths Grammar School | Sports Home (bethssport.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please email us at
fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.uk



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 20th November

| BASKETBALL | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Date | Competition | Team | Opposition | Venue | Start time |
| 27.11.23 | Kent Cup | U16A | V Trinity | Away | 4:00pm |
| 28.11.23 | Kent Cup | U13A | V Eden Park High School | Home | 4pm |
| 29.11.23 | Kent Cup | U18A | V Northfleet Technology College | Home | 2pm |

| FOOTBALL | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Date | Competition | Team | Opposition | Venue | Start time |
| 29.11.23 | KSFA League | 2 nd XI | V Langley Park School for Boys | Home | KO 2pm |
| 29.11.23 | KSFA League | 1 st XI | V Gravesend Grammar School | Home | KO 2pm |
| 09.11.23 | ESFA Rd 2 | U14B | V Hampton School | Home | Lost 2-3 |

| RUGBY | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Date | Competition | Team | Opposition | Venue | Start time |
| 28.11.23 | Friendly | U14A | V St Olave's Grammar School | Away | 2:30pm |
| 29.11.23 | Friendly | 1 st XV | V St Olave's Grammar School | Away | 2:30pm |
| 30.11.23 | Friendly | U13A | V Bexley Grammar School | Home | TBC |
| 30.11.23 | Friendly | U12A | V Oakwood Park Grammar | Away | TBC |

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.
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WELLBEING AT BETHS

Be a Parent Wellbeing Champion at Beths!



We place wellbeing at the heart of all we do at Beths and are looking for parents to participate in our Wellbeing programme.



For more details please contact Ms Lucy Bridge

Msbridge@beths.bexley.sch.uk



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KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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