



BEST OF THE BETHS



RECORDING ACADEMY
**GRAMMY
AWARDS**

THE BEST OF FEBRUARY



BEST OF THE BETHS

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Turkey-Syria Earthquake

By Subeeshnan 11H

We have just entered the first two months of 2023 and already, there has been a disaster and can even be called the world's worst day of 2023 so far, the Turkey-Syria earthquakes.

The Turkey-Syria earthquake, also known as the Kahramanmaras earthquake, began



on the 6th of February 2023 at around 4:17 am, when people were just about to get up for work.

This earthquake was deemed as one of the top 5 biggest earthquakes in history, with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale. More than 3600 people died and at around 1:30 pm, as the rescue operations were commencing, a second earthquake occurred. After the second earthquake occurred, many researchers predicted that normally after earthquakes happen, there are aftershocks, and due to the monstrous earthquake, that occurred in Syria and Turkey, the aftershocks are also predicted to be as destructive as the earthquake. Even whilst researching on this natural disaster, I came across videos of people recording themselves under the rubble of buildings, fathers kissing their deceased children under the rubble.

In Syria, this disaster is almost nothing new to the people there, as they have already experienced many incidents of destruction and death due to war. A more surprising and heart-breaking fact is that the area where the earthquake occurred, in Aleppo, was where people had set up refugee camps for those who were escaping the war-torn places. The strength of the earthquakes can already be seen from footages and pictures online, but it was also said that the people in Egypt could feel the tremors of the earthquake in Turkey, that's around 1,411 km. In comparison, we could feel the tremors of the same magnitude of an earthquake in Czech Republic

Turkey-Syria Earthquake

By Subeeshnan 11H

One of the main causes of this many deaths is the quality of infrastructure. Many sources on the media believe that the poor quality of infrastructure is due to buildings not being built with the right approval of the government. After another earthquake like this happened in Turkey during the 1990's, many rules and regulations were put in place in how to build infrastructure to be earthquake-resistant because in 45 seconds, 17000 people died at the time. However, not all buildings followed these rules due to a lack of resources and corruption. If these rules and regulations were put in place, the number of deaths would not have completely been gone but would have reduced.

Many countries have however passed on their help through resources such as food, rescue teams, doctors and construction workers. As the public, we have to do every little thing to show our support for those families that have lost their fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, anyone through charities, donations, fundraisers or even a prayer could help and we should think about how we would have felt if anyone we cared for was trapped in these circumstances and offer as much as help as we can.

Chinese Balloon incident

By Martin 10E

Introduction: Initially spotted on February 1st 2023 by civilians in Montana, across the US, from Kansas to the Dakotas, an unmanned balloon had been flying. It was identified to have been of Chinese origin by the US air force, however Beijing claimed it was merely a “civilian scientific vessel” accidentally blown off course. Nevertheless, Washington suspected that it was really a spy balloon. However, rather embarrassingly for the nation, the US took a week to act upon this intrusion on their airspace. Finally, on February 8th 2023 the balloon was shot down over the East coast of the US. Following the retrieval of the balloon’s remains, it appeared that the initial verdict had been right. Both American and Canadian militaries announced that the balloon was for surveillance. As of writing Beijing still maintains their original stance that it had been an unarmed vessel. This has led to global backlash toward China regarding their use of espionage over their neighbours and rivals. In this article we will analyse the impact of the events and further look into the potential consequences further down the line.

Analysis: Despite the swift action taken by the US, this entire situation has been an embarrassment for the nation and it has raised concerns about the use of balloons for espionage purposes. Balloons have long been used for scientific research and weather monitoring, but they are also capable of carrying surveillance equipment. The utilisation of balloons for intelligence gathering operations is not a new idea, featuring to a great extent during other periods of tensions such as the Cold War, however this recent incident shows the feasibility of such a practice even in the modern day, considering how far the balloon went while evading capture. Unsurprisingly, the incident has raised tensions between the USA and China to new heights. Relations between the two countries have already been greatly strained for several years due to the ongoing trade war and accusations of cyber espionage from both sides. The shooting down of the Chinese balloon will only serve to further amplify feelings of distrust and amplify the tension between these two opposing superpowers. In addition, the incident has the potential to escalate into a more wide-spread conflict as both countries have powerful militaries and are becoming far more polarized in diplomacy. The USA has found itself increasingly involved against Chinese aggressive military behaviour in the South China Sea, and the shooting down of the Chinese balloon will be seen as a further provocation to an already tense scenario. It is of paramount importance that both countries exercise large amounts restraint and work towards resolving their differences through diplomacy and not through more conflict. This incident has rightly raised concerns about the security of the US's airspace. The fact that a foreign airship was able to penetrate all the way into the heartland of US airspace undetected has shown massive weaknesses in the country's air defence systems. This incident must be a wake-up call for the US and its allies to improve their air defence capabilities and to ensure its national security.

Chinese Balloon incident

By Martin 10E

Consequences: The shooting down of the Chinese balloon could provoke grave consequences for both the USA and China. For the USA, the incident displays the potential threat posed by Chinese espionage and raises concerns about the security of the country's airspace. The US will likely respond by introducing new air defences in the coming months and years. On top of this the US may take a more aggressive route in their diplomacy with China further straining relations. This could lead to the banning of Chinese media and companies from the US & NATO allies as we saw with Huawei in 2020. For China, the incident may be seen as a provocation by the USA. It is leading to increased global scrutiny of China's espionage activities as many European and Latin American nations find themselves at risk for surveillance. Overall, it will damage the country's reputation on the global stage. The incident may also have implications for China's relations with their neighbours, especially those that are wary of Chinese expansionism and aggressive military behaviour. In particular, India and Taiwan will seek to align themselves more with the US to safeguard their nations from potential Chinese aggression.

Conclusion: Overall, the case of the Chinese balloon is still yet to conclude, over the coming months and years there will likely be more information brought to light and further diplomatic and political undertakings by both sides. Whether tension will escalate further or if this is merely a blip in a longstanding peace is yet to be seen. Whatever happens, this event may prove to have been very important in years to come.

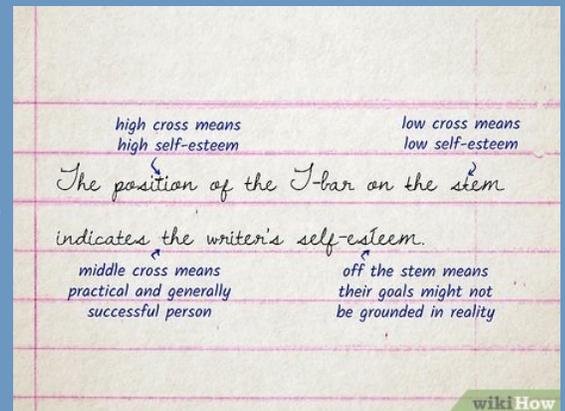
Graphology - 1871

By Mustafa 10H

Graphology is a fascinating subject that has captured the imagination of many people over the years. The idea is that one's handwriting can reveal information about one's personality, traits, and health. One reason as to why this pseudoscience is admired is because it analyses how a person connects and even forms their letters, preaching that it can allow us to peer into one's character. An example where graphology is used is in our study of English literature. In Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Jekyll is found to have falsely written a document, which is subsequently discovered by Utterson and Mr. Guest—our provisional graphologists.

However, despite its allure, graphology is generally considered a pseudoscience and something that shouldn't be used as definitive evidence for something—especially in legal cases. This is since there is little scientific evidence to support these claims, as one's handwriting can change in a matter of hours, depending on the situation. While some studies have suggested a link between certain traits and personality, many graphologists rely on subjective interpretations of handwriting (each person would view one feature differently).

In spite of the possible limitations and inaccuracies of graphology, it still proves to be an entertaining topic to explore and can be a fun way to learn about different styles of handwriting. It is still important to emphasize that graphology should not be relied upon as a serious tool for making important decisions, such as job roles or mental health assessments, especially in today's day and age.



Music Award Ceremonies

The Scammys

By Ronnie 10H

The music industry in itself is known as one to be extremely toxic, with artists consistently being made to effortlessly compete against their peers to get a #1 on the Billboard Top 100 or to reach more sales than the singer trailing behind them. However, though this is an issue itself, it is one that is very public and apparent; unlike the corruption that occurs within music award ceremonies such as the Grammys, the Brits and more.

Looking specifically at the Grammys, members of what is called 'the Academy' vote for nominations to begin with, putting forward 20 nominated musicians. These nominations are then narrowed down to usually 7 or 8, and the one with the most votes originally will receive the award. Sounds fair, right? Well, it isn't. The thing the public are not told is that the voting group is predominantly run by the same people every year, and they ultimately decide who to put forward and who wins, ignoring everyone else's opinions and suggestions. Grimes, a member of the voting board, recently slammed the Grammys after the 2023 ceremony, saying: 'I stopped even clocking them in any capacity when I was on the producer of the year board and they quite literally would not allow me to nominate anyone who wasn't on a pre-fabricated list that was exceptionally boring.'

This is evidenced through true talent being absolutely ignored and unrewarded in music award ceremonies. An example of this is Lana Del Rey; a famous singer, songwriter, poet, model, actor, director and writer known for her meaningful songs and who has previously won the 'Artist of the Decade' award at Variety never being rewarded with a Grammy, despite her multiple nominations. Some of the best artists of this generation, much like Del Rey, do not receive the awards that they should; so to which point should we actually care about them?

In conclusion, awards don't define an artist's relevancy, popularity or the quality of their music, and, speaking generally, award ceremonies for music overall just promote toxicity and fabricated lies that we pay all too much attention to.



Ukraine Anniversary

By Victor 10H

It is quiet on the Ukrainian front, as little advances are made on both sides – the bell of the 1st anniversary of the start of the Russo-Ukrainian War is looming over the battlefield as it waits to ring; On Thursday 24th February 2022, at 4'o clock in the morning, the order was given to cross the border. Since that decisive moment, so much has happened that we know for sure there is no way back – Ukraine will fight to the last man to regain Crimea and all its land according to the territories at the fall of the USSR, while Putin knows that his life and stability of his regime is based around holding Crimea and Russian-backed Separatist Republics in the Donbas region.

In the war there has emerged a symbol for the invasion of Ukraine by Russia – the last letter of the Latin alphabet 'Z', which became prominent, among other symbols such as the letter 'V', through being painted on Russian war machines to denote their side. From tanks to attack aircraft to trucks, this symbol can be seen everywhere, and has even been used in propaganda as a symbol of liberation of the oppressed Russians living in Ukraine. The interesting thing is that the Russia and Ukraine both use the Cyrillic alphabet, which does not use the letter Z, and instead uses a letter that looks like a three – 3 and the lowercase 3. What results is the replacement of the Cyrillic '3' with 'Z' in a lot of propaganda and pro-conflict circles. This has led people, both in Russia and abroad to label people who are pro-intervention as 'Z'.

Another interesting aspect of the war is the Russian idea that Crimea is such an integral part of Russia that it cannot be lost under any circumstance – and Putin has convinced his population so much of it that Ukrainian Troops in Sevastopol would certainly be the guillotine to the Putinist Regime. Thus, preventing the capture of Crimea has become Putin's biggest objective. On the other hand, Zelensky's government making it clear that Crimea is Ukraine's final victory means that when these two resolves clash, the two will continue fighting for many years until one country is militarily defeated, and if it becomes Russia, then its long-time investment in nuclear arms may be let loose.

This idea of Crimea's Russian integrity comes from a mix of real life and bending the truth in historical jujitsu. What is true is that Crimea first came under Russian control in 1783 under Catherine the Great. The Crimean war of 1853–1856 led to massive destruction of land, cities and agriculture, and native Crimean Tatars, descendants of Golden Horde settlers during times of the Mongol Empire, fled the peninsula to avoid the devastation caused by the French and the British fighting Russia. This is where Russian Slavic migration into Crimea starts. During Josef Stalin's rule, many Crimean Tatars were deported into Siberia to be replaced by unsuccessful attempts to establish Jewish autonomies in Crimea and mass migration of Slavs to the sunny beaches and fertile lands in Crimea. In all this time, Crimea was a Russian 'oblast', or autonomous region, which in itself was the Russian SFSR in the Union of Soviets. It was only in 1954 when under Nikita Khrushchev, the Russian SFSR gifted Crimea to Ukraine due to 'the 300th anniversary of

Ukraine Anniversary

By Victor 10H

Ukraine's union with Russia', along with geographical and economic closeness. At the time, this issue was not problematic, as both states were part of the same country, the same way Nevada and California are simply regions in a bigger umbrella state. However, the dissolution of the USSR meant that not only were many Russians now stuck in another country, but also Russia now faced a huge problem – lack of a warm-water port. This is a port that is open all year round, and due to Russia's cold climate, all its ports freeze over for most of the year. This severely hampers trade by forcing Russia to switch to more expensive means of transportation and has been one of Russia's biggest geographical problems for centuries. By using Ukraine's political instability and corruption problems among Ukrainian Oligarchs, Russia used this to its advantage to annex Crimea in 2014, ending 60 years of Ukrainian ownership of Crimea, only 23 of those being as an independent country. Since then, Crimea has been Russia's main holiday destination with its warm and sunny summers. This large amount of Russian population in Crimea is also what means it has so many Pro-Russian movements, before and after its annexation.

This 'Defence of Russians' living in Ukraine is one of the main factors for the annexations and invasions of the Russo-Ukrainian war and the noble idea of liberating oppressed people in Ukraine, and the war is often compared to the Great Patriotic War, the German Invasion of Russia during WW2, as a fight for freedom. This idea comes from the notion that Ukraine planned to eliminate Russian as an official language and stop teaching Russian at school. Since 2014, Russian-backed separatists tried to break away from Ukraine to form Russian-aligned countries in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of easternmost Ukraine, after not being granted autonomy status by the government of Ukraine. This, combined with the fact that most of eastern Ukrainian citizens were quite pro-Russian, at the beginning of the war anyway, gave Russia incentive to 'liberate' its displaced people.

As the front begins to stabilise and both sides prepare to an offensive in the spring, it gives opportunity to pause and analyse the situation and the ideology of both sides. This article is an insight into what the other side believes, and this humanization of the 'others' allows us to understand their perceived madness.

The Everchanging Concept of Love

By Damilola

10H

To me, love is something that cannot be destroyed and is distinct from any other feeling. No matter how you feel, love will never go away. If it does, how can you possibly call it love. It is more than just a feeling and isn't just towards a person but towards actions, places, and food of course. The definition of love has changed from something that was displayed by sacrificing ones most valuable asset – time – to giving teddy bears, chocolates and a cheap card. February 14th is a day of fake love, desperation, and for those who haven't found love within themselves, loneliness. And this is a problem. If you cannot love yourself, how can you possibly expect another person to? To find and to love yourself is one of the most powerful ventures you can have. You'll care less about rejection, become more comfortable in your own skin and you'll realise that nothing matters. You'll stop seeking people's validation because the only validation you need is your own.

True love is a tricky concept, and means different things to different people. Here are a few of many perspectives on love:

A man called Ove by Frederik Blackman

Ove had never been asked how he lived before he met her. But if anyone had asked him, he would've answered that he didn't.

He was a man of black and white. But she was the colour. All the colour he had.

He realised that he wanted to hear her talking about the things she loved for the rest of his life.

One finds a way of living for the sake of someone else's future. And it wasn't as if Ove also died when Sonja left him. He just stopped living.

"To love someone is like moving into a house," Sonja used to say. "At first you fall in love in everything new, you wonder every morning that this is one's own, as if they are afraid that someone will suddenly come tumbling through the door and say that there has been a serious mistake and that it simply was not meant to would live so fine. But as the years go by, the facade worn, the wood cracks here and there, and you start to love this house not so much for all the ways it is perfect in that for all the ways it is not. You become familiar with all its nooks and crannies. How to avoid that the key gets stuck in the lock if it is cold outside. Which floorboards have some give when you step on them, and exactly how to open the doors for them not to creak. That's it, all the little secrets that make it your home.

I just think it's a delusion... it's a lie until it's really real. — Central Cee

Love is an art. — Erich Fromm

Love is to nurture the flourishing of someone else and recognise your own worth. — Erich Fromm

Ladies basing love on what you receive makes love a passive commodity.

Proper loving is counterculture.

Not how do I become loved rather how do I love?

How modern-day culture has ruined love

Most people have a passive view on love. That it is somewhere out there waiting for them and by chance they'll cross paths with the person of their dreams. This perspective makes us focus on making ourselves as loveable as possible, being somebody we aren't just to please those that we are attracted to. This means adhering to the desirable values of a man in the modern day, which is according to social media more feminine, emotional and "soft". Going against the typical masculine stereotype of alpha, the provider and dominant which can be seen as a good thing only if they were doing it for themselves and not to please women. Is a traditionally masculine man any better than a man written by a woman? People view love as an object and treat it as a feeling, but we should shift our perspective and view it as an activity or, as Fromm says, a form of art as it requires practice, dedication and faith.

To add to this media has raised our expectations of what love should feel like. Social media only displays the materialistic side of "love" with flowers and candles and cars on valentines which makes us think that that is the only or best form of expressing love. However we aren't aware of what goes on in the relationship apart from what they show us, distorting our image of what love should actually be. We create a hyper realistic view according to Jean Baudrillard which is when the media that was originally an imitation of reality ends up being more real or hyperreal. Media imitates hyperreality which is what we now strive for. We are trying to base our lives on shows that are completely detached from reality and try to base our relationships on common traits on these shows. The imaginary dictates reality and makes us believe that love must be a certain way which isn't the case. Love is going to be different for everybody but that doesn't make it better or worst.

Run On Red - Book Review

By Nathaniel 10A

'Run on Red' by Noelle Ihli is a jam-packed thriller set on an isolated, rural country road. Two friends, Olivia and Laura are heading to a bonfire one winter evening when they notice headlights tailing them through the hills. The truck behind them starts to tap their bumper, then starts trying to run them off the road. What seemed like a classic case of road rage quickly escalates into a heart-pounding chase and a battle for survival. The book starts incredibly fast-paced as the two girls desperately try to figure out what is happening to them. Who are the men in the truck? What do they want? Can they outrun and outsmart them long enough to call for help? As the girls' situation grows more dangerous, they begin to realise that the real terror is yet to come. If they're going to make it home alive, they'll have to fight...

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this thriller and I was kept on my toes the entire time. As previously mentioned, the novel starts with lots of suspense which is maintained for the majority of the book. This was definitely a page turner and a very quick, easy read. The story unfolds very interestingly, and the writing style of the author is quite conversational, which makes reading the story feel like the narrator is personally speaking to you. I also enjoyed the fact that the story included some background on the girls' personalities, which was woven quite nicely into the story. The reasoning behind the whole cat and dog chase is revealed at the end of the story, after a massive amount of vivid description of the girls' attempt at escape and to be honest, the ending was quite lousy for such an intense book. It definitely caught me by surprise, but I felt like it was quite wasteful, as expected. Also, at times the description was a bit too much and made the situation quite confusing to understand. For example, at certain parts of the plot, I felt confused as to how the girls' had ended up at their locations as the tension had sort of washed over the important plot descriptions.

I rated this novel a solid 3.5/5 and would certainly recommend to a friend. Here is my favourite quote from the novel:

"I'd always thought I could skip the bad parts of life if I tried hard enough. If I was smart enough. But sometimes trouble came to you - for the simple fact that it could and it wanted to"



Looking after your mental health

By Thomas 9A

Throughout your life you've probably encountered many worries and anxieties, and this is normal for us humans as we've evolved with the amygdala response in our brains, which distinguishes what we identify as dangerous and harmful to us. This, in certain instances, can be helpful, for example if in the Stone Age times you may have needed to hide from predators and hunt animals to survive. However, in modern times the amygdala has begun to deteriorate within us and cause a cesspool of worries to bubble within ourselves. The modern world, with the pressures of social media and of everyday life, can exacerbate these worries. This has led to the mental health campaign by the NHS to help adults and children cope with a multitude of issues such as PTSD and depression too.

Many people can often feel isolated. Maybe you find yourself alone during one lunchtime? Or you may have woken up and forgotten you had a Maths test that day? Or something could be worrying you entirely differently. The key to unlocking the door to the room in which you're trapped with your worries is the people around you. Speak to your form tutor, your parents, your friends and even your dog if it makes you feel better.

It has been proven that spending time talking to others can have a beneficial effect on your mental health. Reach out and talk to others if you're worried. Or if you are worried about a friend or family member, offer to talk to them. Another thing that can help is fresh air and exercise. Anything that gives you an endorphin rush - for example playing a sport, going for a walk in the woods or doing something you enjoy can be beneficial.

Another popular method to help relax you and ease your worries is practicing mindfulness - whether that be in the sense of meditation or simply a completely different exercise that helps you focus on something else, such as drawing or doing a puzzle.

One thing to bear in mind is that just as everybody has to look after their physical health by eating well and exercising, it's also important to tend to your mental health. It's incumbent for all of us to look out for one another.

Jordan Peterson

By Erim 11C

Who is Jordan Peterson?

Jordan Peterson is a controversial Canadian psychologist, lecturer, and author noted for his views on political correctness, gender, and identity. He believes strongly in human responsibility, personal growth, and self-improvement, and he urges individuals to take charge of their own life and achieve their dreams. Peterson criticises the excesses of political correctness, arguing that individuals should be free to express their beliefs and ideas without fear of censorship or retaliation. He also believes in the significance of tradition, order, and stability in society, and has been chastised for his anti-feminist views on gender. Despite the controversy surrounding his beliefs, Peterson has a considerable following and is widely regarded as a major voice in the realm of self-help and personal development. Jordan Peterson is a well-known psychologist, educator, and author noted for his distinctive and thought-provoking perspective. He emphasises the significance of personal responsibility and progress, supporting the concept that everyone should try to better themselves and live a life with meaning. This process of self-improvement, according to Peterson, necessitates a thorough grasp of one's own strengths and flaws, as well as a desire to confront and conquer problems. He also believes that society should be designed in a way that encourages people to take charge of their own life and follow their dreams. Jordan Peterson has become a significant voice in the field of self-help and personal development, motivating millions of individuals to live a more satisfying and meaningful life via his dynamic and engaging speaking style.

Is there controversy?

On the one hand, many people see Peterson as a force for good in the world, encouraging personal responsibility, self-reflection, and progress. He gives them practical assistance and motivating advice to help them discover meaning and purpose in their life. Peterson encourages individuals to take ownership of their own lives and follow their goals and objectives through his writing and speeches, which may be especially encouraging for those who feel lost or disillusioned. However, other people believe Peterson's viewpoint is dangerous. Some criticise his provocative and polarising ideas on gender, politics, and psychology. He has been accused, for example, of encouraging toxic masculinity and disseminating anti-feminist views. Critics further argue that Peterson's guidance is not universal and does not account for the complexity and subtleties of individual circumstances and experiences.

Males:

He claims that males are experiencing a masculinity crisis, and that political correctness and cultural Marxist ideology are undermining traditional manhood. He declared in a lecture that "Men are

Jordan Peterson

By Erim 11C

in peril. It's not because they're males; it's because the prevailing ideology of the day is anti-masculinity." Peterson also claims that conventional masculine norms and expectations are being challenged, which is contributing to a deterioration in men's mental health and well-being. "The concept that males have to be strong and stoic, that they can't express their feelings or exhibit weakness," he says in an interview, "is damaging and leads to a lack of empathy and understanding." Jordan Peterson sees men's social challenges as the outcome of cultural and intellectual factors opposed to conventional masculinity. He contends that these influences are contributing to a deterioration in men's mental health and well-being, and that it is critical for society to identify and address these issues. In another talk on a podcast, he made a controversial claim that was interpreted and seen to have opposed this notion, saying that men must learn to be "monster", because harmless men aren't good men. He states a good man is a "very dangerous man", but who has it under voluntary control, and he says men should be capable to "threaten" someone, and goes on to say that if you're not a "formidable force, there's no morality in your self-control," claiming the dual capacity for violence and control is true virtue. Many have interpreted this to be a very pro-stoic and bad example of what men should be, but links back to the saying, "It's better to be a warrior in a garden, than a gardener in a war".

Females:

Jordan Peterson's opinions on the difficulties that women confront have sparked debate and criticism. Peterson has voiced ideas in his lectures and interviews that are perceived as dismissive of the issues that women confront in society. For example, in a 2018 interview with Channel 4 News, Peterson argued that "the concept that women are oppressed in Western civilization is a Marxist myth". He contended that the wage disparity between men and women stems from biological differences rather than structural discrimination, and that women are not oppressed in Western countries. In another talk, Peterson remarked that "there are relatively few hurdles to women in society now". He contended that the emphasis on gender equality has resulted in the ignoring of other critical concerns, such as the growth of single-parent households and the collapse of religious and cultural organisations. Women's rights organisations have characterised these assertions as dismissive of the continued issues that women confront in society, such as pay discrimination, sexual harassment and assault, and unequal representation in positions of power. Finally, Jordan Peterson's views on women's issues have sparked debate and criticism, with many accusing him of being insensitive and dismissive of the challenges that women face in society.



Guinness Six Nations The Second Weekend

By Riley 10W

There were significant results and some great rugby on display in a fascinating set of second round matches in the Six Nations. The games saw Wales, who suffered a heavy defeat to Ireland in the first match, up against high-flying Scotland after their Calcutta Cup victory against England. World number one Ireland hosted World number two France as the favourites clashed after both sides had won their opening matches. The final match of the weekend saw an improved Italian side travelled to Twickenham following their narrow loss to France, with England hoping to claim a first victory for new coach Steve Borthwick.

Scotland vs Wales

Finn Russell was the star of the show as Scotland were rampant in their 35-7 victory over Wales. The men in red had the better territory and possession in the first half but as against Ireland they simply weren't clinical enough. Whilst Ken Owens was able to score following a Welsh driving maul, they were left to rue a big missed chance as Rio Dyer fumbled a pass mere metres from the line with the clock red for the end of the second half. Scotland came out all guns blazing in the second half, scoring four wonderful tries to add to the 13 points they scored in the first half. I think the pick of the bunch had to have been Kyle Steyn's first, as Finn Russell darted through the Wales defence and made a beautiful offload to Steyn. The victory means Scotland are two wins from two matches for the first time in Six Nations history.

France vs Ireland

This match did not disappoint as the two highest ranked teams in world rugby went head to head in the weekend's main event. It was Ireland who prevailed with a bonus-point victory, putting them in a very strong position early on in this championship. Ireland started quickly, with Hugo Keenan finishing a great Irish move. France struck back not long after, as Damian Penaud started and finished a lightning quick French counter attack. James Lowe then scored a controversial try for Ireland, as he was adjudged to have been in the field of play when grounding the ball. Ireland scored again, and would have had a fourth if Antoine Dupont hadn't incredibly dragged Mack Hansen away from the try line and into touch. France were able to keep in touch with Ireland, as Ramos kicked three penalties and a drop goal. Ireland snuffed out any chance of a comeback however, as Gary Ringrose went over with 71 minutes on the clock. The match was breathless from start to finish, with both teams showing why they are the best in the world.



Guinness Six Nations The Second Weekend

By Riley 10W

England vs Italy

England were able to wrap up a relatively comfortable win against Italy, despite not being at their best. They made their trips to the Italian 22 count in the first half, and battered the defence using powerful forwards to make gains and score the tries. Jack Willis, Ollie Chessum and Jamie George all scored from close range in the first half without reply, as England strode to a 19-0 lead at half time. Italy fought back and scored early in the second half with Marco Riccioni barrelling over. But England quickly responded, scoring a penalty try from a driving maul to get the bonus-point try. It looked as though there may have been a glimmer of hope for Italy as Alessandro Fusco scored, but Henry Arundell scored a fifth for England to ensure the victory.

There will be a week's rest period for these teams before a return to matches on 25th February when Italy play Ireland and Wales face England. On the following day, France will take on Scotland.

Mr Babajide Interview

By Edwin 10C

Cover teachers likely have one of the most interesting jobs in schools. They get to teach a wide variety of subjects and students from all year groups. Luckily, I was able to interview Mr. Babajide on his experiences at Beths and outside of school too.

Here's what we spoke about:

What's your typical day like?

It could be a few things. First, as I have a music business, I usually do gigs. They consist of weddings, concerts, churches, parties, or studio sessions. Other things I do are training. In terms of training, I train other choirs, other people trying to vocally enhance their craft and I also do mentoring. This is mentoring in terms of behavior, getting goals in alignment, getting people to where they want to be and trying to give them great advice. In addition, I like travelling when I can – I've been to Sweden, Madrid, Miami, New York, Nigeria, Ghana, and Romania, because I like to see new places and experience new cultures. Additionally, I like to learn new things to use in my day-to-day life.

Favorite subject(s) to teach and why?

It would have to be Drama, or Music, but if they had Media in school, that would top it off as I have a degree in Television Production and there are many similarities and crossings of paths. Television Production consists of film making, creating television programs, adverts; anything you can think of as broader media, really.

Other settings and jobs you've worked in?

I've worked in Finance, specifically the PPI sector. I've also worked in real estate for a company called Regus. We were selling and renting out office spaces and meeting rooms. I did this for almost 3 years, the finance part for about a year, and I worked for Sainsbury's when I was younger. I even worked on an ITV show, Celebrity Juice, and I got there through university. Teaching has been the longest thing I've had.

Mr Babajide Interview

By Edwin 10C

Why did you choose education?

I wanted to impact the lives of the younger generation. We see and hear a lot of negative news surrounding teenagers and young adults, and I decided at a younger age that I wanted to do what I could to at least help certain people that were willing to maintain a good path. I've been in education for 7 years now. There are definitely times where it becomes discouraging, but I think of the greater picture which is beyond myself, and that's what helps me stay motivated.

Interesting experiences?

Within school, making a lot of new genuine relationships with students, being a mentor to over 5 students in both Key Stages 3 and 5. And definitely the family-oriented colleagues that I have. I feel like I've been in the school since the inception.

In conclusion, this was a great experience, and it was fantastic to learn more about Mr. Babajide. From his leather shoes to his expansive collection of suits, he was an interesting character to get to know better. His love for his students and passion for helping others is truly commendable.



BEST OF THE BETHS

Thank you for reading this edition of the newspaper!

We hoped that you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. We covered many interesting topics from graphology to rugby and from politics to the Grammys . We hope to keep capturing stories that you readers want to hear.

Please let us know what you liked about this article and what you would want to see more of in the next one:

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-Regards from the Newsletter team