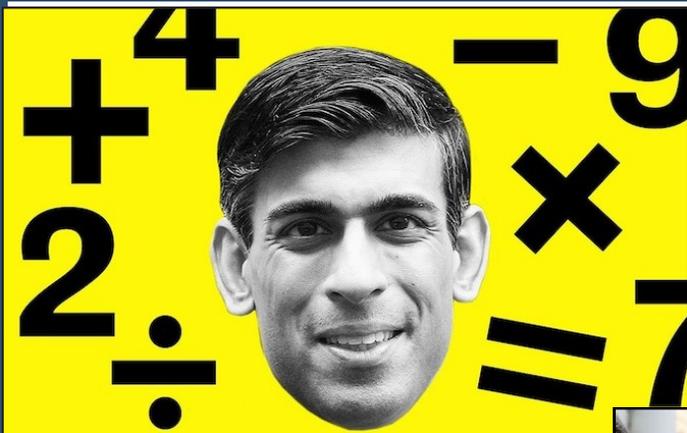




BEST OF THE BETHS



THE BEST OF

JANUARY



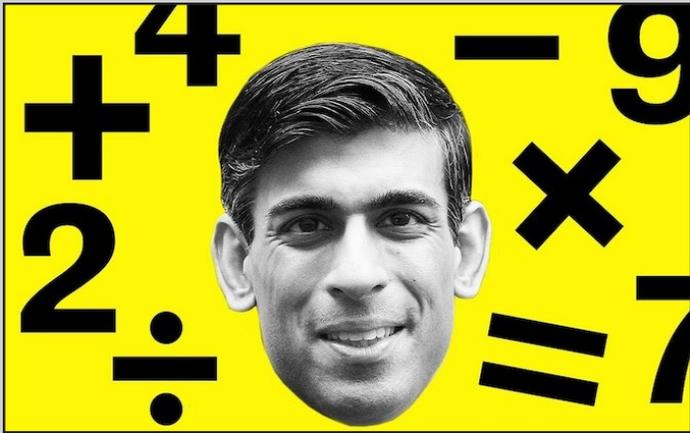
BEST OF THE BETHS

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Rishi Sunak's Plans for Maths



by Edwin 10C

In the past few years, we've had a couple of new Prime Ministers running our country. There's been Boris Johnson, the subject of multiple scandals, and Liz Truss the Fighter, and now we have Rishi Sunak, the first non-white Prime Minister of England, a massive achievement indeed. But recent insights into his ideologies and plans have caused people to further scrutinize his role as PM and has lifted him further into the topic of many household debates.

As one of his first announcements, Rishi Sunak has vowed to ensure that children study some form of maths until 18 years old. He has stated that this doesn't mean forcing students to do maths as a compulsory A – Level, but just including maths into the curriculum in some way, shape or form. This could be justified, as evidence

shows that only half of 16 to 19 year olds study maths. Subsequently, only half of adults in Britain possess an acceptable amount of maths skills. Amidst all of Sunak's promises, such as halving inflation and reducing debt, this one stands out to adults and children, parents and students alike. As his first major announcement, this is sure to be remembered for years to come.

However, the responses to these plans are mixed. Many people, including the young teens and children who will be impacted by these changes, disagree with Sunak's plans for the future. The majority of counter arguments include the fact that there is an underwhelming amount of maths specialist teachers, meaning the subject will be taught by people who don't know the subject as well as parents and children would like. Another issue, stated by The Mirror, is the fact that the curriculum as a whole needs reviewing, and not extending. As well as this, with the amount of strikes for trains, buses, hospitals, and every other service

Rishi Sunak's Plans for Maths

by Edwin 10C

crawling higher and higher each day, many people are upset that this extension of maths is what Mr Sunak is so insistent on sorting out. As they might say, why not solve the problems we already have instead of manifesting minor issues to create solutions for?

Furthermore, another concern is the fact that not everyone is naturally talented at maths, and forcing students to take one of the trickiest subjects for longer than they have to might discourage people from continuing school. With the amount of British students dropping out of school before 19 being over 20,000, many have been left questioning why Mr Sunak is so intent on forcing more maths into schools as opposed to making the subject more enticing and less off-putting as it is.

Overall, while the idea has been hit with a ton of opposition, the evidence shows that this concept is not as poorly planned as people are desperate to believe. With Rishi Sunak informing us that this new system will not be put into place by the probable 2024 election, all we can do is wait to see if these plans will come into action, or if the backlash from the public will be enough to shut them down for good.

New Year, New Me: Motivation or Delusion?

by Ronnie 10H



The popular phrase ‘new year, new me’ - used, evidently, at the start of a new year - is something that has circulated about for decades, implying that the individual stating said phrase is planning to change themselves and their habits, usually in a positive manner, in the upcoming year. But, truthfully, how effective and lasting is this?

Why should we have to wait for a brand-new year to re-evaluate our life and decipher how to remove all negativity, subsequently bettering ourselves? Are we, as humans, capable of shifting personalities and our goals suddenly overnight? The direct answer is no. We find the problem of the ‘new year, new me’ notion in its longevity — while we may feel overly motivated in the first few days of the year, this excitement usually fades upon the oncoming weeks — this being due to our lack of being able to see past external factors. An example of this is someone setting their ‘new year, new me’ goal as ‘becoming a nicer person’. Instead of trying to present themselves as a kinder person, they should look at the internal factors causing their negativity (such as their home life, schedule or friend group), and then sort those out in actual attempts to work towards providing genuine affection. Otherwise, this facade would soon wear off and they’d retreat to their old ways — this same thing being applicable to things like weight loss, screen time and addiction alike.

Expanding on a point stated above, waiting for a new year in order to begin changing yourself and the things around you seems pointless. If you fall into the habit of doing this every year, you will never make actual progress. The solution to this is to take action on something when you first identify it; don’t allow it to sit there waiting for the next year of which you have off-putted it to, then the next year, then the next year, and so on so forth.

So, in your opinion, do you believe using the ‘new year, new me’ phrase portrays delusion or genuinely sparks motivation? Both sides have valid arguments; though, at the end of the day, what matters most is whether you actually stick to these goals - otherwise you’ll forever be confined to the phrase’s antithesis, ‘new year, same me’.



JOE BIDEN'S SECRET FILES by Gabriel 10H

After having conducted a 13-hour search of Joe Biden's house, the discovery was the fourth time since November that classified records or material has been found at a private address of Biden's. Joseph D. Fitzpatrick, assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, told NBC News: "I can confirm that the FBI on Friday executed a planned, consensual search of the President's residence in Wilmington, Delaware."

The Department of Justice seized "six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding material." Some of the items dated from Biden's tenure in the Senate, where he represented Delaware from 1973 to 2009, Bauer said. And some of the items were from his tenure as vice president in the Obama administration, from 2009 through 2017. Neither Biden nor first lady Jill Biden was present during the search, according to Richard Sauber, special counsel to the president.

On Dec. 20, a small number of classified records were found in the garage of Biden's Wilmington home. A single page of classified material was then found at the Wilmington residence on Jan 11. Then, the next day, five more pages of classified records were found in a room adjacent to Biden's garage, when DOJ officials travelled there to take possession of the single page found the prior day.

Strangely enough, Former President Donald Trump is also under criminal investigation by another special counsel for taking hundreds of classified records and other government documents from the White House when he left office. Trump is also being eyed for possible obstruction of justice by stonewalling efforts by government officials to recover those documents.

The FBI in early August raided Trump's home at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, where they found thousands of pages of government records. The FBI had a search warrant in that case.



AI makes humans and homework obsolete

by Victor 10H

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, has always seemed like a distant vision in the far future. Well, the future is finally here, and has been for some time, although it has been in development away from the public eye. The 2020s will be the turning point of computer intelligence, as many forms of AI have been already released for use by the public. I don't even have to type up with my hands this article anymore; I am using the voice dictation feature on Microsoft Word. There have been many forms of AI that can seemingly create art at the same level or even surpassing any freelance artist on earth. However, the most advanced form of AI are the extremely sophisticated chat bots that many of you must have tried out at some point. The most prominent of these is a website called ChatGPT, which can do anything you want in the literary world, from writing an essay on Jekyll and Hyde, to giving a detailed analysis of historical events, such as Hitler's rise to power, to even writing poems and songs in a variety of different languages, from English to Mandarin to Spanish.

Artificial intelligence is able to learn at a much quicker pace than any human could ever achieve; this is ultimately what gives the AI the advantages that allow it to leap over humanity as a whole. After all, there is the story of how an AI managed to beat the best chess player on earth, but the creator of the computer intelligence was easily beaten by the Grandmaster. This goes to show that AI is not limited by its creator, and if it gains enough unregulated and uncensored knowledge, we could very well end up in a classic 'Terminator' situation. However, it is not good to speculate, and much better to focus on the facts. Although AI can outsmart the smartest person on earth and is more efficient than the most productive factory worker, it still lacks consciousness for the foreseeable future, and this fact is what determines our edge over our creations. Jobs requiring debate and creativeness will remain a very human job for a very long time, which still leaves us with plenty of career options including

but not limited to lawyers, engineers, artists, and music producers. Even though it may seem that AI has surpassed us even in these careers, we must keep in mind that computer intelligence is not able to produce original work; what it does is simply mix up everything that it has learnt to form something coherent; for example, art produced by AI is simply a mash up of different artists' work.

From when it was first introduced to the public, ChatGPT has been growing steadily in popularity and recently has even been facing an exponential growth in usage so large, that its servers are often at full capacity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In fact, I wanted to include an extract on what the AI would say about the rise in its popularity and advancements, but unfortunately the servers were over logged each and every time I tried to ask it.

However, you may be asking yourself the question 'How can I include this AI and other similar chat bots into my daily life?' One example that will be changed forever is written homework. For example, if your homework is to write an analysis for English, you just plug it into whatever chat bot you use, and copy and paste it onto a Word document, or simply copy it onto your book. Mathematics problems are also easily solved by the computer, and case studies in History and Science will be effectively and efficiently summarised by the algorithm. Homework in its current form is dying a slow but painful death; keeping it on life support will require major reforms in order to AI-proof assignments. We might very well be the last generation that has to come home to do work and finish what was started at school.

In conclusion, it is safe to say that AI will turn upside down the world as we know it, just like the generation before us experienced the revolution of the Internet. Jobs will be lost, and humans will be made obsolete, but whether it forms an unemployment crisis, or makes our lives so much easier, can only be seen in the future.

WSL: Arsenal vs Chelsea Match Report



VS



by Riley 10W

I travelled to the Emirates Stadium on the 15th of January to watch Arsenal vs Chelsea women in a big clash at the top of the table. Both sides had shown incredible form so far in the season, having only suffered one loss each. Chelsea came in to the match three points ahead of Arsenal, having played a game more, so there was a lot riding on the match. Arsenal were without star players Vivianne Miedema, the league's all-time top goal scorer, and Beth Mead, winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in December, after both were ruled out for the rest of the season with injuries.

The atmosphere in the stadium was great, with the attendance of 48,611 being the second largest in WSL history. Arsenal started strongly applying pressure to the Chelsea defence and dominating possession, however were unable to create anything clear cut, with Caitlin Foord's strike from outside the box comfortably saved by Musovic in the Chelsea goal. Chelsea chances were few and far between. Their best moment in the first half came through Lauren James' long dribble into the Arsenal box, with her shot flying narrowly wide.

The second half continued with Arsenal dominance, and the gunners were able to fashion some good chances. Lina Hurtig of Arsenal got on the end of a great cross but her header from close range was straight at Musovic. The pressure finally paid off when Niamh Charles, the Chelsea defender was adjudged to have brought down Caitlin Foord in the penalty area. Arsenal captain Kim Little sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to put Arsenal 1-0.

Arsenal continued to go in search of a second, with Foord having shots saved. Steph Catley came closest to doubling Arsenal's lead as her long-range effort had Musovic scrambling, but the goalkeeper was just able to tip the shot over the bar. Chelsea created some chances with Fran Kirby and Jelena Cankovic coming off the bench to help provide some attacking spark. It was in the 89th minute that Cankovic provided a brilliant cross for Chelsea's star striker Sam Kerr, who headed home the equaliser to rescue a point for the blues.

It is still all to play for at the top of the table, especially after Manchester United thrashed Liverpool 6-0 to draw level on points with Arsenal. Both of these teams have played one game less than Chelsea, who remain 3 points ahead at the top of the table.

Martin Luther King Jr Day

by Nathaniel 10A



Martin Luther King Jr was an African American Baptist Minister and activist, who was born in January 1929. Martin Luther King Jr was one of the most prominent leaders in the US Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968 and he advocated for equal rights for Black Americans. His life is honoured each year in the US as a public holiday, during which US schools are closed and speeches are given by civil rights leaders and politicians.

Up until the 1960s, people of colour in the United States, specifically black people, were segregated from white people and were treated as though they were 'less' than white people. For example, there were separate public services for people of colour and white people, such as transport, parks and toilets, black people were denied the right to vote in many US states and black children were forced to go to poorly funded and equipped schools, separate to their white peers. People of colour were usually in badly paid work and Black Americans were often killed, beaten up or wrongfully placed in prison.

In December 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested after she refused to give up her seat on a crowded bus for a white man. This influenced Martin Luther King Jr to set up a non-violent protest, where black people didn't travel on the buses in that city. Eventually, this led to the US Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses would no longer be allowed. Following this, King organized other non-violent demonstrations against the unfair treatment of Black Americans. After the authorities used force to end these protests, despite the fact they weren't violent, King gained even more support. In 1963, he led a huge march on Washington D.C., where he made his famous 'I have a Dream' speech in front of over 200,000 people. This speech would play an important role in helping pass the 1965 Civil Rights Act and another

Martin Luther King Jr Day

by Nathaniel 10A



march King led in 1965 provided momentum for the Voting Rights Act later that year. Also, King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his non-violent campaigns against racism.

In April 1968, King was assassinated by James Earl Ray, a convicted armed robber who had escaped the Missouri State Penitentiary the year before. King was shot while standing on a balcony outside his second-floor room at a Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination led to an outpouring of anger among black Americans, as well as a period of national mourning. In November 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the King Holiday Bill into law, which designated the third Monday in January to be a federal holiday in commemoration of his life. Martin Luther King Jr Day is still honoured till this day, with the holiday falling on the 16th of January this year.



As we all know, the UK has a central government with a prime minister at the head and a chancellor in charge of the economy and so on and so forth. But one of the lesser known things about the political power dynamic in the UK is something called devolution. Devolution is the decentralisation of power and accountability to be closer to citizens but in terms of Scotland devolution, this means that the Scottish are allowed to have their own government with their own responsibilities whilst still existing under the rule of the UK government, in essence giving them 2 governments.

Having 2 governments has led to a fair share of disagreements like recently when the Scottish government voted in favour of a bill that would allow gender reassignments surgery to be much more easily available for those seeking it before it was vetoed by Rishi Sunak using an obscure segment of Scotland's devolution agreement that afford the prime minister power over proceedings related to trans people. The reason given for this was trying to make sure that the whole of the UK was in the same place when it comes to trans rights.

The biggest problem with devolution is that for the past few years there's been a lot of key, controversial decisions made by the UK government that heavily affected Scotland without them having any actual ability to make a decision on the case themselves. Despite the fact that the campaign for independence in Scotland has been pretty prominent since around 2014, 2016 and the around the time of Brexit is when the movement really started to pick up steam. Brexit has had many adverse effects on the entirety of the UK and despite having 'their own government' Scotland didn't have a chance to make their own decision on whether or not to stay in the UK. On top of this, continuous incidents



like the one I previously mentioned where devolution is undermined or just genuinely ignored plus a run of generally incompetent prime ministers and chancellors, have all made Scotland feel as if now is the right time for them to take themselves out of the UK.

The next real opportunity Scotland will have for independence is probably the next general election in 2024 as their attempts to host a referendum internally have continuously been blocked by the high courts in Britain with one being blocked as recently as last month. Scotland breaking away could be the end of the UK as we know it and the beginning of a new, better, independent nation.

Fifa World Cup 2026- The Prelude

by Martin 10E

Introduction: It was only a month ago when we watched the spectacle that was the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. It was truly one to remember despite the controversy surrounding it. And, of course, it ended with the fairy tale conclusion to Messi's world cup story. Following this set of breath-taking events, it may seem that the next tournament is a long way away with little confirmed. However this could not be further from the truth, there is already much to be anticipated about the next World Cup, from restructuring of the tournament to the first World Cup hosting to be split amongst 3 nations. Will all this change be of detriment to the quality of the tournament or will it create something special. Only time will tell.

The Hosting & Venues: Unlike previous World Cup editions which were hosted by one or two nations, 2026 will be something totally different. The 2026 World Cup will be hosted by Canada, The United States and Mexico. Not only is this the first time a tournament has been hosted in North America since 1994 but it also features the first time 3 different nations have co-hosted the World Cup. This comes with some logistical challenges such as keeping the tournament environmentally sustainable due to the sheer amount of travel that will be made by fans and players alike, however as of now the venues are staying consistent. As of now the tournament is being held in 11 USA stadiums, along with 3 venues in Mexico and a further 2 in Canada. Amongst these are the iconic "AT&T stadium" in Arlington Texas, "The BC Place" in Vancouver Canada and the "Estadio Azteca", the 8th largest stadium in the world, situated in Mexico City. Overall, the hosting between 3 countries may be a logistical issue however it will provide an experience unlike any other World Cup in history.

Restructured Tournament Format: With the next World Cup, there comes a massive restructuring to the format of the tournament. FIFA has confirmed that the 2026 World Cup will play host to 48 teams, 12 more than the 36 teams that the World Cup has had for many years. As it stands, this would mean there will be 80 games played in the next World Cup, however this is not set in stone and is subject to change. This comes with added revenues from the larger amount of attending fans, FIFA is projecting that as

Fifa World Cup 2026- The Prelude

by Martin 10E

many a record 5.5 million fans will attend the next World Cup, beating the previous highest in the 1994 World Cup(which was also held in North America) by almost 2 million fans! This raises concerns of player fatigue due to the large amount of games being played and the immense amount of travel, but these aren't without their solutions. As previously mentioned, the schedule is not set in stone and will likely change prior to 2026 to accommodate the needs of fans and players alike. Moreover, instead of the previously unanimous "8 groups of 4 teams", FIFA seems set to abandon this due to the influx of new teams, they plan to use a "16 groups of 3 teams" system, where the top 2 in each group progress to a "round of 32". However, FIFA have stated that due to the success of the groups of 4, the matter will likely be revisited. Overall, although the added teams will pose a challenge to the integrity of the tournament. However, it will allow more people to enjoy the competition and profits are likely to be redistributed to help develop aspects of football such as Women's football and the lower leagues and FAs in the football pyramid.

Conclusion: The FIFA World Cup 2026, being a long way away, may still be subject to more change. However as of now, it would be quite interesting to see all the alterations come into play in this next tournament. For better or for worse, it appears this next world cup will be one of change. However, we as football fans are here for it and will make the most of it no matter the obstacles.

'Kaleidoscope' Review

By Samir 10C



When I came across a show that ‘you could watch in any order’ I was instantly intrigued. So, when I saw a new concept of making a TV show that hadn’t been done before at such a large stage, I instantly binged the show – and I would say that I was definitely disappointed.

For a show that had so much potential, I believe that it fell short rather dramatically. Kaleidoscope could definitely be a 2 hour stand alone film with a bit of cutting to the significant filler in the show. There are many side stories and backgrounds some of which handily contribute to the plot of the story and fit in nicely to the narrative that give the audience a moment to say ‘I remember that from episode 3’, however, most of these storylines do not pay off in a satisfying way and rather are just boring and non-essential context.

I think that the least enjoyable part of this show was the ending which was not really linked to the main enjoyable theme of the show. Additionally, a significant part of the characters do not reach satisfying or interesting conclusions – as if they show writers decided to cut the character arcs short before they needed to end.

While this review seems quite negative, I did enjoy some aspects of this show such as the parts focusing on the actual heist and I think that the production/ set up of the heist were really quite good. If you enjoy heist films and Tv shows you will enjoy this part of the show especially the final episode ‘White’ and the episodes focusing on the days before the heist, I think that these episodes are the best the show has to offer.

Overall, Kaleidoscope is enjoyable and has good parts to it; namely the episodes focusing on the actual heist itself. For those who love the crime and heist genre this mini-series is definitely worth giving a go – you might hate it, or you may end up loving it. I rate it a 6/10.



BEST OF THE BETHS

Happy new year and thank you for reading this edition of the newspaper!

We hoped that you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. We covered a bunch of interesting topics from Netflix shows to football and from politics to artificial intelligence . We hope to keep capturing stories of the most intriguing events, going on today.

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