



# **BEST OF THE BETHS**



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# **NOVEMBER**

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**Edited and designed by editing team**

# Ossy's Personal Achievements

## By Damilola and Giounison 10H

**“As most of you are aware, my friend and classmate Osaivbie Obasohan, commonly known as Ossy sadly passed away just over 2 weeks ago and I would like to celebrate him by discussing his personal achievements as well as sharing a few memories. Ossy was a key role in the success of Hurst in recent years, helping us to win the house football competition, two years in a row and contributing to a multitude of goals. When he was on that pitch, it was evident that he gave his all and pushed himself past his limits. He simply never stopped working. He practically carried the Hurst basketball and rugby teams too, being one of the most athletic people in the tutor group. Sports wasn’t Ossy’s only strong suit. He was an amazing student and a fun person to be around. Ossy was awarded a merit and colours badge which goes to show that he was an exemplary student. I remember Ossy sticking his tongue out when focussing on dribbling and trying to look cool on the ball, yet he always lost it. Although he scored two screamers in year 7 house football, he managed to kick the ball outside of the school and into somebody’s back garden in a school match!**



**Damilola 10H**

**“Osaivbie attended our school, coming into form every morning with a smile on his face. Whether it was a rainy, sunny or windy day, he never really let it affect his mood. Well, most days. He was amazing at basketball, arguably the best in our year and I remember him scoring a half-court shot in house basketball. We went crazy and it’s honestly one of my favourite sport moments in school. Year after year, he would show how important he was to 10H during sports such as football, basketball, rugby and volleyball. A funny thing I remember when thinking about Ossy was during the A team match last year, when he snuck onto the coach and somehow Mr Temple allowed him to play against Crownwoods. We were down 1-0 with seconds to go and he had a 1 v 1, which would take us to extra time giving us a second chance to win the game. He absolutely skyed the ball so far it even went over the fence; we lost it! Even though we lost the match, I couldn’t help but laugh. Now if I knew he would leave us so soon I would have him be our A team striker, until sixth form. We really miss you Ossy. May he rest in peace.”**

**Giounison 10H**

# The History of Guy Fawkes

## Ronnie 10H



On the night of November 4<sup>th</sup> within the year 1605, the state opening of Parliament was taking place, led by the current king at that time; James I. Though, beneath the building, a man named Guy Fawkes guarded piles upon piles of gunpowder. Him and his companions had been planning to blow up the building with the king inside, during this ceremony, as a direct result of the former refusing to grant Catholics more religious power within the country. However, what Fawkes was not aware of was the planned thorough search of all parts of the building – including the cellar in which Fawkes was in, prior to the opening to ensure security!

Though the day's meaning has been diluted and somewhat lost over the years, people in modern society celebrate the night by lighting bonfires or igniting fireworks, resembling the possible effects of the gunpowder and rejoicing over the failed explosion attempts. Guards also, on this date, perform an annual search of the Parliament building and its cellars to check for any potential arsonists – however, this is more due to tradition rather than for security.

# Remembrance Day

## Dev 9B



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November was a very important day for many people, including me. It was Remembrance Sunday, a day where we remember the people who laid down their lives for our lives in the World Wars and any other wars.

I am part of the Sea Cadets and I was one of the many to be marching through Bexleyheath on Remembrance Sunday for the Remembrance Day Parade including the Army, Air and Police Cadets and also the Scouts/ Beavers/Cubs. This is where all of the Cadet forces and some Commissioned Officers gather to march through their respective areas to a War Memorial. For Bexleyheath, this would be The War Memorial near Tenpin Bowling Alley.

Even though this is a mandatory event for anyone in the military forces, it is a great honour to be marching through the streets and laying down wreaths for the fallen. This year, I was chosen by my unit to be part of the Guard. It found it a very special privilege to be leading the Guard as Guard Commander. Normally, I would march my squad to the Memorial and then everyone has takes their spots we march in separately by the Memorial. But, now being a Guard, I get to shout the orders for the members of my Guard to follow and when I say shout, I mean shout!

As the service proceeds, we stand to attention “guarding” the memorial and to just look amazing! A few words are spoken and the laying of wreaths happens. Once the service is done, We march back to where we started and the event is over. Everyone is happy and definitely proud of themselves for taking part in a huge ceremony!

But one thing is for sure, everyone at some point of the ceremony was thinking “They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them.”

# Black Friday

By Nathaniel 10A

Black Friday is a colloquial term for the Friday after the US Holiday Of Thanksgiving. Black Friday traditionally marks the start of the Christmas shopping season across the world and many stores offer highly promoted sales at discounted prices on a range of items and often open as early as midnight. Black Friday has routinely been the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States since 2005 and though it is not an official holiday, many non-retail employees and schools have both Thanksgiving and the following Friday off, allowing them to have a 4 day weekend. Black Friday occurs the first day after the last major US holiday before Christmas, meaning it marks the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season. Many retail stores in the US would open late on thanksgiving, in order to allow the public to have more time to purchase their Christmas gifts for friends and family. Black Friday has also become a major holiday due to the use of online retailers, such as Amazon, offering major discounts on a range of their tech and fashion items .



Despite the presumably festive nature of Black Friday, it is also known to be a holiday filled with chaos and even counts of violence. In 2008, a crowd of approximately 2000 shoppers in New York waited outside for the 5AM opening of a local Walmart. As the doors opened, the crowd pushed forward breaking down the door and a 34-year-old employee, Jdimaytai Damour was trampled to death. Though, the shoppers were not concerned with the victim's fate, some even complaining when asked to stop by employees. Even when the police arrived, and attempted to help the injured man, shoppers continued to pour in and even pushed through the police officers to make their way forward. Damour's family sued Walmart for a lack of adequate security for the crowd and for using specific marketing and advertising techniques to specifically attract a large crowd.

## 2022 Black Friday Deals

This year, Black Friday falls on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, with Cyber-Monday following shortly on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. There are a range of deals in the UK including:

1. Amazon: Up to 46% off on video games and video game accessories, up to 32% off on TVs and media devices, Up to 40% off on Smartphones and wearables from Google and OPPO
2. JD Sports: Up to 50% off on clothing items – specific deals to be released on 25<sup>th</sup> November
3. Curry's PC World: deals to be released on 25<sup>th</sup> November
4. John Lewis: 30% off Ralph Lauren, Discounts on Coach, Barbour and TVs

# 2022 Qatar World Cup Predictions

By Samir 10C

As the Qatar World Cup 2022 unravels, we all grow restless with excitement. While for many it could not compare to the childhood defining 2014 Brazil WC or Euro 2020 and England's run to the final, I'm sure all footballs fans are looking forward to the tournament. So, I thought I would share my (slightly theatrical) predictions.

## Predictions:

<u>Group A</u>	<u>Group B</u>	<u>Group C</u>	<u>Group D</u>
1. Netherlands	1. England	1. Argentina	1. Denmark
2. Senegal	2. Wales	2. Poland	2. Australia
3. Ecuador	3. Iran	3. Mexico	3. France
4. Qatar	4. USA	4. Saudi Arabia	4. Tunisia
<u>Group E</u>	<u>Group F</u>	<u>Group G</u>	<u>Group H</u>
1. Spain	1. Belgium	1. Brazil	1. Portugal
2. Germany	2. Canada	2. Switzerland	2. Uruguay
3. Japan	3. Croatia	3. Serbia	3. Ghana
4. Costa Rica	4. Morocco	4. Cameroon	4. South Korea

## Round of 16 Knockouts:

Senegal (vs England), Netherlands (vs Wales), Australia (vs Argentina), Poland (vs Denmark), Canada (vs Spain), Belgium (vs Germany), Uruguay (vs Brazil), Switzerland (vs Portugal).

## Quarter Final Knockouts:

Netherlands (vs Argentina), Poland (vs England), Spain (vs Brazil), Belgium (vs Portugal).

## Semi Final Knockouts:

England (vs Argentina), Portugal (vs Brazil)

## Final:

Brazil vs Argentina: Argentina win

I think that Messi's Argentina will certainly have a point to prove, France will go out due to the Winner's Curse and England will ultimately fall just short.

# Current Affairs

By Gabriel 10H

## Russia-Ukraine War



Russia has declared a new 'temporary capital' for the Kherson region after the city was retaken by Ukraine Forces. Over 60 Settlements in the Kherson Region have been established. After eight-months of occupation, citizens of Kherson rushed out to greet their liberators. However, only 30% of the region has been liberated so far. Ukraine now has 120 billion USD in national debt. Will the country ever recover?

## Technology

How much does it cost to power Game Consoles in the UK?

For the Nintendo Switch it costs about 0.12 pence per hour while charging and 0.27 pence per hour while playing Overwatch 2.

For the PlayStation 5 it also costs about 0.12 pence per hour at rest but costs 7.31 pence per hour while playing Overwatch 2.

For the Xbox Series X it costs 0.25 Pence per hour at rest and 5.60 pence per hour while playing Overwatch 2.

All of these different costs are yet another thing to factor in while buying a console – especially with electricity prices as high as this. There are visibly stark variations in how much each device costs to run and therefore tells us a lot about their optimisation. For example, the Xbox Series X performs a lot better while active but when idle costs much more than the other two consoles.



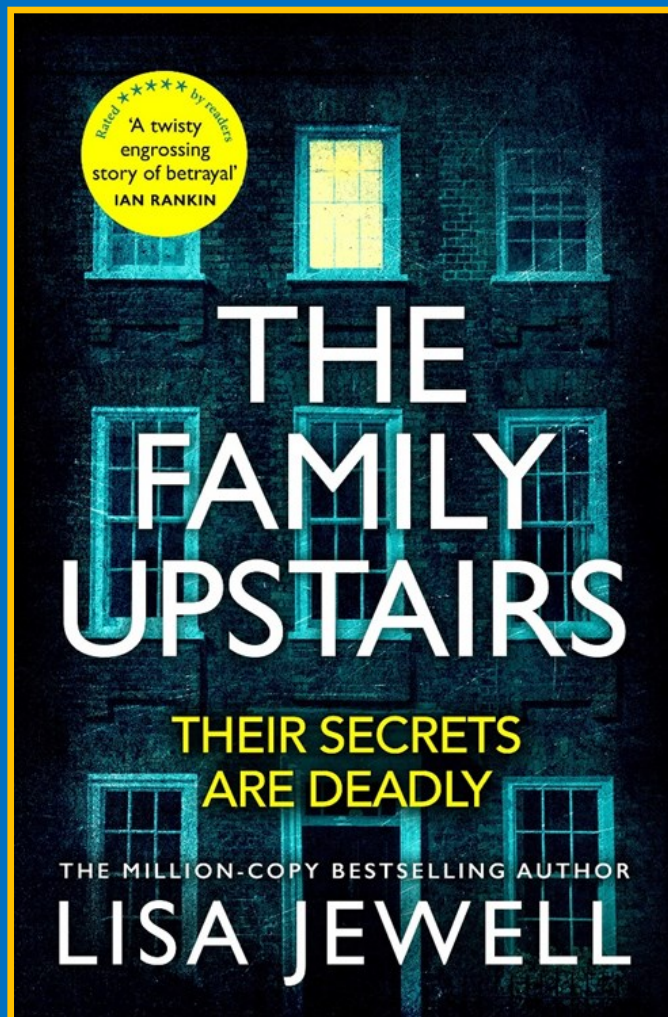


# Book Review

By Okeoghene 10A

Lisa Jewell's 'The Family upstairs' is a fictional thriller centred around a family, who grew up in traumatic conditions and are trying to let go of their past.

This book, not long in length, gives the reader lots and lots of information in just a few pages. You are required to piece the puzzle together and even though it can start off confusing, as you read on and uncover more secrets, everything will start to make sense. The 'protagonist' narrates part of the story and you see how he twists it in his own way to make it look like he was the victim while in reality, he was the one that caused most of the children's problems.



**The sequel to 'The Family Upstairs' :**

*London. June 2019, early morning. On the foreshore of the river Thames, a bag of bones are discovered. **Human bones.***

*The past will always catch up with you. **Eventually.** Will they be able to get themselves out of this mess?*

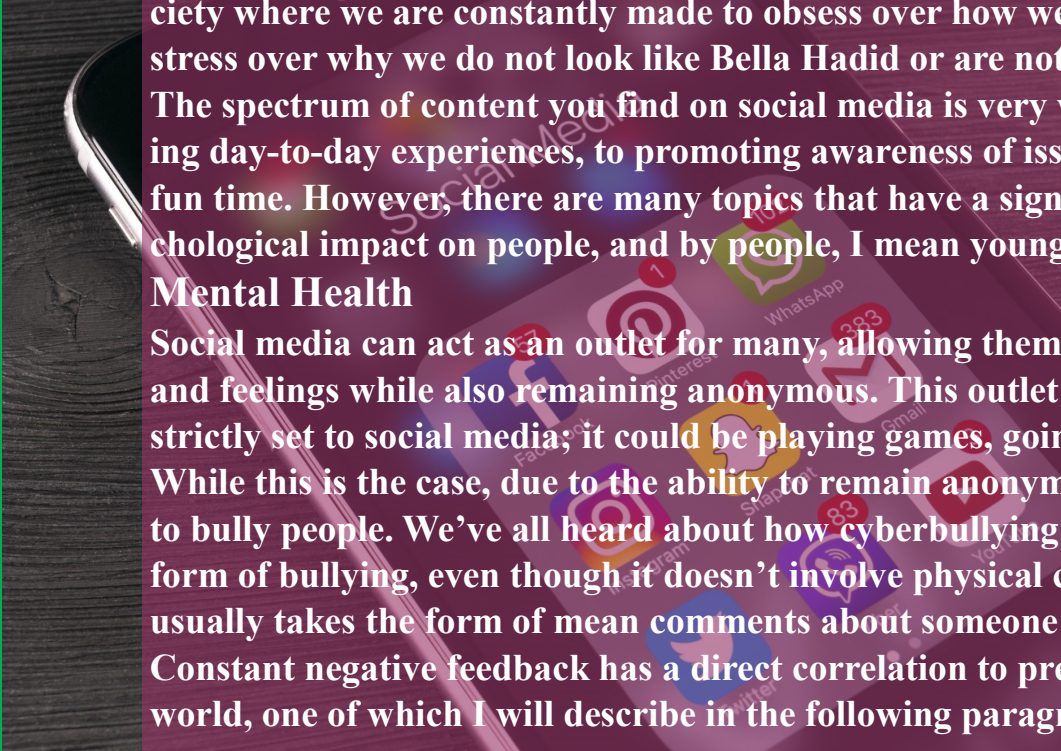
*Four deaths, An unsolved mystery. And a family whose secrets are darker than anyone can ever imagine...*

# Good and Bad of Social Media

By

Mustafa

10H



In this article, I'll be covering a few topics: mental health, body dysmorphia, and the societal standards of beauty. It may sound cliché to say this, but we live in a society where we are constantly made to obsess over how we look and act, making us stress over why we do not look like Bella Hadid or are not as fit as Jeff Cavaliere. The spectrum of content you find on social media is very wide, ranging from sharing day-to-day experiences, to promoting awareness of issues, to simply having a fun time. However, there are many topics that have a significant physical and psychological impact on people, and by people, I mean young adults and children.

## Mental Health

Social media can act as an outlet for many, allowing them to express their thoughts and feelings while also remaining anonymous. This outlet of sorts may not be strictly set to social media; it could be playing games, going out with friends, etc. While this is the case, due to the ability to remain anonymous, some might use this to bully people. We've all heard about how cyberbullying works and how it is a form of bullying, even though it doesn't involve physical contact. Cyberbullying usually takes the form of mean comments about someone's appearance or body. Constant negative feedback has a direct correlation to prevalent issues in today's world, one of which I will describe in the following paragraph.

## Body Dysmorphia

Body dysmorphia is a mental disorder (BDD) where one obsesses over so-called flaws that they think they have. A novel that I will be quoting is called "The Edible Woman," 1969. *"She was afraid of losing her shape, spreading out, not being able to contain herself any longer, beginning (that would be the worst of all) to talk a lot, to tell everybody, to cry."* This gives us an insight to what people with BDD may experience, how some feel uneasy to share, and how BDD is not limited to today; it was a problem many generations before, centuries even. Unfortunately, having body dysmorphia often leads to the development of eating disorders (ED) as a coping mechanism to the emotions they feel.

## Beauty Standard

A big question that many people have is whether there really is a beauty standard. I'll cut it short: there is. Revolving around the eurocentric ideals of beauty is what we know as "the beauty standard," a frankly unattainable set of regulations to be considered pretty. The standard does not remain constant over time, swinging like a pendulum from one end to the other and this makes it inherently toxic.

# An Interview with Mr Jones

by Edwin 10C

Recently, a new member has joined the leadership team here at Beths. His name is Mr Jones, and I was lucky enough to interview him and learn more about him. Here are a few things that we spoke about:

## **What is your favourite subject and why?**

*Has to be English, I'm afraid. I think English is one of the most important subjects. The ability to communicate in an articulate manner is fundamental for anybody, irrespective of cultural and social background. I think that the role of all teachers is important in that obviously English is the language of communication in most school life.*

## **What made you want to be a deputy head?**

*Sounds like a cliché, but I want to try to make a difference. I'm local, and I think the role of leadership in schools is a privilege, and I feel that I've got the experience to be able to help improve the experience for students and staff at Beths Grammar. I think that it's a responsibility that I take very seriously and a responsibility that requires certain skills and knowledge, and I believe that I have the skills to be able to help improve things.*

## **What made you choose Beths?**

*I've worked in schools in very different contexts but when the opportunity came up at Beths, it was on that I couldn't turn down. It's no secret that one day I want to be a headteacher and I know that working in different types of schools in different types of contexts is fundamental to my career aspirations. I am a grammar schoolboy myself and feel that grammar school education is special and full of opportunity. Every day when scholars arrive at our school gates, it's a chance for opportunity.*

## **What did you do before coming to Beths?**

*I have worked in leadership roles in schools before. I was Assistant Head at St Catherine's, and Senior Assistant Head at King Henry School. I've also previously been a Head of Year and a Head of English, so I have experience within pastoral and academic leadership.*

## **What do you plan to do here at Beths?**

*Amongst other things, I'm currently responsible for teaching and learning, and whilst I think that teaching and learning is excellent at Beths, as teachers, we too are always learning and therefore we can improve outcomes for students. I also believe in teamwork and collective responsibility and that if staff on all levels and students work together then incredible things are possible.*

Overall, this was a very enlightening experience, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity. I hope you will join me in giving Mr Jones a very warm welcome, and in saying that we hope to see more of him in the future.



About 2 months ago, Overwatch 2 released, as a sequel to the original game released in 2016. It has been anticipated for several years since the original's release, and it hasn't disappointed, as seen by the numerous amounts of active players (around 20 million to be exact). The premise of the game is to essentially defeat the enemy team in a 5 on 5 first person shooter battle, in which u can choose from a multitude of characters, such as 'tank heroes' who serve as a defence for their team with their abundant health, and 'damage heroes' who specialise in quickly finishing off enemies from the opposing team.

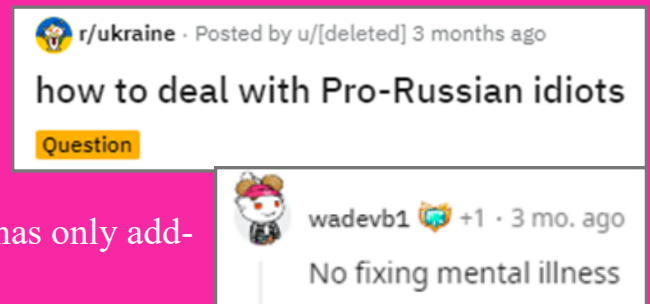
I personally have played the original and the sequel, and I can say that both games are entertaining and attention-grabbing, due to the fast-paced style of the game, and I would personally recommend it to those interested in similar types of games.

# Parrot Effect and the Internet War

by Victor 10H

Politics over the past few years has gotten more extremist and divided than ever before. From the rise in far-right parties in democracies such as Trump's Republicans, Marine Le Pen in France, or the various rightist parties in Eastern Europe, to the increase in dissatisfaction with leftist heads of state in countries such as Spain, it is starting to seem like the hand of Democracy is losing its grip. However, this seems to be a fairly recent occurrence; never before has politics been so divided. I feel like one of the primary reasons of this Ideological Canyon comes from people's ignorance towards other perspectives, especially on social media. This is where my self-devised Parrot Effect comes in.

Although social media is, among a myriad of other benefits, a great place to share good moments and staying in touch with friends, you will quickly learn that the idea of these sites being a safe place to discuss and debate political and social topics with other people, of similar and different opinions, is not true. The anonymity of the screen makes lashing out, insulting, and being plain toxic far easier, and the rising prevalence of confirmation bias (the tendency to seek out and prefer information that supports our pre-existing beliefs, and as a result, ignore any information that contradicts those beliefs) and cancel culture has only added petrol to the flame.



What results is the two political factions, left and right, and to some extent, the two social factions of libertarianism and authoritarianism to attack the minority on their 'part' of the internet; and it really has created different 'territories' of the World Wide Web. From my observations of being active on both factions of the internet, I've concluded that the more leftist and libertarian parts of the internet, made up by younger people, flock to the sites we think of as more 'popular', such as Instagram, TikTok and to some extent, Twitter and Reddit. On the other hand, the more rightist part of the web-surfing group tends to use the sites perceived as less 'popular' such as Facebook, and as many stereotypes suggest, most of these people are of older age. However, popularity for us is wholly and totally relative; Facebook has 1.96 billion daily and 2.94 billion monthly users according to some sources, leaving the 689 million monthly active users globally of TikTok and the 500 million daily users of Instagram in the dust. Clearly, Facebook seems to be very much up and running, defeating many rumours of its imminent death.

When comparing these numbers, you discover that the two 'factions' are actually very similar in size, and that begged me the question: 'Why do both sides of the internet seem to paint the other side as morally inferior, if not virtually non-existent bar the extremists?' Well, I answered that with

# Parrot Effect and the Internet War

by Victor 10H

my concept of the Parrot Effect. The Parrot Effect, in short, is where one group reassures themselves and immediate peers that their side is the only side, and is where all people reside, and to such an extent, that when somebody of differing opinion is observed, the delivery being hostile or not, the majority group try to almost deny their existence, and completely ignore what they have to say. I like to picture 2 groups screaming to their own side what each one wants to hear, over and over again, like parrots, and screaming so loud you cannot hear the other side. This is why I named the effect as such.

There are many examples of this effect; For example, although most of the Western internet could not imagine a Putinist who isn't crazy and completely delusional, many Russian parts of the Internet point to honourably fighting for the Russian people to save them from mistreatment and abuse. The same theme comes with freedom of many different topics; abortion, expression, LGBTQIA+ rights and so on.

In conclusion, this stark divide between the left and the right leads to hate and division; people become less informed and more opinionated, and humanity goes into a spiral of ignorance and contempt.

**If you live in a blue state or city, get the hell out. Vote with your feet. Let the parasites, psychopaths and sinister elites survive without your virtue.**

This post refers to the recent US midterm elections; it is an example extremist views of the left

# The Rise of the Far Right in Europe

by Martin 10E

**Introduction:** Originating from central Europe in the late 1800s, Right-wing Populism has been a major factor in European history. The movement is traditionally a nationalist movement, including elements of social conservatism and economic nationalism. Populism typically involves serving the people over corporations. Historically speaking, this ideology has been an outcast in democratic European countries; its popularity only fell further after the Second World War, as people were hesitant to support a radical-nationalist party, after radical nationalism had already caused so much destruction. However, more recently, parties echoing far-right ideology have begun to gain popularity and gain power in Europe. From the Alternative für Deutschland (AFD) to Fidesz (Hungarian Civil Alliance) in Hungary, groups with links to the far-right are gaining ever more power in Europe. How did this happen, who is to blame and what does this mean for Europe's future?

**Fidesz (Hungarian Civil Alliance):** Originally formed from student movements as a liberal party which opposed the communist government, the party was registered in 1990 prior to the election that year. The party had an underwhelming performance in the 1990 election, only gaining 6% of the vote. Throughout the rest of the decade, Fidesz would become far more conservative, electing Viktor Orbán as leader. After a disappointing result in 1994, they would be elected for the first time in a coalition government in the 1998 elections, where Viktor Orbán would become prime minister. Although the Socialist party narrowly won the 2002 election and 2006 election, Fidesz were re-elected in 2010, staying in power ever since. Although they claim to be a conservative party, the party has shifted much further right than it was in 1994. It follows a Eurosceptic and deeply nationalist ideology, akin to that of the far-right. Orbán has made his anti-immigration stance clear, stating in a 2018 address "we must state that we do not want to be diverse, and we do not want to be mixed". These ideas have run so deep that the country's constitution was modified to make it illegal to "settle foreign populations in Hungary". Such far-right rhetoric has been cause for alarm in Europe. However as of now, Orbán remains uncontested in power.

**Alternative für Deutschland (AFD):** The party was founded to oppose Eurozone and to oppose the policies of the CDU (Christian Democratic Union). It presented itself as the centre-right opposition to the major centre-right party (CDU) which was also slightly Eurosceptic in its early years, that was not the case for long. Soon after, the party began harbouring members of Far-Right groups in Germany – this was cause for the original founders of the party to resign in protest. Since then, the party has adopted far-right and xenophobic beliefs, including

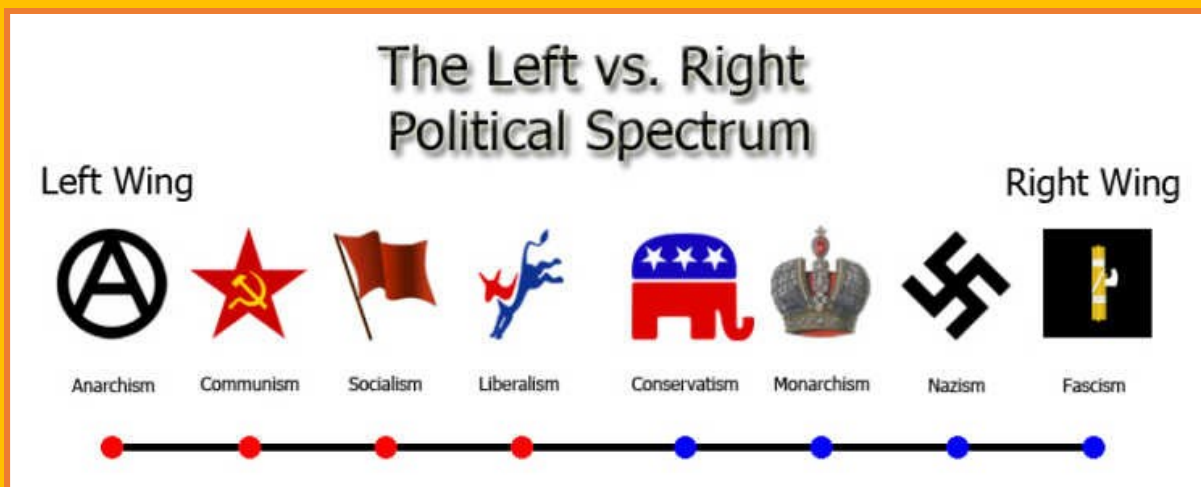
The logo for the Fidesz party, featuring the word "FIDESZ" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a circular orange background that has a slight gradient and a drop shadow, making it stand out from the yellow background of the page.

# The Rise of the Far Right in Europe

by Martin 10E

larger Euroscepticism and increased anti-immigrant and Islamophobic policy. This hit a height between 2014 and 2015, during the immigration crisis which saw many European countries overwhelmed with immigration from the Middle East and Africa. During this period, the AFD propagated large amounts of racist and Islamophobic rhetoric while also opposing the ruling party, CDU, for accommodating large amounts of immigrants. In terms of other policy: the AFD is opposed to the notion that humans are responsible for climate change; it wants to reinstate mandatory conscription in Germany for men over 18; the AFD are staunchly against LGBTQ+ rights and expression. Furthermore, the party has a focus on German nationalism and they have often criticised Germany's "laughable policy of coming to terms with the past" which once again cements them as incredibly far-right. These far-right policies have disenfranchised many party members over the years, most notably the leader of the party- Jörg Meuthen resigned in January 2022 due to the party's totalitarian tendencies. Although the AFD has surged in recent years, controlling 18 seats in the Bundestag (German parliament). Will the AFD survive through the disunity and rebellion against the Far-Right wing in the party?

**Conclusion:** Although the far-right has grown in popularity within Europe, it remains far below the mainstream in most countries. There are many factors, which contribute to the increased support of the far-right, the lack of openness in the EU, changes in the social climate of Europe, the political failures of moderate parties. It is not down to a single issue but is a collection of issues and in the name of a free and united Europe we hope to overcome these issues.





# Elf the Musical Review

By Riley 10W



On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, I went to see Elf the musical, at the Dominion theatre in the West End. I love Elf, and it is one of my favourite Christmas films. It is really fun and warm and encapsulates everything great about Christmas. Elf follows an elf called Buddy (played by Simon Lipkin in the stage show) who was raised by Santa and the elves at the north pole. He travels down to New York to find his real father, but he isn't exactly the type of person Buddy was

hoping to meet. I was very interested to see how the story would transfer from the film to the stage. The show stayed close to the original storyline, with a few small changes throughout, and this was achieved mainly through elaborate backdrops and settings, cleverly swapped in and out at each scene. For example, in the scene where Buddy redecorates the store at Macy's, a large number of different coloured decorations and props are used to recreate the store from the film. The use of moving items for the recurring scenes also allowed for quick changes.

I enjoyed the choreography and the musical numbers too. I thought the actors all had very brilliant voices and the dance routines were fun to watch. The songs were well spaced out, so they didn't get in the way of the story too much. I was particularly impressed by Alfie Moorwood, the young actor who played Michael Hobbes. He had a clear voice when he spoke and sung. I also especially enjoyed the performances of Simon Lipkin as Buddy and Rebecca Lock as Emily Hobbes. By far my favourite part of the show was the extraordinary finale. The use of lights, music and "snow" falling from the top of the theatre all added to the excitement when Santa's sleigh lifted up and flew away to complete the Christmas deliveries.

It was a spectacular end to a wonderful show. It was funny throughout, and to see a film I love recreated so well on the stage, brought a smile to my face. As the actors took their final bows, they received a standing ovation from the audience. Overall, I would definitely recommend the show to anyone who wants to go to the theatre. It is a lot of fun and is a great way to get into the festive spirit as we approach closer to the holiday period.

# A Christmas Carol Review

By Thomas 9C

On Monday the 14th of November, thirty Key Stage 3 students, a group which I was lucky enough to be a part of, were invited to see a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at the Old Vic Theatre in London. The famous novella, written in 1843 by Charles Dickens, was adapted for stage by Jack Thorne in 2017. The play premiered at The Old Vic in November 2017 and has returned for its sixth consecutive Christmas there. Scrooge was played by Owen Teale, a famous actor, who is probably best known for his role as Ser Alliser Thorne in Game of Thrones.

We were seated above the stage, which provided a unique perspective of the show, and allowed us to better appreciate the lights and props. Above the stage, they had dimly lit lamps, which helped to build the Victorian atmosphere. There were also boxes that they pulled out of the floor to use as chairs and desks. I thought this was really cool and efficient for creating different rooms on the stage.

Every actor gave an amazing and believable performance, at times fully immersing me in the story and making me feel like I was watching real events, rather than a play. Especially Owen Teale, whose emotional performance made me both dislike and empathise with Scrooge at certain points. Despite its absurdity, Scrooge's transformation, over one night, from a cruel and cold miser, into a joyful and generous man, felt very realistic, due to the excellent writing and each actor's portrayal of their characters. Occasionally, parts of Scrooge's true kind nature showed, such as how he felt sympathetic towards Tiny Tim in the visions, he was shown by the Ghost of Christmas Present. This helped to make his eventual transformation more realistic.

Jack Thorne's adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol' stayed mostly faithful to the book, capturing its core essence and mood, and using Dickens' descriptions in the narration. However, it differed from the book in some ways, such as its characterisation of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. These small changes were quite interesting and made the story feel unique from the original novel.



Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed watching the play and I loved every aspect of it. The acting was awesome, and the story is iconic. I have to say that my favourite part of the play was when Scrooge was rejecting what the Ghost of Christmas Present was trying to teach him.

# My Experience At An Extinction Rebellion Rally

## by Ewan 10B

As a lifelong environmentalist, it shouldn't be surprising that I have a membership with XR. Having been staying in the town of Seaford while on holiday, I was surprised at the news that an XR rally was happening just nearby on the seafront. Of course, being curious, I made sure to be in attendance on the day, mostly to show support, but also to take some photos and catalogue what happened at this event.

Having made sure to show up on time, I took a seat, as I had brought a small, portable stool. After a small opening speech, the event began with a small poetry reading, all of it being written by the man talking. The poetry wasn't half bad, if a little derivative. After that, there was a short performance by a theatre group called 'The Crude Mechanics', which was a lot funnier than I believe was fully intended. The 10-minute performance depicted the process in which the earth is exploited for its natural resources, in a slightly satirical manner.

After this period, there was a short period in which people from the audience were asked to voice any concerns or sentiments they had, something of an open mic segment. Of course, I volunteered. I talked at no small length about community outreach and inter-generational communication, finishing to a round of applause and the next person making their way onto the stage.

All in all, I would recommend going to one of these events if you have interest in environmentalism, or if you want to learn.



# **BEST OF THE BETHS**

**Thank you for reading this particularly special edition of the newspaper!**

**The return to school this half term has been an unusual and challenging one. As a school community we have grieved and lost a pupil who is considered a role model for us all. This newsletter marks a legacy that Osai-vbie will continue to hold at Beths Grammar School forever, as we celebrate his life.**

**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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