



BEST OF THE BETHS



THE BEST OF MAY



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Edited and Designed by The Editing Team

GOODBYE YEAR 11!

By Subeeshnan 11H

As you may all know, this week is the Year 11's GCSE Examinations, and as far as we know, most of them are coming back, however some aren't. For those who aren't coming back, they will be surely missed by teachers and fellow students. For their enjoyment, I have interviewed some teachers with some questions about their experience with the current Year 11 and their general teaching experience:

How has it been so far teaching Year 11?

Ms Quinn: *I love my Year 11 English class and they're very hardworking and I think I'm very lucky to teach top set English. I've always been impressed with their determination and how conscientious they are.*

Ms Amin: *It's been quite a journey because of how this Year 11 has gone through COVID-19 and their GCSE preparations began after COVID. This year group is great and polite and, in recent times, keen to learn and develop their knowledge.*

Do you have any favourite students?

Ms Quinn: *No, never had any.*

Ms Amin: *No, they're all our favourites.*

In a teacher/student relationship, what do you think is important to help the student learn and develop more?

Ms Quinn: *I think trust and respect on both sides, and they know we're trying to get the best out of each student and it's important to tell them that we're helping to help them progress.*

Ms Amin: *Good communication and understanding the boundaries. We're not really friends with them but students should understand that we're approachable and can ask any queries if in doubt.*

Do you like quiet, hardworking students or talkative, friendly students?

Ms Quinn: *It's important to have both. We need hardworking and quiet students to get their heads down and get on with the work, but we also need some daring students to loosen up the tension and fasten the pace in the lesson, especially in a subject like English.*

Ms Amin: *I like students who are willing to engage in the classroom, but we need a mix of both.*

Which year group (that can be in the past or present) is your favourite?

Ms Quinn: *I always tell my form group, the current Year 9's, to look up to the current Year 11's, but I like all my classes.*

GOODBYE YEAR 11!

By Subeeshnan 11H

Have you been in contact with students after they have left, as in university offers, work placements, CVs etc.?

Ms Quinn: *Yes, I sometimes ask my old students to come in and give talks for the students. I also give them offers in terms of jobs. In fact, some of the students I've taught before are now my work colleagues!*

Ms Amin: *Yes, some students have asked me for work references but not much university offers as the school would take care of it and we have departments for it.*

Finally, what would you like to wish and hope for the current Year 11?

Ms Quinn: *I wish that they fulfil everything they want, know when they're happy and to enjoy it. Also, to keep reading and not forget the lessons we've had.*

Ms Amin: *I hope that the current Year 11 know and believe that they gave their 100% and wish them the best of luck and do themselves proud.*

I hope you enjoyed this interview with these wonderful teachers and on behalf, of all the Year 11's, thank you to all the other teachers as well, for helping us stay motivated and determined throughout this GCSE time and thank you for all the support and help you've given us. Year 11, Peace out!

Esports:

Are they a viable career path for our youth?

By Gabriel 10H

It's undeniable that gaming has become more and more prevalent within our society, with millions of dollars having been won through competitions like the 2019 Fortnite World cup, with a jackpot prize of \$3 Million dollars. Most of us can only imagine that kind of money, all earned through playing video games. Naturally, a question arises: Is playing competitive video games a viable career path?



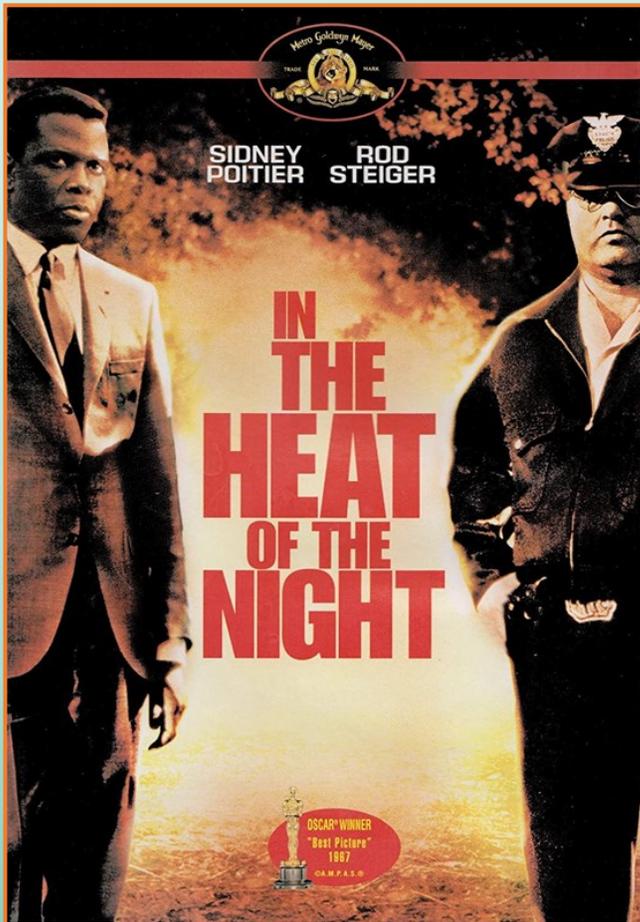
Instinctually, one might say no, however after some research I found that many skills that an Olympic-level athlete might need (coordination, reflexes, control, etc.) are also required to play video games competitively.

The career choice website <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk> says 'a career in esports is just as risky as any other job' and 'There are opportunities such as analysts, managers, coaches, journalists, engineers and even nutritionists. You don't have to have the skills of a pro player to make it in the industry. As long as you have passion, you can do any role you want.' With a relatively stable income and an almost non-existent age limit for entry, it does seem like a palpable career for future generations.

Now more than ever are there career options for not only esports, but the online entertainment industry in general. <https://britishesports.org> says 'A good place to start is to reach out to teams, organisations, tournament providers, broadcasters and other companies that are involved in esports. Try and contact a senior person or someone you want to work with in particular. The bigger the company you go for, the more likely you'll be able to book in some work experience, but going for a smaller organisation has its upsides, especially if you're looking for a more hands-on role.'

An Analysis of In The Heat of The Night

By Komi 6B4



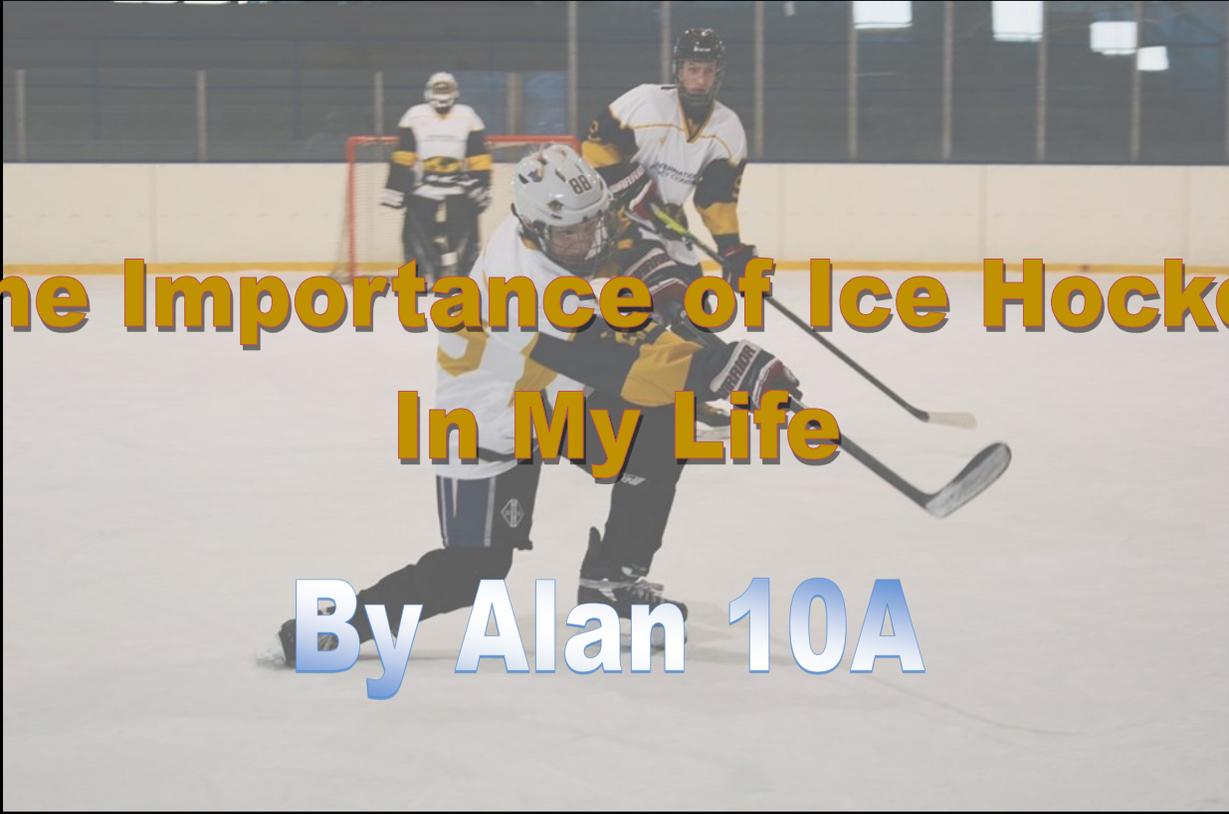
This detective story shows the progression (or lack thereof) of racial tolerance in America.

Sidney Poitier's character, Virgil Tibbs, is spotted at the train station late at night, and pulled into the police station for no reason other than there being an ongoing murder investigation as well as the fact that Poitier is an African-American man visiting the neighbourhood. It is not until several minutes into his interrogation that he reveals that he is, in fact, a police officer, at which point he 'teams up' with the town's police chief in order to investigate the aforementioned murder.

I used to find it strange that Tibbs waited so long before revealing his status as a top homicide detective; that it was a screenwriter's ploy to acquaint the characters with each other. After all, with no mix-up, there is no story. However, considering the countless incidents in which American officers have killed for no reason, it is entirely plausible that Tibbs keeps a cautious silence, lest he be shot for trying to show his badge.

Before discovering Tibbs' profession, the police chief Gillespie has no reason to suspect him for any crime. But he considers him guilty because he's a stranger, and he's black. Why else would he be at the train station at midnight? Upon said discovery, the dynamic of the conversation changes; Tibbs is no longer a suspect, but Gillespie still has no compulsion to treat him with any respect. On the contrary, he poses a new threat. The close-up of Tibbs' wallet reveals about \$200 in cash, which would equate to \$1500 nowadays - a lot of cash to carry around offhandedly. It turns out that Tibbs earns the amount in a week that Gillespie would earn in a month, and he deems it thoroughly insulting that a black man could earn over three times his pay. Seemingly, murderer-Tibbs is the preferable alternative to the well-esteemed detective-Tibbs, because the latter insults Gillespie's pride as a white man in Southern America.

The way Gillespie casually leans on the gun rack while speaking to Tibbs serves as a reminder of the danger associated with living as a minority in America. While the police chief eventually warms up to Tibbs, his prejudices, so evocative of the time and place, still shine through. Poitier's deliberately off-putting performance only emphasises the social gulf between himself and the racist civilians he deals with. For a film produced in the 1960s, its depiction of racism is startlingly modern in the sense that too little has changed. The cinema is often stated to be a form of escapism, so films like these which present searing portrayals of a social issue shatter that expectation. Thus, they end up having the most staying power and are remembered for years to come.

A photograph of ice hockey players on an ice rink. In the foreground, a player in a white and yellow jersey is crouching, holding a hockey stick. Another player in a similar jersey is behind him, also crouching. In the background, a goal is visible with a goalkeeper in a white jersey. The scene is set on an ice rink with a white wall and a dark background.

The Importance of Ice Hockey In My Life

By Alan 10A

Alan Khafizov in 10A is considered to be one of the top prospect junior players within the English Ice Hockey's Association's Elite Player programme.

"Ice hockey has been a part of my life for six years. My dad opened this new door to me when we went as a family to Czechia as tourists and I saw my father playing ice hockey. I was blown away, everything about the sport was fast paced: the players, the game pace, and the shots. At that moment, I realised that I wanted to play hockey which would later become one of the most important aspects of my life.

The game is an important part of my upbringing. It isn't just "a game", it prepares me for some of life's lessons. It has taught me that life isn't always fair and that you must take it on the chin. For example, on paper you may be a stronger team than the team you're playing, and you might even be winning the game with five minutes left. However, one or two bad calls from the referee can change the dynamics of the game and all is lost at the end.

Hockey has also taught me to be more committed and responsible. I want to be the best on and off the ice and represent my club. Furthermore, I can be the best on the ice if I commit myself to improvement. Being the biggest on the ice doesn't mean you're the best and hockey has taught me that smarts are more important than strength. Most importantly, you should put in the labour, persevere, and be motivated."

Is it worth learning another language?

By Victor 10H

'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.' Nelson Mandela

Learning and mastering a foreign language is widely considered one of the hardest single objectives in the life of a human – It takes years of dedication and practice to get anywhere near to conversational fluency, and in an age where Google Translate is on every device you have, learning a language from scratch may seem like a massive waste of time. So, from someone who speaks 3 languages natively, and has learned another 2 at school, is it worth it?

Yes.

You see, learning new words and grammar not only is an excellent detail to put on your CV, but it also unlocks much deeper understanding of a particular culture, which can be incredibly fulfilling in my experience as it gives you more perspectives in life to consider and apply. It also gives many positive benefits for your brain, and thus reflects on studies and work too – It has been proven by research to increase attention span, creativity, slows down cognitive decline, and decreases risk of diseases like Dementia and, most obviously, it boosts your memory, from all the reciting of words and grammar.

What are some tips to learn a foreign language more efficiently?

Steve Kaufmann, a content creator on YouTube, has spent over 50 years studying languages, and currently speaks 17 languages, and counting. He advocates for a variety of tactics for faster learning, including but not limited to:

- Taking your time – Many people underestimate the time it takes to learn a language, and thus rush over it, decreasing learning efficiency. Going slower and steadier will drastically help you consolidate your linguistic gains.
- Complete immersion – Watch films, read signs, and jump on as many opportunities as you can to learn the language better, and this increased practice will reflect on your language ability.
- Focusing on vocabulary rather than grammar - Not being able to structure your sentence perfectly is not nearly as bad as an inability to find the words to express yourself. While grammar is certainly important, it should be solely as a complement to a wide array of vocabulary, and not the other way round.

While learning a language may seem like a daunting experience, it is often overcome through repetitive practice and discipline in your routine. The benefits of learning a language reach far and wide, and even learning a language to a basic level can be very useful and is certainly better than not learning any language at all. While it may seem slow, you have to trust the process in order to get results and capitalize on your investment.

May Day

By Nathaniel 10A

May Day, which takes place on the first of May each year, is best known as the Celebration of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere, but also the Celebration of International Worker's Day. Despite their obvious differences, both celebrations are specifically marked on the same day, due to the historical importance of the first of May internationally.

May Day originally dates back to the age of the Celts, in roughly 1000 BC, who inhabited the areas we now know as North-Western Europe. The Celts had a range of different traditions revolving around nature and seasons, with one of the most important celebrations in the Celtic Culture being Beltane, a festival which marks the end of the 'dark' months, Autumn and Winter, and the beginning of the 'Light' months, Spring and Summer. This celebration is now more widely referred to as 'May Day', due to it 'rolling off the tongue' easier. However, areas of great Celtic ancestry such as Scotland and Wales still refer to the celebration as Beltane.

The celebration of May Day also originated in the US. During the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, the US experienced great turmoil in the labour sector as there were very few protections set in place for workers, causing many workers to die, due to the excruciating amount of work they were doing for such long hours. This 'unrest' came to a stop on May 1st, 1886, when over 300,000 workers walked out in protest of poor working conditions and in support of an 8-hour workday in the US. This labour strike marked May 1st as International Worker's Day and it served as a turning point in American Labour because it led to the formation of the American Federation of Labour, which advocates for reasonable working hours and safe working conditions. Additionally, the strike led President Grover Cleveland to sign a bill into law that named the first Monday of September as a federally recognised holiday for labour workers but even with this, many people across the globe still celebrate this on May Day.

Some traditions of May Day include singing, bonfires, floral decorations and most importantly, the gifting of May baskets. May baskets symbolise the fertility of women and many people create these baskets of candy to bring to friends and family in honour of this celebration. However, traditionally, May Baskets were left for unsuspecting neighbours. The giver would yell, "May basket!" and dash away before the receiver spots them.



The Case Against Modernising Religion

By Mustafa
10H

The future of religion in modern civilisation is at a crucial crossroads in an era marked by turbulent social change. The dominant narrative urges religion to change, shed its archaic exterior, and adopt a modernised version that is consistent with current principles. However, among the calls for change, a strong and contentious viewpoint surfaces that casts doubt on the idea of modernising religion itself. This point of view promotes the preservation of religious customs, contending that we find comfort and direction in the firm embrace of timeless faith during the movement of the contemporary world.

Resisting Moral Relativism – The Ethical Compass

In the era of moral ambiguity and relativism, religion stands as an unwavering beacon of ethical clarity. The principles ingrained in religious teachings, unshackled from the flow of societal norms, provide a moral compass that points towards justice and compassion. By resisting the seductive call for modernisation, religion protects us from the potential erosion of our shared moral values. It reminds us that morality should not be subject to fleeting preferences but be rooted in regulations that have withstood time and history. In embracing this, we ensure that our foundations remain strong, though religion should not be the only thing stopping one from committing crimes.

Preserving Identity and Nurturing Our Collective Soul

Rituals, ceremonies, and traditions are the lifeblood of religious practise—a testament to the enduring power of shared experience and communal identity. These sacred practises provide us with a profound sense of connection to our ancestors, who once traversed the same spiritual path. In preserving these rituals, we honour our cultural heritage and forge a bond with the past that illuminates our present and shapes our future. Through these time-honoured traditions, we find a shared language that transcends individualism, fostering a collective soul that strengthens the fabric of our communities. Through unwavering principles in religion, we discover the beauty of a heritage that unites us and sustains our spirit.

The Case Against Modernising Religion

By Mustafa
10H

Challenges of Modernisation, Navigating the Temptations

While modernisation carries the promise of inclusivity and progression, we must approach it with caution - the allure of it can sometimes lead us astray, blurring the boundaries of religious identity and diluting the essence of faith. Changing the core principles of religion risks fragmenting communities as differing interpretations clash with established traditions.

In a world engulfed by rapid change, the question of modernising religion versus preserving its unchanging essence remains contentious. As I end this debate, let us remember the words of the wise: *"In the stillness of sacred stagnation, we find solace, strength, and a timeless connection to the divine."* It's either the integrity of religion or the moral judgement of society.

Scream VI Review By Ronnie 10H

Scream VI, commonly referred to as just Scream 6 or Scream 2023, is the 6th sequel/entry in the Scream franchise that has been running the horror genre since 1996.

The story follows the two Carpenter sisters – Sam Carpenter, played by Melissa Barrera -- and Tara Carpenter, played by Jenna Ortega – after moving to New York. Just when the two, accompanied by their friends Chad Meeks-Martin (played by Mason Gooding) and Mindy Meeks-Martin (played by Jasmin Savoy Brown) seem to be getting back to their normal lives, the Ghostface murders start again and the attacks on them begin. Nobody is safe, and everybody seems to be a suspect.

Scream 6 is arguably the best sequel in the franchise and perfectly encapsulates every aspect of the horror genre; gore, mystery, tension, etc. With help via amazing performances from actors such as Jack Champion, Devyn Nekoda and Liana Liberato, the new writers/directors successfully crafted an amazing and thrill-seeking entrance alongside the pre-existing films.

Without spoiling anything, this movie continuously defies horror norms and leaves its audience, including me, absolutely shocked at twists and turns in the movie that nobody could have predicted. It bends the rules that the previous Scream movies had set in place and, in my opinion, gave us 2 of the best Ghostfaces we've had in Scream history so far.

Overall, I strongly urge you to go give this movie a watch. It's on Paramount+ and if you do end up enjoying it, you should also give the rest of the Scream movies a go. Ensure that you have parental permission before watching these, though, as they are rated R (18, though can be viewed by those under if they have a parent present or parental permission).



My Experience as a Taekwondo Athlete

By Gabriel
8W

“The Korean martial arts faded into obscurity during the late Gojoseon Dynasty, the first state on the Korean peninsula, B.C. 2333 and developed during the Three Kingdoms period.” (Taken from the Kukkiwon website)



Taekwondo is a martial art with its origins in South Korea. The word "taekwondo" itself translates to "the way of the foot and the fist" – aptly summing up the purpose of the sport.

Taekwondo focuses on developing the physical strength, agility, and flexibility of a person, as well as the mental discipline and respect for others and oneself. It is divided into three categories: poomsae (patterns), kyorugi (sparring) and self-defence.

My Journey

As of now, I have been a practitioner of taekwondo for over 6 years. In total, I have competed in 4 international events, 5 national events and 16 regional events – up, down and outside the country.

In all my years of experience, I have personally never seen another community that is as welcoming as taekwondo. I have made many friends through the sport as well as been able to develop as an individual mentally and physically.

I am also delighted to be able to say that I sincerely enjoy the sport, despite having to wake up early on many a Sunday morning for training.

As the motto of my taekwondo club says:

Inspire Motivate Succeed



Suicide and Mental Health

By Damilola

10H

Hello all. I'm here to talk to you about suicide, a topic that isn't commonly spoken about between young men like us due to the stigma that surrounds it coupled with the masculine stereotypes it defies. However, if we remain silent about our suffering there is no way we can overcome it. We'll be left in a pathetic attempt to fathom the most irrational thoughts on our own and that's the beginning of our downfall and destruction. We feel the need to repress our emotions, deal with it like men and suffer in silence. Little do we know the burden of letting this confusing concoction of emotion burn inside us is much greater than just speaking out.

The main reason young men like us don't speak about our mental health is because we feel like we can do it on our own. And in most cases, we can. But there will be a day where we can no longer run away from these problems, and we must face them. Many of us would try to suppress and ignore feelings of anxiousness or dismiss feelings of sadness as temporary and minor. We force a smile on our face and go by day to day without a single soul knowing the internal warfare we face daily, and this is simply not right. It only leads us to find ways to cope with it. Some are blessed with coping methods such as sports, gym etc in which we can channel this influx of emotion into something that is somewhat productive. However, others are unfortunate enough to see one way out of their problem. This includes self-inflicted pain such as cutting. In some extreme cases, suicide.

Suicide is when somebody decides their life must come to an end and many justify this by the fact that we are all going to die anyways so what is stopping us from controlling our own death? From ending our seemingly inevitable suffering and putting up with it no longer? Well suicide doesn't stop the pain; you're only moving it, as Dave once said. In the UK, Suicide is the silent killer of men under the age of 45 as it leads to more deaths in this demographic than anything else. To add to this 76% of all suicides are male. This is not to say that suicide is a general problem however the statistics do not lie. This issue is currently taking the lives of men at a rapid rate and with the rapid degradation of the world around us through wars, global pandemics, decline in economy etc., there has been very little light shed on this dominant issue.

Suicide and Mental Health

By Damilola

10H

We must unite to tackle this issue as one. There are many ways to do this however the easiest way is to be there and listen. Many men feel like they cannot share their feelings. They must act manly. However, it makes you even more of a man if you can take yourself out of your comfort zone and get vulnerable. Comfort is beautiful, but with the easy way, however, nothing grows or changes. As a Christian I encourage other Christians not to look down on those who are struggling with mental health / suicidal thoughts as we are not taught to do that, but we should help them instead. Galatians 6:2 states that we should “*carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfil the law of Christ*” This scripture tells us that no one does anything alone. We must help each other face big and small obstacles together.

Pentagon Leaks By Adriel 10W

In April 2023, two sets of leaked classified foreign intelligence documents regarding the United States began circulating on Twitter, Telegram, and 4chan. Jack Teixeira, an airman who was first class of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, had allegedly photographed document printouts of classified information at his parents' home in Dighton, Massachusetts, and had posted them to a messaging platform known as Discord on a server named "Thug Shaker Central". The earliest posts dated back to October 2022.

The documents are primarily related to the Russo-Ukrainian War, but also include foreign intelligence assessments concerning other nations including North Korea, China, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. A further set of documents were shared to Discord servers for a YouTuber and the popular video game "Minecraft" in late February and early March 2023. In April, a 4chan user posted several documents on the website's political imageboard. The documents were then spread throughout pro-Russian Telegram channels, with at least one image being altered to show more Ukrainian casualties than Russian casualties.

The leaked documents contain operational briefs from the Joint Staff. In terms of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the documents suggest difficulties for both Russians and Ukrainians, in equal part; while one slide suggests that more Russians have died in the war than Ukrainians, several documents covering the Battle of Bakhmut suggest difficulties for Ukrainians in countering Russian flanking manoeuvres and supply shortages in the area. Additionally, relations between Russia and other nations are covered as well, with multiple documents detailing efforts by Russian military intelligence agency "GRU" and paramilitary organization "Wagner Group" in promoting Russian ideals while downplaying American values. Other documents reveal attempts made by "Wagner Group" to acquire weapons in Turkey, a NATO member.

On the morning of April 13, 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested Teixeira at his home in Dighton, where Teixeira lived with his mother and stepfather. Next to his bed, investigators found Teixeira's stockpile of weapons, including handguns, shotguns, bolt-action rifles, an AK-style rifle with high-capacity magazine, a gas mask, and other weapons. The next day, Teixeira made his first appearance at the U.S. District Court in Boston before a U.S. magistrate judge, and the formal charging document was unsealed. He was charged with two offenses: 1) Violating the Espionage Act of 1917 by retaining and transmitting national defence information without authorization and 2) The unauthorized removal and retention of classified information. The first charge has a maximum prison sentence of ten years; the second charge, a maximum of five years. A supporting affidavit from a FBI Counterintelligence Division special agent was attached to the criminal complaint. As of April 27, the U.S. magistrate judge has not yet issued a decision on detention, and Teixeira has not entered a plea.

Snooker World Championships 2023

By Riley 10H

The Snooker World Championships came to a thrilling conclusion on 1st May after two weeks of competition at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. Luca Brecel became the first World Champion from mainland Europe by beating Englishman Mark Selby 18-15 in a best of 35 frame match in the final. The 'Belgian Bullet' had never won a game at the Crucible Theatre coming into the tournament, however Brecel was able to produce some incredible performances against some of the best players at the Championship, including seven-time world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter finals.

Brecel made a very quick start in the final, and after the first session he opened up a 6-2 lead over Mark Selby. Whilst this was a good start, four-time champion Selby quickly reduced the deficit to 9-8 after the second session, winning three frames in a row and achieving a maximum break of 147. Going into day two, it appeared that the momentum was with Selby. This was not the case as Brecel took four frames including three century breaks to extend his lead to 13-8 ahead of the mid-session interval. Selby clawed back two frames after the break but at the end of the session Brecel lead 15-10, only three frames from victory. Brecel won the opening frame of the evening session to extend his lead to 16-10, leaving Selby with a mountain to climb. Mark Selby did not give up easily and produced a great fightback, winning a further five frames to move within one frame of Brecel. Again, it looked as though Selby had all the momentum, but Brecel weathered the storm and won the final three frames to claim his first world championship.



Brecel's route to the crown was not an easy one, but in his quarter and semi-final matches he was able to produce two stunning comebacks. In his quarter final he came back from 10-6 down to win 13-10 against defending champion Ronnie O'Sullivan. This remarkable comeback saw Brecel win seven frames in a row to turn the match on its head and send O'Sullivan out. In his semi-final match against Si Jiahui, he found himself 14-5 down. 20-year-old Si Jiahui was making his very first appearance at the Crucible Theatre, and his aggressive and ambitious play style reaped large rewards. The young Chinese player looked as though he couldn't miss and would go straight through to the final. But Brecel won eleven frames in a row to complete one of the greatest comeback's ever seen in the Crucible to win the match 17-15.

Snooker World Championships 2023

By Riley 10H

Luca Brecel was a very worthy winner of this year's Snooker World Championship, showing tremendous resilience and composure to win the trophy. He demonstrated all the marks of a great champion, and at 28 years old, there will likely be much more to come from him.

The Best Games of the Premier League Season

By Samir

10C

Liverpool 4-3 Spurs

This game had everything. From a seemingly epic comeback to the crumbling of Spurs at the death. A game that was a massive point in keeping Liverpool's top 4 dreams alive and return Spurs to stability after a historic battering to Newcastle; the stage was set for a clash. And the meeting did not disappoint with 3 goals in the first 15 minutes for Liverpool history seemed to be repeating itself, with even a Harry Kane consolation goal added to the mirroring of the previous matchday. But Tottenham persevered and managed to tie the game in injury time from a first league goal from Flop of the Season Richarlison. Spurs had salvaged a point from nothing and had prevented their further humiliation. But, in the most Spursy event you had ever seen, they bottled it in the final moments with Diogo Jota sliding the ball into the bottom corner from just inside the box. All you could do is laugh really.



Man City 4-1 Arsenal

This was when we all knew that City would win it and that is why I have chosen this game. To be honest, it was quite a boring game, not end to end or full of tension but rather open. It was a game where Arsenal had nothing, they were completely dominated and

had no response to Pep's tactical acumen. Simply, all City had to do was beat Arsenal's press with a ball to Haaland, which they repeatedly did, and then KDB and City's attack could expose the weak spots in Arsenal's defence, namely Holding and Gabriel. The time that William Saliba has spent out injured has revealed two significant things about Arsenal that, unless they fix this summer, will mean they never go anywhere near major trophies. These problems are the inability for Arsenal to deal with first team injuries with the lack of good squad depth, and the experienced players not stepping up in big moments towards the end of a campaign. Both of these issues were actually sorted out at City many seasons ago and have led to their dominance in recent years.



King Charles III's Coronation

By Femi
10C

On May 18th, 2023, King Charles III was crowned as the new monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms. The coronation was a historic event, marking the beginning of a new era for the British monarchy.

Charles, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, had been waiting for this moment for many years. He had been heir to the throne since the age of three and had spent his entire life preparing for this role. Now, at the age of 74, he finally took the throne and became the oldest monarch to be crowned in British history.

The coronation ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey, the traditional venue for royal coronations. The ceremony was a mix of ancient traditions and modern elements, reflecting the changing times and the unique personality of the new king.

The ceremony began with a procession of the royal family and various dignitaries, making their way from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. The streets of London were decorated with flags and banners, and crowds of people lined the route to catch a glimpse of the new king.

Inside Westminster Abbey, the ceremony began with a short service, followed by the anointing of the king with holy oil. This ancient tradition dates back to the time of King Edward the Confessor, who was anointed with oil during his coronation in 1042.

After the anointing, the new king was crowned with the St. Edward's Crown, a symbol of the authority and sovereignty of the British monarchy. The crown is made of solid gold and set with precious stones and has been used in every coronation since 1661.



King Charles III's Coronation

**By Femi
10C**

Following the crowning, King Charles III delivered his coronation speech, in which he outlined his vision for the future of the monarchy and the country. This was a pivotal moment for the new king as he set the tone for his reign and established his priorities as monarch.

The ceremony concluded with a procession back to Buckingham Palace, where the new king appeared on the balcony to greet the crowds and acknowledge their support and loyalty.

The coronation of King Charles III was a momentous occasion, steeped in tradition and historic significance. It marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the British monarchy and set the stage for a new era of leadership and service to the country and the Commonwealth Realms.

An Interview with Mr Ramesar

By Edwin 10C

Department Heads not only have to be proficient in their subjects, but have surplus leadership skills too! But what if your department is comprised of multiple subjects? That's exactly the case for Mr Ramesar, Head of the Science Department, and I was able to interview him to find out more about his life. Here's what we discussed:

How / Why did you become a teacher?

I liked my subject and I wanted to progress the learning of students in the subject. I liked the idea of working with students to help them progress because I am so enthusiastic about the subject – which is Biology. Overall, it's the progression of students. It's also because you get to work with a wide range of diverse students.

How long did it take to become the Head of the Science Department?

It took me about 10 years to become a Subject Leader, and 15 to become the Head of Science. Could have been shortened, but oh well!

How do you think technology has changed the way you teach?

Right. The idea of good teaching is essentially the same. But technology has brought in a new paradigm. The way technology works is that you have more visuals, you can show more video clips, you have more content than you'd have without technology. You bring the outside world into the classroom. It's more effective for setting homework and it adds to the way you deliver a lesson. Me, I don't use PowerPoints per se, but you can pick and choose certain visuals, so delivery is quicker. When preparing a lesson, you can bring contextual examples into the classroom and students can see these views. Registers have changed, we can repeat lessons, we can track students' marks. It's useful in planning, delivering, and assessing students' progression, with spreadsheets and so on. For me, technology has helped with parents evening. It has helped for parents to meet with you. Face to face was good, but they don't have to travel in, and communication is easier.

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What is your greatest achievement?

Look, I'm into results, so probably consistently achieving high results in Biology and other subjects in the Science Department, and I guess, for teaching A-Level students that achieve ALPS 1 (which means the top 1% of grades, so you don't have to Google it. I did.) and I've done that for a few years. I guess the peak is that I won the Kent Teacher of the Year Award. That was a great personal achievement, but to see my students get ALPS 1 is really great.

Where do you see yourself in the next few years?

I am pursuing a research degree. When I retire, I hope to do that, go back to university, and do part-time studies as a hobby. I want to do a research degree in Microbiology. That's what I aim to do. Or maybe I'll end up in a hammock in Guinea!

So, to wrap this up, my interview with Mr Ramessar was an enlightening experience! It was great to learn about what it's like to be a Head of Department, but it was also interesting to learn about his achievements and experiences, as well as his plans for the future. Whether that's relaxation after decades of hard work, or furthering his knowledge on one of his passions, the future seems bright for Mr Ramessar.

The Drama Showcase

By Callum 8H

William Golding's 1954 novel, 'Lord of the Flies' tells the story of a group of boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organisation, but without any adults to guide or coach and to bring civility, the boys become violent and brutal.

This is our interpretation of the novel, which we will be performing on stage on 14th June, from 5-6.30pm.

Plans for this started in September when the Drama Club members were split into groups which were each allocated a play to perform by Ms Monteith.

We started with eight in our group but due to various reasons, from the end of January, we are now a strong four, consisting of Ehimen (7W), Aiden (8W), Samule (8C) and myself Callum (8H). Due to this, and not having enough of us to fill all the characters' parts, some of the story needed to be re-written ,and thus the script,to accommodate the smaller cast.

Whilst at first, we were frustrated, this soon changed as we restarted and it brought us closer together as a team, and open our minds further to be able to be creative and add our own perspective to things. Drama gives you a fun way to learn with opportunities to explore, discuss and deal with many different issues and challenges, and to be able to express emotions in a supportive environment.

Rehearsals initially were once a week at lunchtime, but as we have progressed and the date has got nearer, we have added to these with additional after-school rehearsals.

On top of this, I have been writing our script, researching the characters from the novel, and thinking about their backgrounds to build their characters. This has been a good extra challenge for me, to be both script-writer and needing to learn and rehearse my lines as part of the cast.

To succeed, you must be willing to put in the work, in order to learn new skills, to practise and improve them, and to connect them as you develop. This in turn helps to develop your confidence, your communication skills, both in listening and responding, and of course teamwork and leadership.

Other skills that you may not at first think are used and developed through drama include time management - you can't be late for rehearsals, and you manage your timer better in order to fit all of your activities in.

The Drama Showcase

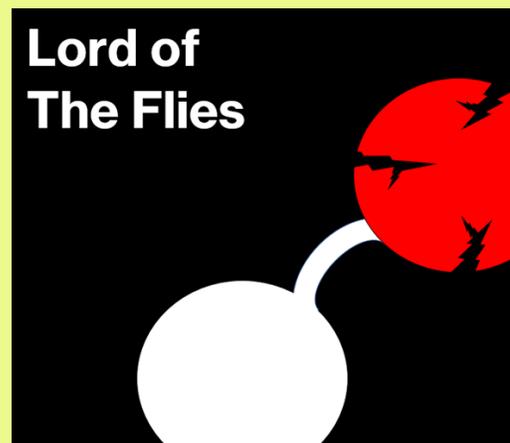
By Callum 8H

Performing, and especially this play is both exciting, but also nerve-wracking! Whilst I have performed before in last year's 'Wizard of Oz', it was a small part, so quite different from this. I am scared of failure – this is a one night only show, so no second chances or performances to do things differently.

This brings in another skill – improvisation, and thinking on your feet. I will be doing that very much – if things aren't going quite right or a line is forgotten, then thinking quickly – what is sometimes called ad-libbing – can be done to improvise. Whilst scary, this can give a certain buzz too.

It's not just learning and speaking your lines though – you learn how to use posture, mannerisms, facial expressions and movement, and how you would bring them into your character.

Learning and developing all of these skills is both fun and rewarding. We hope to be able to share that with you when we perform. **Come and see the play on Wednesday 14th June at 5pm. Tickets will soon be available on the school website and via QR codes on posters around the school.**





BEST OF THE BETHS

Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter!

In this month's edition, we covered all kinds of topics, from King Charles III's coronation and the obscure holiday May Day to major sporting events and leaks of classified foreign intelligence documents. We hope you enjoyed catching up on all of the news the world had on offer during the month of May!

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

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-Regards from the Newsletter Team