



BEST OF THE BETHS



THE BEST OF

MAY



BEST OF THE BETHS

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Edited and Designed by Levi 10B

SNEAKERHEADS

Sneakerheads, quite a funny name and now generally used to describe someone who owns a ton of limited edition shoes (and is just addicted to thousands of different kinds of shoes and colourways) but in this article, I plan to look at the origin of the term 'Sneakerhead' and how it came about and what it truly means.

Plain and simple, in today's terms, a Sneakerhead is a 'sports shoe enthusiast' or 'someone who loves to collect sneakers with sleek athletic designs. However, at the start of time it wasn't this simple it was more of a... way of life.

The birth of sneaker popularity was the 1970's and the emergence of hip-hop. Adidas' Samba design sparked sneakers deep-rooted place in popular culture. Its traction skyrocketed in the 1980's in the United States with 2 key factors, basketball and...

Michael Jordan (aka **The GOAT**); his eponymous Air Jordan line of shoes released in 1985, paired with the growth of hip hop music of the time. It shows how one individual can completely influence the world, as his shoes were created purely for basketball but have succeeded to low and high ends of the fashion worlds. His shoes influenced many others and has become the norm for hall of fame players to make their own line e.g. Shaquille Rashuan O'Neal and LeBron James. Notable mention to Shaquille O'Neal as after a *life changing* experience

David A 10H

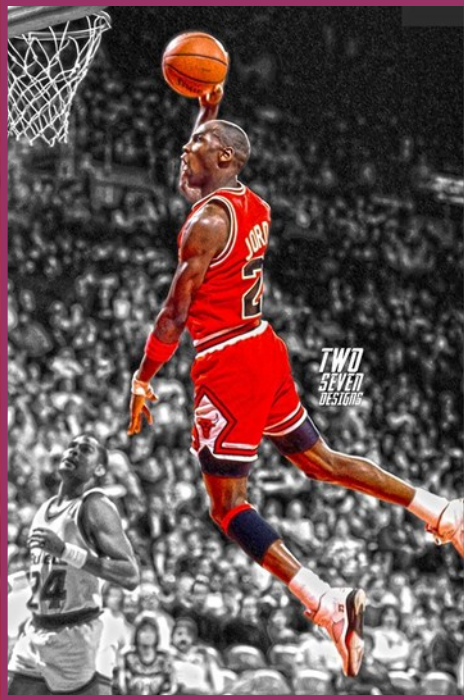
SNEAKERHEADS

in a grocery store, he proceeded to make affordable and good shoes for kids, showing that money shouldn't hinder anyone from making it big, and giving millions of kids the chance to play and enjoy basketball with good shoes and without disadvantage.

By 1990, Sneaker Culture has gone viral. Hardcore collectors in Britain, Europe and the US could buy online, go to outlets, sneaker events, swap meets, parties, and gatherings to search for rare deadstock vintage shoes to invest in or admire. In modern day, this culture has left the 'hood' and extended to a plethora of different cultures- Philippines, Malaysia, India China, and Japan.

Back a couple years ago, you would find hundreds of people camping outside of stores for hours days possible weeks, it wasn't frowned upon but instead seen as a sign of respect, it showed dedication to the cause and most of all was fun. You were able to mingle with new people and camp out with them allowing you to make to new friends, connections and learn more. At this time, *word of mouth* was the only way to get your information (alongside connections) so it was only true experience that could be used to hone your skills.

SNEAKERHEADS



Michael Jordan's first ever sneaker



This shows how many people are willing to camp out, to get a new pair of sneakers.

Odysseus SEA

short narrative

This is a practice narrative, which I started in English class, in preparation for my GCSE English Language creative writing exam.

We pushed the paddles of the boat, until our strength all but left us. Alone, we remained stranded along the never-ending stream. After months and months, I thought we'd get there; I thought I could save my dying kids, like I'd promised her. But, as we sat there, in that small vessel of ours, we were slowly coasting away from home; where they'd ought to be. As I looked down, hot tears cruised down my face and became one with the wide ocean water.

Beneath me, the water suddenly vibrated. The smooth current turned quickly into a violent and impetuous storm of terror. As my babies screamed in innocent fear, I embraced them, infusing every last bit of my love into them. And as the tsunami erupted out of the depths of the sea, we remained one unit, indivisible. Gradually, the water lulled down, the thunderous quakes and shakes silenced. So, I peeped one eye open. Upon opening them, my heart dropped into my stomach.

We were gawping at a new world. Above us spanned a purple and orange sky, where sticky and whimsical clouds, like candy floss, soared across the sky. Just below, enormous bodies of rock encased the landscape. Their skin was glassy and metallic. Coming off them was this almost blue, florescent light, which shone dauntlessly in the eerie setting. From the depths of the caves came a confused, arrhythmic melody which never quite flowed. It sounded so distant from reality; almost alien. Except it wasn't. The night before Cerise died, she played this same

Levi 10B

Odysseus SEA

short narrative

uncanny tune on her mini ukulele Though I couldn't quite understand
the flow of the song, the lyrics forever stuck,

“You will know when you're here,

After you've your last tear,

All illnesses and ailments healed,

Welcome home and take our shield.”

I allowed the tune to pour into my mind and slowly, I began to realise that we had made it. We had made it to where Cerise told us to go. So, it felt natural as the song led my movements. I hugged my kids and lowered them gently into the oscillating water. As they dipped in, the waves changed from lusty crimson red to a bewitching emerald-green. My kids laughed as they swam around, playfully splashing water at each other. Their eyes no longer held the pain of sickness and exhaustion but rather gave the youthful impression of passion and joy. As the melody washed away my last worries, I jumped into the water with my kids. The water jolted my spirits. No longer was I a coaster, sailing the seas. We were now where we were supposed to be; finally home. Together, we all looked at the surface of the Earth one last time and then dived deep, to be washed away by the endless dominion *of the sea*.

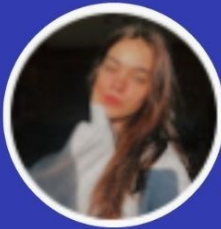
PRESENTING

THE ACADEMIC FIX

The Academic Fix

Don't Sweat Academics

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HI, I'M LAURA MEDLEY
FROM YOUTUBE AND
I'M A FREELANCER.



HELLO, I'M ILYA'S
CAMBRIDGE ADVICE.
I STUDY NATURAL
SCIENCES AT
CAMBRIDGE.



HI, I'M LOVE FROM
YOUTUBE. I STUDY
PPE AT OXFORD.



HI, I'M JETA FROM
YOUTUBE. I STUDY
ENGLISH, HISTORY
AND PSYCHOLOGY
AND I'M IN YEAR 12.



HELLO, I'M JADOES
FROM YOUTUBE. I
STUDY DATA SCIENCE
AT EXETER.



HI, I'M TENKYIU ON
TIKTOK. I STUDY
MATHS, FURTHER
MATHS, PHYSICS AND
CHEMISTRY AND I'M
IN YEAR 12.



HI, I'M
GCSEPOTENTIAL FROM
TITKOK. I'M IN YEAR
11.



HELLO, I'M SEAN AND
I STUDY PPE AT
OXFORD.

FOLLOW THE QR CODE AND WATCH
THE INTERVIEWS AIRING IN THE
FIRST WEEK OF MARCH!





VlogGoals 1 month ago

Hello! This is one of the best videos I have seen today! Keep uploading such good videos. I look forward to more of your videos my friend. Have a wonderful day! Stay Connected. 😊

👍 2 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY



Antique Almond 1 month ago

Enjoyed this and just subbed 😊

👍 1 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY



itachigonzales 1 month ago

I enjoy these videos I learnt a lot and it inspires me to revise more. I'm in year 11 so I really need to start grinding 😊

👍 3 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY



Rehya 1 month ago

I loved the advice in this video, it was soo helpful ^^

👍 1 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY



Jeta 2 months ago

Thank you so much for having me as a guest! The whole project is very cool and I think it will be extremely useful for students.

👍 3 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY



nasinnit 2 months ago (edited)

Very informative thanks! Sometimes I just doze off or something and have a bit of stress in class.

👍 3 💬 fb ▾ 📊 🇺🇸❤️ REPLY

Jack Petchey Speak Up, Speak Out Challenge

Gift 10E

Earlier this month, Year 10 were given the opportunity to do some public speaking in the “Speak Up, Speak Out!” campaign. I did mine with a man named A.C, who taught me how to successfully speak out to a public audience. Here is what I learnt from him:

Eye Contact:

Eye contact is very key when it comes to public speaking. If you don't look at your audience, it makes you seem unconfident. As well as this, maintaining eye contact means that you can keep your audience engaged throughout the entire speech.

Hand Gestures::

Keeping your hands clasped or in your pockets throughout the speech also shows a lack of confidence. Use hand gestures to explain new concepts to the audience. For example, if you were talking about how big a house is, you can use your hands to make a large gap , in order to show just how massive the house is.

Project your voice:

If you are going to do a speech, you need to make sure the audience can hear you. Make sure you speak in a loud, confident tone to ensure that you are heard. Try to keep a firm expression too. You need to remember that it is a speech – not a comedy act.

Jack Petchey Speak Up, Speak Out Challenge

Don't say "Um" or "Like":

Normally, when people don't know what to say, they replace it with a long "ummm" or simply saying "like". Try to refrain from doing this. Instead, take a pause to remember what you want to say. Not only does this give you time to think, it also allows the audience to take in what you previously said.



<https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/>



MARVEL



Film Review: Doctor Strange in- to the Multiverse of Madness

On the 6th of May, Marvel Studios released the long-awaited Doctor Strange 2. This movie further explored the multiverse that had been previously brought up in Spider-Man: No Way Home.

This movie had a lot of crossovers including Wanda and America Chavez played by Xochitl Gomez making her first MCU appearance. The film has been enjoyed by many and in this article, I am going to go through the reasons why.

The movie's main plot centres around the newly added MCU character America Chavez's, who becomes the hunted because of her powers. She can travel through the multiverse accessing different universes, by punching a star-shaped hole (the movie did not add some of her other powers such as flight etc; maybe this will be explored in future MCU films or series). However, someone is after this power and sends different demons after her. Wong and Doctor Strange take her to the Kamar-Taj for safekeeping. With many Avengers dead, off the earth or fighting their own battles, Doctor Strange can only turn to 1 Avenger. Wanda Maximoff, The Scarlet Witch. However, this turns out to be the wrong decision. The movie then turns as

MARVEL STUDIOS
**DOCTOR
STRANGE**
MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS



***“FAITH IS MY
SWORD. TRUTH MY
SHEILD.
KNOWLEDGE MY
ARMOUR”***

David 010C

MARVEL



the heroes and villains fight for safety, magical books, protection, and their desires.

The CGI and effects were very good and made the movie even more frightening, than it should have been. This movie was directed by the prominent director Sam Raimi, who did a great job in this movie. The movie has also explored prominent world problems, such as LGBTQ+ recognition. America Chavez is a lesbian character who has two lesbian mums. However, this did bring a lot of controversy to the film, as it was banned in certain countries.

Right now, some of the reviews and opinions surrounding the movie are mixed. However, this is expected as the movie was very ambitious. It was claimed to be Marvels first horror movie and felt like that. I asked one of my classmates what they thought about the film. Here is what they had to say –

“I thought the movie was very good. However, I feel that not everyone would like it. I enjoyed the horror elements and I loved how powerful Wanda was, but I feel like her reasoning was not explored enough. Also, with no origin story so far in the MCU for America Chavez, it must have confused a

MARVEL STUDIOS
DOCTOR STRANGE
MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS



**“FAI TH IS MY
SWORD. TRUTH MY
SHEILD.
KNOWLEDGE MY
ARMOUR”**

MARVEL



MARVEL STUDIOS
DOCTOR STRANGE
MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS

lot of people. The ending was a bit rushed. Overall, I liked it and would give it an 8/10”

—
The movie currently stands at 7.4/10 on IMBD and has a 79% rating on Rotten Tomato. This could change; however, this is still a very decent score. Though the reviews are mixed and may put you off, I strongly advise that you go and watch the movie for yourself, as your opinion may be different to others. The movie is still a great watch even if you don't strongly understand Marvel or even if you've never watched a movie.

Overall, I think that this movie was a good watch, and any marvel fans, or people who enjoy movies in general, must see this movie. If you've watched the movie and are interested in comics, I recommend you read the Dark Hold and House of M, the comics the books are based



***“FAI TH IS MY
SWORD. TRUTH MY
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KNOWLEDGE MY
ARMOUR”***



Beths Behind the Scenes

George 10E

This section describes the actions and roles of the staff at the school, who do not teach a subject but still have major impact on the school.

Science department

When a teacher wants to carry out a practical experiment, they obviously need to be prepared ready for the students to use. The science staff here carry out that process, ensuring all the materials the teacher asked for are present. Sometimes if the students where to handle potentially dangerous chemicals, one of these staff may assist the students to make sure the students are in a safe environment.

Reception staff

The reception staff play an important role within the school, they have many roles. However, their most important role is checking for student absences and then contacting the parent or guardian for an explanation. They also supply students with information or first aid, if need be. Behind the main reception are other staff who play a very vital role. These include business management, involving how the schools' finances are spent.

LRC staff

The LRC staff here at Beths play a much more important role than supervising the LRC during breaks. Their other jobs include arranging substitute teachers for the students that day. Therefore it is essential these staff are always vigilant



Beths Behind the Scenes

because if a class wasn't to have a substitute, they may miss out on important learning. They also handle other extracurricular activities that the students partake in. The best example is the Jack Petchey award where teachers and pupils are nominated to win a special award.

Canteen staff

The canteen staff here at Beths aren't directly related to the school in any way yet they still play a big part in many students' day. The canteen staff start the day by cooking and preparing large batches of meals to be served. This includes both hot and cold food. Then the staff take rotations on serving the food throughout the school. The school also provides vegan and vegetarian options to students who can't eat foods with certain ingredients.



In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Sweden and Finland confirmed the allegiance to NATO. Previously, Putin had stated that joining would be a “mistake”, and so this action has sparked further tension and controversy, as Finland and Sweden begin to act independently.

A Pentagon spokesperson commented on Russia's involvement on the matter of interference with this decision, saying how “Russia shouldn't get to veto what a sovereign state wants to do in terms of its alliances and its associations”. The increased tension between Finland and Russia has created stress amongst the young community in Finland, as the long land border creates anxiety for a potential expansion and invasion to the west. They are told to continue life as normal and focus on activities they enjoy and talk about other things to their friends. Since the largest source of their anxiety stems from the news, they are encouraged and told not to look at the news, after school. However, how long can the youngsters be desensitised to the war, with more news and video footage of the war eventually being exposed to them? How might this affect their childhood and future opportunities?

In further light, Turkish president Erdogan says the country won't approve of this application for allegiance, with further accusations of harbouring terrorists. Putin mentions that the application and joining of these sovereign states only provoke a response with use of military infrastructure.

Moving on to recent news in New York, 10 deaths have been accounted for by the Buffalo gunman, said to be fuelled by his beliefs of white supremacy. Controversy strikes as questions arise as to how the murderer could carry out such a crime, even with alerted and raised concerns. The man, Payton Gendron, was arrested, after he opened fire in the store's car park described as a "rampage". Information has been gathered about the online activity of the extremist, and how he put together his "manifesto" including racist language and ideas. Still to this day racism pervades, as the black community struggle to live safely in the country, without fear of racist attacks.

The mayor of the region states that the community is one of peace and "love", and the shooter extremely driving for hours to "perpetrate this crime on the people of Buffalo," has left the community stunned. The families are left troubled and scarred, and raises further questions about the American gun culture. With 316 people shot every day in America, more than 100 of these people die. Do you think guns should be allowed in America?





Labour Election Day

On the 5th of May, it was the election day. I had found out the night before that I was selected by the Labour Committee to assist them on their campaign to win the election. I was both extremely shocked and delighted upon finding that out.

On the day of the election, the first thing we did was meet up at the selected rendezvous to discuss and go over the plan for the day. The plan consisted of a few things. First being that I had to go to the polling station to take down some information about the voters. I stood outside the library (the polling station) for an hour doing this. It was a very informative yet strange hour. I learnt a lot about the mannerisms of people towards politics. Some people were very kind, others not so much, who were very strongly under the belief that they were supporting the only correct party. There was even a drunk person who was causing a havoc, disturbing me and others, but despite all that, I persevered and finished my duty.

After this, I went to the Labour Committee House, this was where the Labour members would stay to plan or rest. When I entered the house, I was overcome with an overwhelming amount of surprise. It felt surreal to be surrounded by people part of the government, almost as if it was a dream. The house itself was massive, and the people within it were so kind to me, offering me drinks and more. I had to sign into the building, after this they explained what roads I would have to be covering. My job was to go canvassing down all these roads. I was to record the information given to me upon talking to the residents of Kilburn and report back to the Labour Committee House. I was at this for a good 4-5 hours, unfortunately I was put to a halt when I injured my ankle. This was a major setback, but due to the severity of the



Labour Election Day

of the day, and how unique of an experience it was, I did not want to leave. I went back to the Labour Committee House, where I was checked up on.

Alas it was 10pm, the deadline of the votes, everyone went back to the Labour Committee House, they were feeling very worried about whether we would win or not. As I was canvassing, I felt confident that we would win, I believed it would be close but that we would edge it. I was wrong.

Then came the count. This is where you can physically see the workers count the votes, this amplified the feelings we already had, everyone had worries. There is not much to say about the count, for the next few hours it was just the counting of votes. Labour had workers who observed the votes for the whole time, which I heavily respected, they watched the same motion for 5 hours, ticking and piling papers. We were fortunate to have these workers, the counters made mistakes which we were able to catch out.

It came to the results. Everyone's heart was pumping so hard. It was very late at night, but it was as if it was the middle of the day. Everyone had so much energy within them. Remember earlier where I said I was wrong about us edging it? I was wrong because Labour absolutely blew everyone else out the water. The gap between the several parties and Labour were in the hundreds. Everyone started shouting, clapping and leaping in joy.

It was and will always be a memorable experience to me. I had the opportunity to speak to many of the politicians and gained so much experience. I was overwhelmed the whole day, it truly felt like a fantasy, a dream come true. That is the conclusion of how my day went, I hope you enjoyed and learnt about the inside of how the election day goes and the feelings behind it.

Labour Election Day

A few pictures from the day



Beths LGBTQ+ Think Tank

On Monday the 16th of May, Beths hosted the first ever Bexley LGBTQ+ Think Tank. We invited schools from across the borough, and representatives from Townley, Bexley Grammar School, Dartford Grammar School and Cleeve Park School turned up on the night. It was a strong gathering of solidarity and support, and many discussions around what each school has done so far and what more needs to be done took place. In addition, it was a great chance for us to socialise and make friends with people from outside our respective schools. Activities included quizzes on LGBTQ+ History, discussions around ways to improve knowledge and education of LGBTQ+ issues and plans for Pride Month.

This was an important event to have since it helped highlight flaws in the schools' various approaches to queer identities and students that are a part of the LGBTQ+ community. It also helps show how far we have come as a country and a society. Some people attending events were in school, had relatives in school or even were teaching in the time that Section 28 was enforced, and seeing all these people coming together to socialise, be themselves and discuss ways in which to improve the education system shows how more tolerant and accepting we have become.

It was a fun event and provided a useful insight on how to improve school's handling and policy around queer students. There are more Think Tanks being planned, with hopefully more co-operation between schools. Overall, it was a good event and there is hope that this can translate into action to improve the quality of education of queerness and for queer students.

Matthew Varbanov

A banner for Eid Mubarak featuring a silhouette of a mosque with a crescent moon in the sky. The text "Eid Mubarak" is written in a large, orange, outlined font. A small copyright notice "© timesofindia.com" is visible in the bottom left corner of the banner.

Eid Mubarak

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the Arabic name for the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Observing the fast during Ramadan is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Fasting is considered to be an act of worship, which enables Muslims to feel closer to God and strengthen their spirit and self-discipline.

How is Ramadan carried out?

In the morning, Muslims have a meal before dawn, known as **Suhoor** or **Sehri**. They also break their fast after sunset known as **Iftar** or **Fitoor**. Ramadan is also a time when Muslims are encouraged to give charity and strengthen the relationship with God and pray.

What is Eid al-Fitr?

Eid is a festival which takes place at the end of Ramadan – a month of prayer and fasting. 'Eid al-Fitr' directly translates to '**the festival of the breaking of the fast**'. Similar to the beginning of Ramadan, Eid begins with the first sighting of the new moon. This year, Eid fell on the evening of Sunday 1st May. If you want to wish someone well at Eid, the greeting is "Eid Mubarak".

Mr Macbeth's Message

to Year 11

Last week signalled a huge milestone in education for every year 11 student across the country – the return public GCSE exams. I must confess that I felt just as nervous as some of our students as they walked into the sports hall for their first exam. Exams were cancelled due to covid, and we have seen their return after two absent years. To some degree, seeing them walk into the hall in silence and take their seats signals a return to “normal” school life.

I have had the privilege of being a Head of Year at Beths for over 6 years now. It is a job I love. Seeing students progress up through the school and develop academically, as well as socially, into fine young people is a very rewarding aspect of the job. Yes, it comes with its many headaches which I feel some don't always understand. After 6 years in the job, I am convinced that when you get to Year 11, you become fiercely defensive of your year group – you become so attached and proud of everything they do. This is certainly the case with our current year 11's. I was a year 7 form tutor to the current year 13 internal students when I started in my second year at Beths. These students are now sitting their A-Level exams and are getting ready to head off to university! Oh how time goes in so quickly!

It is with an element of sadness that this does feel like the end. They have finished key stage 4 and are now ready to progress into the sixth form. It is important that we reflect on what has been achieved over their past 5 years. For now, the corridors and classrooms fall silent of year 11 students until their return in the sixth form. I shall miss the momentum of the build up to trial exams, the rough and tumble of lunch duty at the pod, “doing my rounds” across the school site keeping a close eye on my flock. But, above all else, I shall miss talking to the boys about how things are going. They have been truly wonderful to work with. The best part of the school day was always making those visits to lessons to see how their work was progressing, popping out on the field at lunch to gather the current state of mind and to provide those endless words of encouragement, congratulations and in some cases a telling off to one or two boys for their antics. However, I shall not

Mr Macbeth's Message

to Year 11

miss the deadline for reports, HOY detentions, the extensive paper work, bus duty and above all ease – the fire drill.

Boys – we have achieved so much over the past five years. Treasure these moments. You have endured (and survived) the notorious year 8 camp, cycled together, pushed each other off canoes, and marched into the exam hall to develop further your ability to take academic study seriously. Keeping order of 192 teenage boys has not been an easy task and as you know I have made it my business over the years to watch your every move. I am, however, realistic to know that many antics probably happened that I did not know about – not yet anyway. I really do hope that you reflect on everything I have said to you over the years. From the early days of “excellence everywhere” to “warriors at heart” we have always been working towards our long term goals. I hope you have taken from Beths the ability to realise that you have so much skills and talents. I have also encouraged you to use your skills and talents to the service of others in society. Educate yourself further so that one day you can play your part supporting the common good. Bottle up your commitment and dedication to study and be prepared to use this when you enter into the sixth form where it won't be “grades 7-9” but instead the new Beths gold standard of “grades A to A*”. Gents – it has been a pleasure. Keep fighting the good fight, keep running your race and remember to “run that you may win the prize”. Even life with inside the bubble did not stop us from getting each other through the tough times of the covid pandemic.

I often refer to a quote I read when I was younger. “Simply look at the dreams and desires written in the heart of every child. To be a hero, to be a wonderer, to live a life of adventure and risk”. I really do hope that you can look back on your five years at Beths so far and feel that the school has given you a positive adventure in life, where you can become the person you want to be and to continue to live a life of adventure and wonder. You deserve it. I am looking forward to healthy set of exams results. And my final words to current Beths students reading this in the lower school is that the further is very bright for you!

A Level Exams and Success

By Mr Waite

With Year 13 exams in full flow, it can be a challenging time for all those who are taking part. With A-levels playing such an important part of one's succession in life, it is understandable why schools want to ensure that all students achieve the best possible grades they can.

At Beths Grammar School this is no exception. All the Teaching Staff, Assistant Heads of Year and Form Tutors try to ensure that the two years in the Sixth Form prepare students for their next challenge, whether that be university degrees, degree apprenticeships or employment.

After many years of working with the Sixth Form, it is evident that those who succeed and achieve excellent examination results are also those who work hard in a variety of other areas as well as their academic studies. Whether it be completing silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, representing the school at sport or drama or being part of the student leadership team. All go to make rounded individuals.

Having a clear goal and planning ahead is also essential for success. Only when you know what you want to achieve and how you are going to achieve it will you be in a strong position to be able to go ahead and fulfil that potential. Being able to pace yourself throughout the two years is vital. Your ability to retain information happens over a period of time. Therefore, constantly building upon your knowledge lesson by lesson, day by day, week by week is the key.

Finally, I am drawn towards the following few lines from the poem what will matter by Michael Josephson;

"What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice enriched, empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter it's not your competence but your character."

Live life to the full and make people proud of you.

The Benefits of Studying a Diverse Curriculum



Minority authors are nothing but a positive in schools and I believe that they should only be promoted more and more, not less and less in schools. To get a complete experience in English, a diverse curriculum is quintessential. Reading the works of authors from a myriad of backgrounds gives students the chance to see the world through a lens that would usually be inaccessible to them. For example, ZZ Packer's story, Brownies allows pupils to see things like the pitfalls of a toxic friend group and the animosity held for white people from black people – something that's rarely explored. It's an ironic issue as the animosity is birthed from the years of racism black people experience. In the story, this leads to the girls harbouring resentment and inadvertently lashing out on the wrong people – highlighting the fact that 2 wrongs don't make a right. There's also the difficulty of understanding/ replicating the perspective/ experiences of ethnic minority women. Ethnic minority women are arguably the most marginalized group of people on the planet, being judged on the colour of their skin and their gender before their writing ability. For a female dominated industry -60%- a majority of bestsellers -58%- are men. Whilst there have been many important works about racial divide in the past by white authors – Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird and Steinbeck's Of Mice And Men for example- there's an inescapable limitation to the ability of an author to write from a per-

The Benefits of Studying a Diverse Curriculum

that's not their own; the most they can do is empathize, they can't experience. White authors in the past that wanted to bring light to the plight of minorities were forced to take matters into their own hands as minorities at the time had little chance to be published. However, we are now in a society where minority authors can actually grasp a foothold in the writing industry, and we can read works about minorities from minorities. It's undoubtable that people with first-hand experiences have a greater capacity to write about these experiences. Because of this, the argument could be made that there is no longer a need for books about racial divide by white authors to be taught in schools anymore. These stories were only necessary when there was no alternative, they paved the way for minority authors but now that it's clear, stories by minority authors should be embraced by schools.

Literature throughout history has galvanized, inspired and educated. Napoleon Bonaparte himself said, 'I fear 3 newspapers more than 1000 bayonettes'. This speaks volumes about the importance of journalism and the way literature can change the world. Information has passed down through books, we learn of ancient civilization history and philosophy through writing in all its forms. Reading the works of someone like Zora Neale Hurston could be the turning point in a little black girl's life. The relatability of the works and just knowing that someone else has experienced what you have can be inspiring and valuable.

The power of literature does not only come in the form of stories but can come in a multitude of ways, like speeches. In year 8 we studied the famous 'I have a dream speech' by Dr Martin Luther King. The speech roused an entire nation and trailblazed the path for equality for black people in America. Reading a speech like this can prove to young minority children that their words can hold weight and it can be encouraging to see people that have risen above the same challenges they face.



Growth vs Fixed Mindset

In life, you can either have a fixed mindset, or a growth mindset. The latter is better to have if you want to make it further in life. A growth mindset is you being able to take on new challenges, even if it means there's a higher risk of failure and using other people's success, as a way to push yourself. On the other hand, a fixed mindset is you limiting yourself to the things you know and avoiding failure, by not trying something new; it's seeing other people's success as a reason to give up and stop putting in effort.

People with a fixed mindset can often be lazy and avoid taking on new challenges in life, as they see failing as the end. To them, there is no point of trying anymore if you failed once. A quote says **“In a fixed mindset, when you fail, you're a failure”** meaning they believe one setback ruins everything. However, that is not the case.

People with a growth mindset are very active in putting themselves forwards for activities and aren't afraid of doing something outside their comfort zones. They see failing as a way of learning, as said in this quote **“In the growth mindset, when you fail, you're learning.”**



Growth vs Fixed Mindset

The aim is to have a growth mindset in life and at school, you can start by joining school clubs as there are many on offer to join at Beths. You can even do a sport you haven't done before and you might find that you like it. For example, in KS4 you get many opportunities to do things like the DofE, or become a Junior prefect, or join the debating team for the school and debate against other schools. Furthermore, all of these things can come with rewards, like school colours or an honours tie, which will look very good on the CV.

It is never too late to change your mindset. In fact, you can begin right now (even if you are at the lowest of the lows in terms of behaviour or attitude).



BEST OF THE BETHS

We'd like to thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter. In this publication, we brought interesting articles from a variety of topics; from Eid to sneakers, and from Doctor Strange to national exams. We hope you enjoyed reading this, as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Please let us know what you liked about this article and what you would want to see more of, so that we can improve it for next month.

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Also, please do your best to let people know about this newsletter, so that we can establish a larger reader base and continue confidently in the future.

-Regards from the Newsletter team