



BEST OF THE BETHS



TOPICS

- POLITICS
- BOOKS
- VIDEO GAMES
- SPORTS
- SCIENCE
- BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE BEST OF

OCTOBER



BEST OF THE BETHS

CONTENTS PAGE

- 1). Drama Club meets Alex Cobb by Callum 8H, Barack 7W and Pelumi 6C3
- 2). Book Review: Keys to Success: 50 Secrets from a Business Maverick by Nathaniel 10A
- 3). NBA Season 22/23 by David O 11C
- 4). Chris Kaba and Institutional Racism by Ronnie 10H
- 5). Eastern Europe News by Martin 10E
- 6). UK Economic Crisis by Hamadin 11B
- 7). North London Derby by Giounison 10H
- 8). Black History Month learning resources
- 9). Brighton Palace Pier by Edwin 10C
- 10). Nobel Prize Physics and The Illuminati by Erim 11C
- 11). Yu-Gi-Oh Club Review by Adriel 10W
- 12). It's Raining Prime Ministers! by Thomas 8A
- 13). War Video Games: What They Can Teach Us About Reality by Victor 10H
- 14). Concrete Rose themes by Gabriel 10H
- 15). Black History Month: 2 Important Figures by Mustafa 10H
- 16). Black History Month: Classical Musicians by Oke 10A

Edited and Designed by Levi 11B

Drama Club meets Alex Cobb

by Callum 8H, Pelumi 6C3 & Barack 7W

On Friday 14th of October 2022, I met Alexander Cobb; a well-known actor featured in many movies/tv shows. We had a very inspiring Q&A which will forever stay in my heart. He answered many of our inquiries. I asked him what he would do if he ever felt the need to give up and how he would work through it. He told me that it was something he had dreamed of for such a long time so he couldn't imagine doing something else. He had a side job as a barber so if there were any times where times were low as well as income he would fall back into that job until a position/opportunity appeared. These 50 minutes were one of the most unforgettable times in my life and if another opportunity like this ever comes up for you, grab it. I was only able to experience this because I joined drama club. It contains a wonderful community with people who you can build relationships with.

- Barack



Meeting Alex Cobb was such an enriching and wonderful experience. For many aspiring actors / communities surrounding the aspect of media, it was educational and thought-provoking, listening to all the unique points he made around the acting industry. The Q&A between the Film Studies students, especially, was very conversational, whilst giving us an understanding on the important qualities he has received from his process in the acting industry as well as what is needed to thrive and propel ourselves forward in this profession. Overall, my experience with Alex Cobb was eye-opening, and I could only hope to meet with him again in the near future.— Pelumi

Drama Club meets Alex Cobb

by Callum 8H, Pelumi 6C3
& Barack 22W

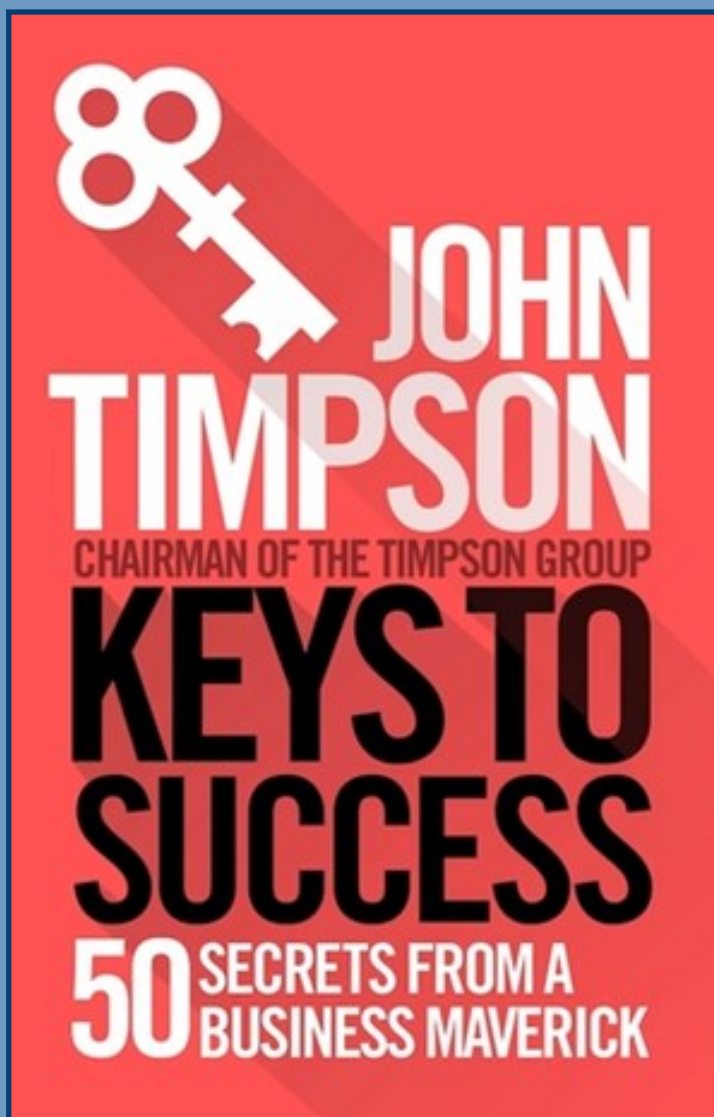


A special guest visited the school on Friday 14th – all we knew was that it was an actor, so I was intrigued to find out who we were meeting! Ex-Beths pupil and West End star Alex Cobb was our guest. If you are not aware of Alex's work, he has appeared in Different West End Plays, Marvel series Moon Knight, The King's Man film, The Outlaws and Grace.

Alex explained to us how he was turned down many times for roles, but that anyone can achieve their goals with hard work, dedication and perseverance. He was very supportive and encouraged us to follow our dreams. He also told us that there are many opportunities for different careers out there. He never once showed off about his career but explained how dedication (and understanding that you won't always succeed) is important. He stayed to answer questions from us all and we all appreciated the wonderful opportunity and for him giving up his time.— Callum

Book Review

by Nathaniel 10A

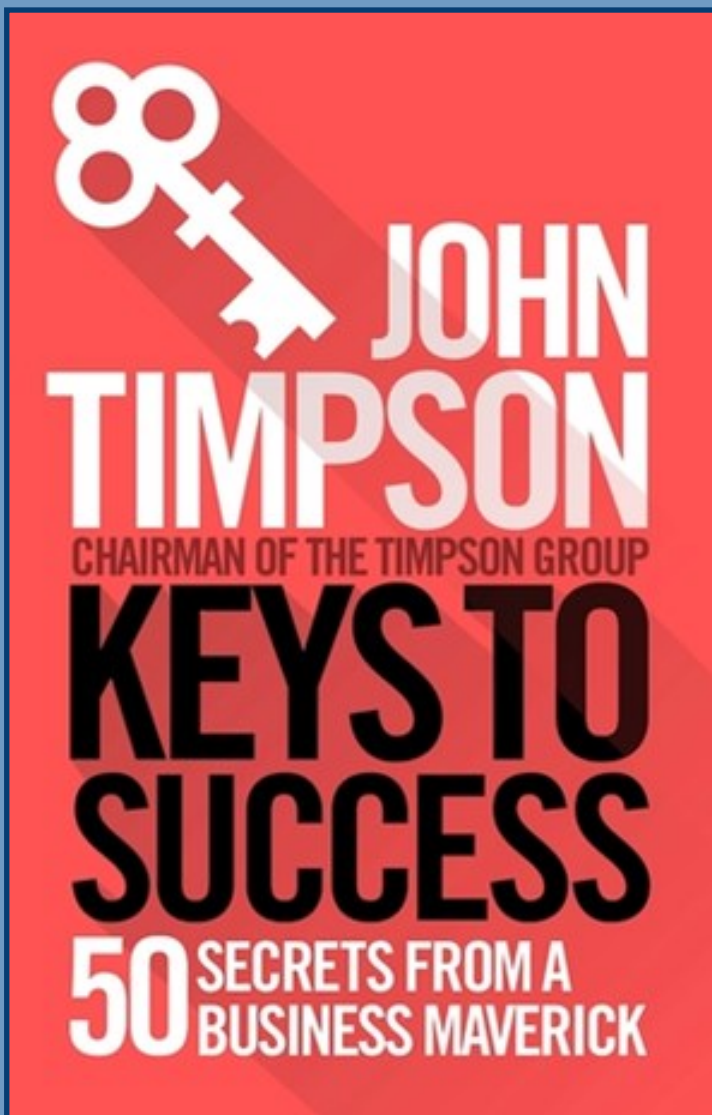


John Timpson's 'Keys to Success: 50 Secrets from a Business Maverick' is an informative non-fiction book, centred around improving performance and profits within a business, whilst still reaching the needs of the employees within it. It is written by John Timpson, the chairman of the eponymous British high street chain, Timpson's.

The book had roughly 50 short, yet descriptive chapters and was quite engaging throughout. Interestingly, Timpson's tips are quite different from the ordinary, as they focus a lot on employee satisfaction, with the belief that it is the key to maximising efficiency within a business. Timpson encourages business owners to give their employees a range of benefits to show appreciation towards them and to increase their incentive to work hard. Some benefits of his own include a card and a bottle of champagne for wedding celebrations / large birthday milestones (21,30,40 etc) and sending employees, with an 'excellent' work ethic, personalised 'thank you' notes. I found this quite interesting as Timpson focused on the happiness of his employees, when most businesses tend not to, and in turn was able to maximise his profits. In his words, 'Timpson's is not a financially driven business, but rather a culturally driven business'. Also, The Timpson company specialises in the recruitment of ex-offenders, with the belief that ex-offenders deserve a second chance to properly reintegrate back into society.

Book Review

by Nathaniel 10A



Overall, I quite thoroughly enjoyed this book as it was quite a simple book to read, despite the complexities of having a business that it discussed. However, the topics that were discussed in each chapter had often already been referred to previously, making the book often feel quite repetitive. Also, Timpson's tips often didn't reflect on the true nature of the world. Timpson talked a lot about hiring people with a 'good' personality but didn't really detail the fact that this would be quite difficult today. Timpson might have been lucky to run a business where most employees are 'good' people, though it is highly unlikely that this would be the same for anyone starting a business. That said, I would certainly recommend this book to anyone studying Business Studies or anyone who is relatively interested in the practicalities of starting a business. I rated this book a solid 4 stars and I think that I will definitely end up re-reading it!



The wait is finally over. The world's most captivating sport returns for another year of drama, intrigue, beauty, and suspense. Basketball is back. The NBA returns for its 77th season in 2022/2023.

Civil Warriors?

An event occurred in the Golden State Warriors training facility, that sent all NBA fans and players in an online frenzy. A shocking video that was leaked showed Draymond Green violently attacking Jordan Poole, punching him to the ground during practise. There is clear tension between the two. In the video, Draymond and Poole can be seen trash talking each other just before Green is seen knocking him on the ground. Steve Kerr (former NBA champion and Warriors General manager) has spoken on the issue saying Draymond will not be suspended. This makes sense seeing he is a key player in their championships. He has apologised to Poole. This event has clearly not deterred Poole who signed a multi-year contract with the Warriors this month.

Like Father Like Son

Bronny James turned 18 earlier this month. This big milestone was celebrated in a hype party. Rappers such as Travis Scott and SoFaygo, turned up for the (arguably) best NBA player's son's party. A few days later, he signed a NIL deal with the famous sportswear brand Nike. Other athletes such as Ronaldo, Tiger Woods and even Bronny's dad have had such privileges. This deal came controversy to some people though. Twitter went in a rage once this news had come out. Opinions were that Bronny only got signed because of his dad and that Nike doesn't care about real athletes. However, I would have to counter this. A business would obviously want the most popular athletes to be sponsored by them so that they gain a lot of advertisement. Regardless, it will be exciting to see what Bronny can do with this sponsorship. Also, he is expected to commit to a college basketball



team. Nowadays, you cannot just join the NBA at 18 and must have at least one year of basketball. His dad took advantage of the NBA rules at the time and went straight to the league. LeBron has previously mentioned he wants to play with Bronny in the NBA. This means that Bronny needs to decide on committing to a college.

Most Valuable or Under Valued?

Joel Embiid – If there was an award for most valuable players who have not won an MVP, Embiid would win. He has fallen victim to unfortunate timing and unfortunate circumstances: injuries, too few games played. He also had to compete with a Jokic who had a historic season. Embiid has fallen second for two consecutive years, but he needs to stay healthy to win. He can guide himself to an MVP if he stops the giants (Curry, Giannis, Durant) and returning stars (Morant, Williamson, Tatum, Leonard).

Zion Williamson

Back and ready to dominate. Zion Williamson returned to training after missing his rookie season. He was one of the most dominant players in high school, however the NBA missed his dominance due to a knee injury he took on. However, videos of him training have replicated his playstyle showing he is coming back, and he means business. Pelicans' fans will be hopeful he can achieve what he originally set out to do and lead them to a playoffs place.

Injuries

Pre-season has just begun, however players such as LaMelo, Middleton and Jokic have already sustained an injury. These injuries have not been seen as serious and they should return very soon.

Warriors Go Again? Lakers in the Lake?

Can the champions do it again? Most people believe they can. This is very possible. The team is very able, and I can see Curry gaining another ring. However, one team I do not see getting to the play-offs sadly is the Lakers. Their shabby results have reduced many fans' faith in them.

Victor Woah-Wembanyama

Victor is a 7'3 NBA 2023 draft prospect fresh out of 2K. He can shoot like its nothing and although he is tall, moves like a point guard. He is the biggest prospect since Lebron, and it is clear he will live up to his name. I cannot wait to see him on the Grizzlies. NBA teams are probably tanking for him, however, which will be a shame to see.



Everyone's favourites

Ja Morant dunking, Steph dropping 3s, Giannis dominating and Simmons air balling. It is a guaranteed season of fun and pure entertainment here in the NBA.

Beths Balling?

I asked classmates what they thought of the new NBA season

“The Pelicans are winning the league. I cannot wait for Zion’s return, as I think he will be a powerful force in the league.”

Hamadin 11B

“I do not know much about the NBA, but as a fashion and sneaker fan, I want to see if Bronny will release any new shoes. He has the potential to be the biggest sneaker designer”

Jonathan 11C

“Trae Young is the GOAT. Hawks will win it”

David A 11C

“I think the warriors will win. It is inevitable. Steph is too good, and I can see him earning himself another ring. The Draymond – Poole situation is a little disappointing but I know they will be able to work together as a team and move past it.”

Ayoola 11B

Chris Kaba and Institutional Racism

by Ronnie 10H



On the night of the 5th of September 2022, a young man named Chris Kaba – a soon-to-be father and aspiring musician – was driving peacefully upon a quiet road when police officers made ‘tactical contact’, as it was described, by locking him within a street named Kirkstall Gardens. In beliefs that the man’s car had a close relation to a previous firearms incident, the police officers began to close in on the man. Within a few minutes, and just past 10PM, a loud bang was heard. Chris Kaba had been shot.

The aspiring rapper was rapidly rushed to hospital, where he unfortunately passed away at approximately 12:16AM. A thorough forensic search and investigation of the deceased’s car took place, which resulted in no ‘non-police issued firearms’ being found, ultimately stating that the man’s death was, simply put, all for nothing. Though a terrible incident, indeed, Kaba’s death highlights how racism has been so thoroughly integrated into the Metropolitan police and society itself. We believe ourselves to be informed and educated, willing to change with the times – but will we ever be able to truly escape from racism itself if we are thriving in a society built on it? Across the globe, hundreds of black people are killed by the police each year. Lives are stolen from the innocent, purely based upon their skin colour. If we strive for equity, why are we holding a gun to our peers?

Chris Kaba and Institutional Racism by Ronnie 10H



Chris Kaba is, unfortunately, one of many. Even to this day, nobody is truly equal, no matter how much we try to sugarcoat it. Racism isn't just direct. It's everywhere. In workplaces, in housing, in employment. In the law itself. This is why Black History Month is so important; it remembers those who have died fighting for their people's rights, those who dedicate their lives to fighting the oppressor, and those who have fallen victim to the oppression. We still have a long way to go. However together, as a collective, we can strive to create a society in which everyone is equal. But it shall take all of us – not only a percentage. During this month, I encourage you all to educate yourselves on topics you are unfamiliar with, and to ensure that you do not contribute to wide-spread discrimination. Happy Black History Month.

Eastern Europe News

by Martin 10E



Russo-Ukrainian War

During the last month, not much has changed in terms of land held by either side. The most major development has been Ukraine's southern offensive in the Kherson district; Ukraine has captured land amounting to 15% of the Kherson district in this ongoing offensive. Furthermore, there has been large change in territory in the North, the Russian and Luhansk forces around Kharkiv were pushed back to the pre-war Russian border. Overall, during this offensive, Ukraine has captured almost 1,800 sq km of territory.

Despite the lack of territorial gains, there have been many major political developments in recent weeks. At the beginning of October, the Russian Federation signed an accord to annex the partially captured territories of the Luhansk district, Donetsk district, Zaporizhzhia district and the Kherson district. This decree has received international condemnation, particularly from the United States who released a new wave of sanctions on Russia for its actions. Although in practice not much has changed, the actions of Russia and the West have added a new dynamic to this conflict.

Bulgarian Parliamentary Elections of 2022

On October 2nd 2022, Parliamentary elections were held across Bulgaria, these elections were held in response to the collapse of Petkov's (Leader of "We continue the change") coalition government with BSP (Bulgarian Socialist Party) and DB (Democratic Bulgaria Party) and ITN. The election results placed GERB (Citizens for European development of Bulgaria) with the most seats. Following this victory the party's leader, Boyko Borisov, refused to be part of the government; this was likely because his previous government was subject to allegations of corruption, bribery and caused massive protests and strikes across the country. GERB is currently seeking a coalition as their seats (67) are not enough to claim a majority. Furthermore, Bulgaria does not have a standing PM at this moment which will be determined in the following days and weeks. Whether this government will survive is still up for debate.



Polish Inflation Crisis

Overview: For over 50 years, Poland has been suffering from massive inflation in consumer prices, an item which costed 100 zlotys in 1971 costed 588,989.80 zlotys at the beginning of 2022. With an average inflation rate of 18.82% per year (1971-2022), the zloty has lost over 99% of its value since 1971 (According to worlddata.info).

What does this mean: The weakness of the zloty has greatly damaged Poland's economy and will likely lead to stagnation in the years to come. At present, the Polish economy is projected to expand by 0.6% by the end of the third-quarter of 2022, this follows a decline of 2.1% in the previous quarter. The elevated inflation is projected to lower consumer demand, while high interest rates are likely to discourage investors and investment activities. In terms of hikes in price, consumer energy prices have grown by 21.6%, service prices have grown by 12% and industrial goods are now 10% more expensive (according to DW news).

Who is to blame?: According to the ruling party in Poland, PiS, the inflation is the fault of the Russo-Ukrainian war and there is some truth in this. The Poles imported close to 10000 Terajoules of energy from the Russians prior to the start of the war in February; although this accounts for some of the inflation, it does not explain the extremely delayed response of the government. According to DW news "The NBP" (National Bank Poland) also had been too reluctant to start raising interest rates until inflation was already rising quite fast at the end of 2021". In my opinion, there is not a single recipient of blame but a mixture of poor decisions and inaction by multiple parties.

UK Economic Crisis

by Hamadin 11B

The cost of living is increasing at nearly its fastest rate in 40 years.

The rising prices of energy and food are the main causes.

What does inflation mean?

Inflation is the increase in the price of something over time.



Why are prices rising so fast?

Increased energy prices are one of the key reasons that goods and services are getting more expensive. For example, the war in Ukraine meant less gas was available from Russia. The war in Ukraine also led to food prices increasing. Prior to this, the end of Covid restrictions saw an increase in the price of petrol.

When will inflation come down?

Lower inflation does not mean prices will go down. It just means they will stop rising as fast.

The Bank of England **says it expects inflation** to "peak at 11% and then remain above 10% for a few months before starting to come down"

What can be done to tackle inflation?

The Bank of England's normal response to rising inflation is to raise interest rates. This can encourage people to save but means many people with mortgages see their monthly payments go up. It is also a struggle for businesses who rely on loans to start or run their business. Raising interest rates makes borrowing more expensive and people have less money to spend. As a result, they will buy fewer things and prices will stop rising as fast.

But when inflation is caused by things like rising energy prices worldwide, there is a limit as to how effective UK interest rate rises can be in slowing inflation.

North London Derby

by Giounison 10H



The premier league was an absolute eye-popping source of entertainment with brilliant individual performances by players, such as Erling Haaland and Phil Foden (Man City), late goal thrillers but the stand out event was the brilliant team performance from Arsenal against North London rivals.

Arsenal Spurs: 3-1

Thomas Partey grabbed the spotlight early in the 20th minute, with a long-range beauty from outside the box, leaving Lloris crawling across his line. Fortunately for Tottenham, 11 minutes later they were gifted a penalty where Harry Kane took the chance and drew the score line.

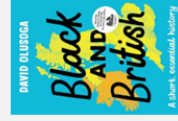
Coming back from half-time, Jesus scored from a rebound shot causing a roar in the stadium, bringing fans to their feet, rejoiced to be able to start the second half on a positive note. From here, it was an end-to-end match, until Romero was awarded a red card 62 minutes into the match, for a rash challenge on the ankle. Arsenal knew that Tottenham were weakened defensively and pushed for another goal to seal their lead and did with another long-range shot by Xhaka, in the bottom corner. This took Arsenal to the top of the league with Man City, just trailing behind them.

Are Arsenal serious title contenders this year or is an opposition side going to put an end to their winning streak?



Black History Month 2022

1. Rosa Parks, civil rights activist. https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/02/04/rosa-parks-famous-birthday-5-facts-you-should-know/4653590002/	2. Maya Angelou, poet and writer. https://www.biography.com/writer/maya-angelou	3. Mary Seacole, nurse. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07pvv3z	4. Juan Garrido, explorer. https://face2faceafrica.com/article/7-amazing-black-explorers-who-made-a-mark-in-history	5. Michelle Obama, former First Lady and campaigner. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wePNJGL7nDU	6. David Olusoga, Historian. <i>David was born in Gateshead and grew up there</i> https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/Mn6t/david-olusoga	7. Billie Holliday, singer. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Web007zSOI	
8. Chris Ofili, Turner Prize winning artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/ten-black-british-artists-to-celebrate	9. Dr Shirley Jackson, physicist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKAGAdHajw0	10. Joseph Bologne, classical musician 'Black Mozart' https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/black-composers-who-made-classical-music-history/	11. Reasonable Blackman, Tudor silk weaver. https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/black-faces-of-tudor-england/	12. Barbara Walker, artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/celebrating-black-british-artists-in-public-collections	13. Matthew Henson, Polar Explorer. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/02/160224-polar-explorer-matthew-henson-photos/	14. Jesse Owens, Olympic medallist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quQOpJmQry4	
15. Toussaint L'Ouverture, leader of the Haitian Revolution https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/ouverture-toussaint-1743-1803/	16. The first Black Briton, taken from Black and British. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oiXLBoIQ	17. Otis Boykin, inventor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYqOoAlq5fs	18. Charles Drew, scientist. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFddM7pZ4H4	19. Florence Prince, classical musician. https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/black-composers-who-made-classical-music-history/	20. Bernadine Evaristo, writer. https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/bernadine-evaristo	21. Diane Abbott, politician. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/history-of-politics/the-first-black-parliamentarians-in-our-times/	
22. Black Poppies, soldiers in WW1. <i>Year 9 History students reading extracts of this at the moment</i> https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/black-poppies-britains-black-community-great-war/	23. Dame Doreen Lawrence, campaigner https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/baroness-lawrence-theres-no-halo-just-say-hello/	24. Betty Campbell, Wales' first black headteacher. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58721710	25. Donald Rodney, artist. https://artuk.org/discover/stories/ten-black-british-artists-to-celebrate	26. Chadwick Boseman, actor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VSx2E7WE50	27. Saint Martin de Porres, Patron Saint of racial justice, harmony and mixed-race people. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Martin-de-Porres	28. Private Arthur Roberts, WW1 soldier. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/history/black-aries/arthur-roberts/	
29. The story of Windrush. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/the-story-of-windrush/	30. Dr Anthony Roberts, QC. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/dr-john-anthony-roberts-qc/	31. James Peters, rugby player. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/bhm-firsts/james-peters-the-list-black-rugby-player/	Further resources:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton, theatre by an all black cast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5CK7XpAGHC • Black History Month website: https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/ • African Kingdoms: https://africankingdoms.co.uk/ • Painting Our Past: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/painting-our-past/ • Black and British, A Short Essential History by David Olusoga • Black and British - BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04999sm • National Archives, Black British History on Record, https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/black-history 							



Fiction Texts

Non-Fiction Texts

Poems

Popular Culture



Buffalo Soldier (13+)
Tanya Landman

Plantation slave Charley Smith is eleven when America blows itself apart, with Abraham Lincoln's decision to prohibit slavery. Charley thinks a slice of heaven is coming her way. But it's a taste of hell.



The Hate U Give (12+)
Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend Khalil.



Crompton Knights (12+)
Alex Wheatle

McKay's life on the South Crompton Estate is rough. His Mum has died, his Dad works all hours of the day to keep away the Bailiffs, and his brother is always out looking for trouble. McKay never looks for trouble, but in one mad night everything changes.



The Crossover (10+)
Kwame Alexander

Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them.



How High The Moon (14+)
Karyn Parsons

In a small town in 1940s South Carolina, Ella has got some very exciting news. She'll be leaving her grandparents and cousin Henry behind, because her mother finally wants her to join her in the busy city of Boston. But can the reality ever live up to Ella's dreams?



Black and British (13+)
David Olusoga

David Olusoga's latest edition of *Black and British* has been revised and rewritten especially for secondary school children, and explains and illustrates the much-overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain and beyond.



The Extraordinary Life of Series (10+)

Published by Penguin, this series explores the extraordinary life of many influential people such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Katherine Johnson and many more.



This Book is Anti-Racist (10+)
Tiffany Jewell

Often using personal anecdotes about her own schooling, family and experiences as a young mixed race girl, Jewell's fascinating, friendly and hugely relatable guide is essential reading for kids with questions about racism, politics and history as well as the current #blacklivesmatter movement.



Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up (14+)
Melissa Cummings-Quarry

Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher.



Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legacies (9+)

The lives and achievements of leading lights as diverse as Stormzy, basketball star LeBron James, poet and novelist Maya Angelou are chronicled in this excellent book that follows black history across many centuries to today's contemporary world.



A Change is Gonna Come (12+)

Featuring poems and stories from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors – including four previously unpublished writers – this absorbing book offers refreshing perspectives and thought-provoking questions about the meaning of change that will hit home with everyone.



Still I Rise (11+)
Maya Angelou

*"You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise."*



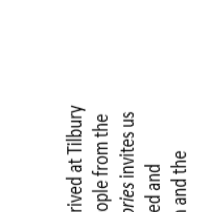
What Stephen Lawrence Taught Us (12+)
Benjamin Zephaniah

*"As we continue emptying our pockets on the pavements,
And we continue to ask ourselves
Why is it so official
That black people are so often killed
Without killers?"*



Half Caste (12+)
John Agard

*"but you must come back tomorrow
Wid de whale of yu eye
And de whale of yu ear
And de whale of yu mind."*



British Library – Windrush Stories

In June 1948 the *Empire Windrush* arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. 70 years on, *Windrush Stories* invites us to consider a longer, more complicated and ongoing relationship between Britain and the Caribbean.



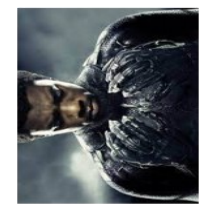
**TV
BBC Adaptation of Malorie Blackman's Naughts and Crosses.**

In a dystopian London, Sephy and Callum fall in love despite the odds. Can they breach the divide between the black elite and white underclass?



**Podcast
The Black Curriculum Podcast**

Available on Spotify and Apple Podcast, this podcast explores British Black history with short discussion on topics such as sound system culture and the Bristol bus boycott.



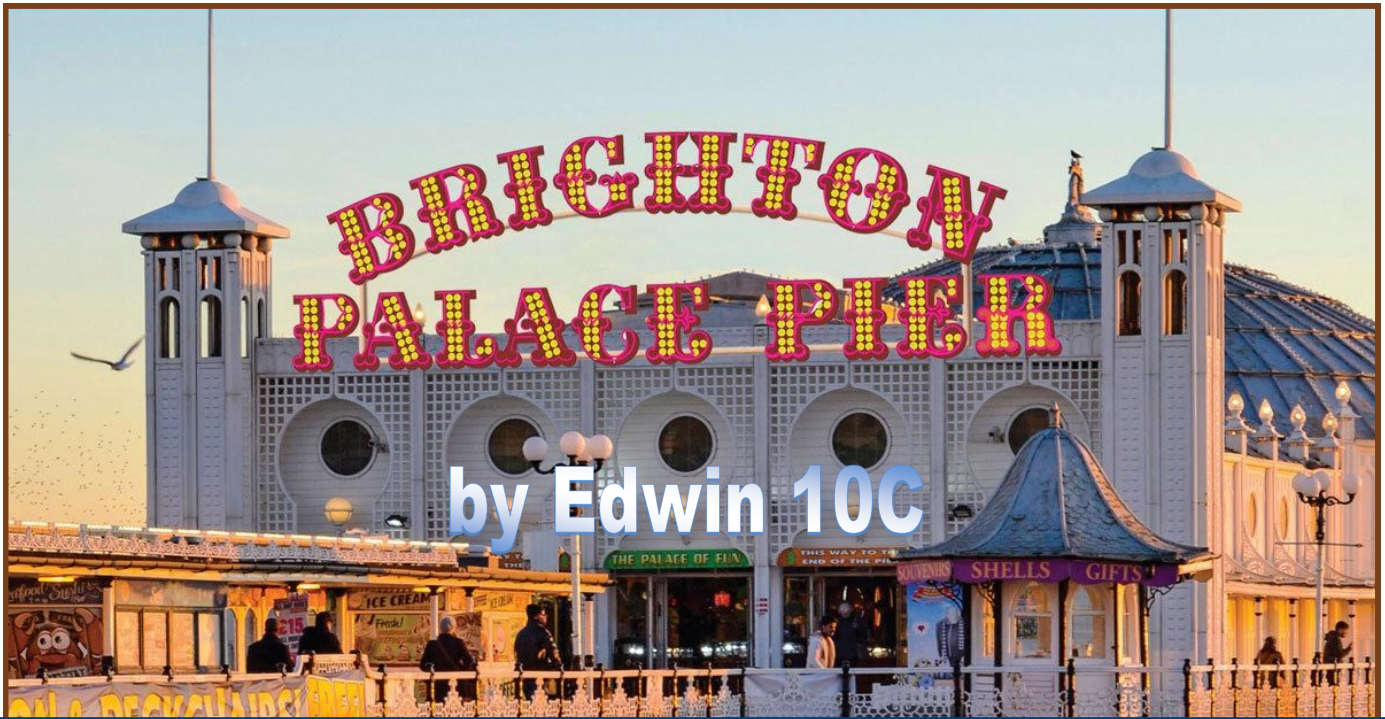
**Film
Black Panther**

T'Challa is the king of Wakanda, the secretive and highly advanced African nation, as well as the powerful warrior known as the Black Panther. This is the first Marvel film with a predominantly black cast.



**Art
Kara Walker**

Kara Elizabeth Walker is an American contemporary painter, silhouettist, print-maker who explores races and identity in her work. She is best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes.



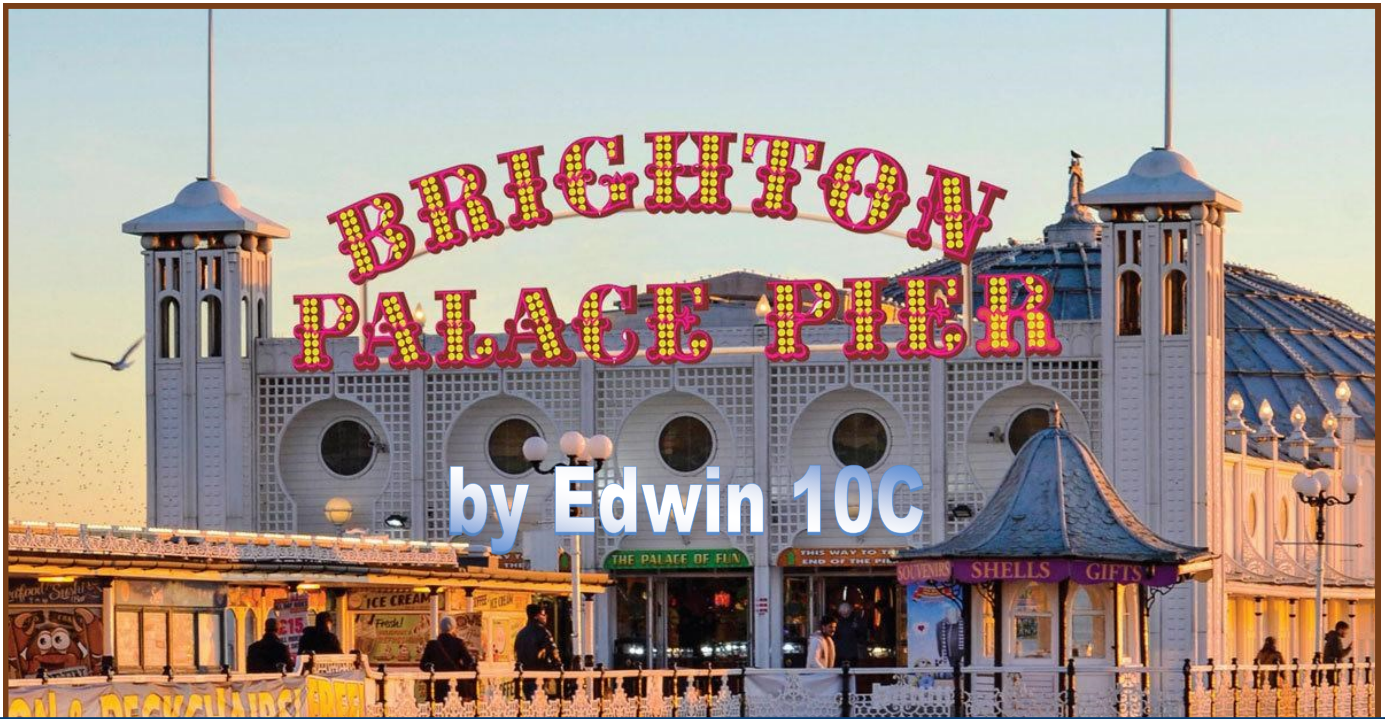
Originally named The Brighton Marine and Palace Pier, Brighton Palace Pier was built in 1899. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of visiting the pier last summer. It was a wonderful experience, and not only is the pier one of Brighton's best attractions, but it has a fascinating history too!

The Pier overall is made up of six major parts. First of all is the pavement that the pier is situated by. Here, many vendors set up stalls of all types of crafts, from sunglasses to dog leashes. As well as this, events are held here too. When I visited, a motorcycle exhibition was taking place. People came from all over to showcase their motorbikes, some plain and some covered in British accessories. It was interesting seeing all the different motorbikes, despite not knowing much about them myself. The second part is the beach. A sedimentary, stone-covered area, the beach quickly filled with people, from groups of ten to solo beachgoers, and its vast area allowed for the large amount of visitors.

Next, is the ocean. From casual swimmers, who stay near to the coast, to windsurfers and jet skiers, who put on a show near the end of the pier. There is a place for everyone.

Most probably the most popular area, the boardwalk, boasts over a dozen different treats to eat. From savoury burgers and hot dogs to sweet donuts crepes, there was a large selection of delicacies. As well as this, further down is Brighton Pier's own restaurant, the gorgeous, spacious yet cosy, Palm Court Restaurant. Whether visiting as a family or going solo, the boardwalk is full of picturesque views, dozens of foods to choose, and hundreds of visitors.

After a short walk down the boardwalk, you reach the Arcade. Packed with adults and children alike, there are over 120 games, from penny pushers to virtual shooter games for all ages.



by Edwin 10C

Finally, is the amusement park. By the back of the pier, overlooking the ocean where people windsurf and boat, is an abundance of rides for children, adults, and families. From the Helter Skelter to the fast-paced looping Turbo, there is something for everyone. This is where most revenue for the park comes from, with a choice of either paying for the specific rides that you want to ride when boarding them, or buying a wristband that allows you access to all rides. Both times that I visited, I opted for the wristband, which allowed me to access every ride much easier. Overall, Brighton Pier is a great place for a family outing. Whether you are seeking a trip to the beach or are seeking a thrill in the amusement park, there's plenty to do.

Furthermore, the pier has quite a history too. The Brighton Pier is Brighton's 3rd pier, built to replace the Chain Pier, which was destroyed in a severe storm. The current pier has survived through its own share of attacks and damages, from the Second World War and IRA attacks to boats crashing into it and infernos blazing through it. There were changes in management, changes in attractions, and changes of use, and yet, to this day, in Brighton Pier's 123rd year, it still stands strong as the best and biggest attraction in the South East.



Nobel Prize Physics

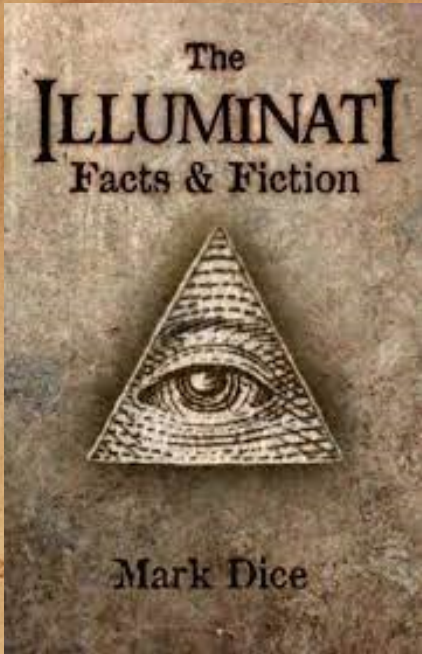
by Erim 11C

The Nobel prize in Physics was just recently announced to physicists Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger, and proved the entanglement theory in quantum mechanics.

John Clauser, one of the scientists involved, discovered the entanglement theory years ago and was gaslighted into believing that his discoveries weren't correct. It started in 1972 in UC Berkley when he discovered something about photons. He fired thousands of light particles, which should've brought extremely trivial results, but this wasn't the case. Some of these particles were "matching up", which was considered "scientifically impossible" at the time. In simple terms, the entanglement theory discovered showed how photons which are light years away can match up meaning they can be doing the exact same thing at the exact same time.

Measuring one of the widely separated pairs of particles could instantaneously change the results of measuring other particles, regardless of it being light years away. In other words, it proved how widely separated objects aren't independent of one another, but rather, providing an invisible quantum connection, which is capable of linking these two objects together, or "entangling them".

Another thing that's over-looked is that particles cant contain many hidden variables and information about what state they'll be in, before they're measured. The joint work of all of these scientists proved that quantum entanglement can be leveraged for applications like quantum computing, quantum teleportation. These technological implications are "exciting" to the world of both science and business.



The Illuminati

by Erim 11C

During the 18th century, new ideals of rationalism, religious freedom and universal human rights challenged the catholic church's heavy influence over public affairs. A man carrying some of these ideas decided to spread this through

creating a secret society that would bring to light the shortcomings of the churches ideology, called 'The Illuminati'. The creator Weishaupt modelled aspects of his secret society off the Freemasons, who originally were an elite stoneworker's guild in the Middle Ages, who had gone down from passing down the craft of masonry, to promoting ideals of knowledge and reason. Weishaupt joined the Freemasons in a goal to recruit as many as he could to expand his Illuminati, and by 1784, the numbers grew to around 600, including influential scholars and politicians. However, the creation of secret societies was banned, and Weishaupt was exiled, but this was fine because they believed Illuminati would become more notorious in their "after-life". Even after this ban, they were still accused of being responsible for political upheaval and even the French revolution.

Though the idea of this group creating political upheaval is still alive and well today, there is no evidence that the Illuminati survived or even reformed. However, the ideas that spurred Weishaupt to create the Illuminati still spread, becoming a foundation and basis for many Western governments even today. It was a community said to have represented a wave of change that was underway, when it was founded.

So do you think the Illuminati isn't real or is that what global figureheads want you to think? What do you think?

Yu-Gi-Oh Club Review

by Adriel 10W



On Tuesday 11th of October, I went to Yu-Gi- Oh club during lunchtime, and I must say that it was a really great experience to see the sense of community around the club, which is run by Mr Walter.

Yu-Gi-Oh is a duelling card game in which you play against another person in order to diminish their “Life Points” to zero , which is achieved by the cards you have and use, and by doing so, you win the game. When you join the club, you are given a starter deck which you can use to duel, and with each win, you can build up your collection of cards.

I would really encourage people in KS5 to come and see what this club is about, because I believe that it would be a great experience for you to have fun and create new friendships along the way.

This club runs on Thursdays in A5



It's Raining Prime Ministers!

by Thomas 8A

An adult Mayfly's lifespan consists of 24 hours, the shortest of any creature on Earth. In this time, they mate, hunt and survive until the dawn arises the following day, in which most of them will ultimately perish. This fact loosely ties into the sheer absurdity of how many new Prime Ministers have emerged in the last half decade or so.

In the last 6 years there have been 5 prime ministers. However, the previous 5 before this accounted for 31 years, so you can imply that politics has really lost its balance and became more erratic. Last Monday, Rishi Sunak, the first Asian-British prime minister and leader of the Conservative party, was elected by his own party to represent them, after Liz Truss' reign of just 45 days as prime minister ended. At this point, you may be wondering how the government has let democracy fall this far down the rabbit hole.

The first factor to take into account is the economic crisis across the world, which has been further exacerbated in Britain. Firstly, the cost of living crisis, due to the war between Ukraine and Russia, has dramatically affected our economy, (this is because of importing and sanctions on Russia leading them to a scarcity of supply) with crops fluctuating to a higher price as well as for petrol and energy. Secondly, part of the reason Liz Truss resigned is because she introduced dramatic plans to cut taxes for the rich and make a series of other unexpected moves. The international traders did not approve of this plan and decreased the value of the British pound.

Another small social reason for this volatility is because in this society of social media and 24 hour news, there is a vast and vigorous change in political opinions fairly quickly as people are influenced across different media and even occasional propaganda.

Personally I hope that Rishi Sunak will try and put the pieces back together of our shattered government and make the right decisions in order for us to excel and move forward as a country.

War Video Games: What Can They Teach Us About Reality? by Victor 10H

Games, and play in the wider context, is an integral part of humanity. It allows us to connect with others, and the prospect of winning gives us a challenge to strive for.

Video games can shape new worlds, far removed from daily life, and putting us into these situations and in the shoes of these characters is a powerful way of experiencing a multitude of rich and diverse stories.

But before video games, there were board games. Examples such as Chess or Battleships were an excellent and popular form of entertainment for centuries. This set the stage for the immersive artwork and interactive nature of video games. Whether we play on tables or on consoles, games are a great medium for stories yet to be told.

Our lives have also been shaped in almost every way through the conflict and violence of real war. Video games have put conflict as a backdrop for gameplay, allowing us to experience how it was for actual people in actual war. This also means it hugely influences how we remember and portray war in our individual lives.

War's drama and tragedy make for compelling stories and have become a key part of almost every culture on Earth. War hits home in forms of paintings, depicting the horrors of trench warfare, books illustrate the destruction and suffering war causes individuals, and theatre has a variety of heart-breaking plays about friends and family lost in combat. New technology has only facilitated these stories to get through; movies documenting the holocaust shocked both allied and ex-Nazi eyes, Radio fanatics would tune to radio signals of WW2 soldiers on the frontlines, and people all around the world would see images of the Cold War for decades after. Of these new technologies, videogames is one of the most recent inventions. They only started to gain a large audience in the late 1980's and 1990's, where game developers found a huge and ready market for games about war.

These days, Britain is a nation of gamers. In 2021, more than half the adult population regularly played videogames, and we spent more than £7 billion in that year alone, which is more than we spent on music or cinema. Due to how much we like social activities and the challenge of heading toe-to-toe with other people, it's also no surprise that all of the most popular games right now are multiplayer, or at least

has multiplayer capability. War and conflict are a major fascination in today's society, making it a backbone of the videogame industry.

Videogames do, however, allow us to do things we wouldn't be able to do in the real world. You can co-create the plot with the game, and due to how immersive videogames are compared to other media, you sometimes even feel responsible for the plot and the actions you do. Not only do players actively participate in the narrative, but sometimes even directly decide the directions their character make. This gives a deep connection to the character in the game. Sometimes, they might even be creations of the players themselves, reflecting who they might wish to be in reality. This means that players truly do care about their character's actions, and what happens to them, which can cause some deeply moving storytelling moments.

There are a variety of videogames in the war genre, and I've decided to class them into 3 general types: 'Arcade', 'Realistic' and 'Simulator'.

Arcade is when a war game is extremely 'dehumanised', often even without actual humans in it. These games tend to be mobile games, and the art style is very cartoonish and doesn't reflect actual war in any sense or manner, apart from featuring references such as guns, uniforms, and Helmets.



The Bloons TD series is an example of 'arcade' games.

Realistic is a game which often has human characters and is set in a historical or semi-historical situation; games such as Call of Duty, Sniper Elite or War Thunder reflect this genre. Although it isn't always on a 1:1 scale with real life events, it's still very imaginable for it to happen in a real-life scenario.

Lastly, the Simulator genre is the least popular for your average gamer ; out of the three, they most accurately reflect what real conflict is like. In fact, these types of games can be so accurate to real life that they even can be used by the military itself to train recruits!

Shooter games, mostly from the 'Realistic' genre, are some of the most popular games. Whether it's the thrill of the fast-paced action, involving reflexes and coordination, or the satisfaction of sniping stealthily from a huge distance, shooters have been involved in the most cutting-edge development in gaming technology, including graphics and sound quality. Many video game developers also

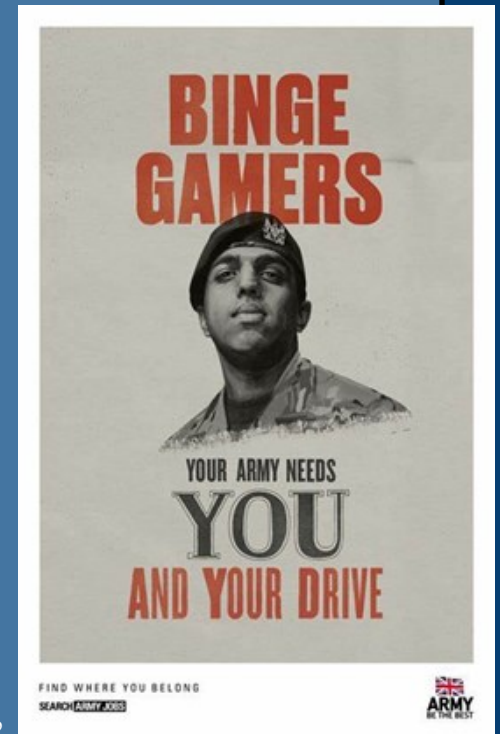


Gunner, HEAT, PC! Is a 'simulator' style tank game comprising of modelling tanks and their real-life behaviours and characteristics as closely as possible.

make video games turn the suffering of war into fun entertainment, and while we are aware the situation in the game is not real, a certain tension still exists. The chaos on the screen is ever more accurately representing brutal reality. We are given a gun into our hands in the shooter, we have to assume a role, take aim at the enemy, and pull the trigger.

Games like multiplayer shooters have a steep learning curve, and the best players are experts of the battlefields in their respective games, and this interactivity has put them on the radar of military forces looking for people with some form of experience, and new ways to train recruits for battle using less time and money. An example are Xbox 360 controllers used for operating the camera of 'Desert Hawk' drones in the Afghanistan conflict back in the late 2000s. The soldiers' familiarity with the controller from using it back home meant that it was much easier to adjust to the new mission profile, but they often commented how operating a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) is not like playing a video game. These perks have incentivised the military to turn to gamers to fill their ranks.

However, we must keep in mind that no matter how immersive the game is, or how much of it is based on real life events, videogames are supposed to be entertaining and fun. War in itself is a horrific experience to live through; people die, families are separated forever, and nowhere else do you find more suffering than that of the mother who lost her son, or the child without parents, or the couple who lost their homes and their livelihoods when a bomb fell on them. War videogames are a hyper-reality of conflict, which makes them much more commercially appealing. It's very easy to focus on completing your objective regardless of how many lives or respawns you use up in the process.



Inspired by the Lord Kitchener image of WW1, these 'Your Army Needs You' poster campaigns aimed to subvert negative ideas about 'millennials' and to show the army values the drive and motivation of keen videogame players.

If I had to summarise everything into one sentence from what I learnt playing war video games, it would be this:

'I hope I don't have to experience it in real life'

Concrete Rose

by Gabriel 10H

Concrete Rose is a book written by Angie Thomas, the writer of 'The Hate U Give', a book we have made a part of our curriculum. It is the last book in the 'The Hate U Give' Trilogy and is centred around the backstory of Maverick and answering key questions such as giving the answer to where Mav gets all his wisdom

Published in 2021, it discusses black manhood and the fact that success comes not from your environment, but from your choices in it. As well as discussing black manhood, it discusses the social and economic challenges of growing up as a black man. We see Mav being crushed by social expectations, being forced to stay strong when he can barely hold things together.

Not only the expectations of black men are weighing him down, but also the torch Mav has to carry as the son of the former leader of the King Lords proves him troublesome, in the book. With many challenges Mav faces; a new baby on the way and gang troubles, Mav may just crumble.

The title of the Story comes from Tupac Shakur, a great influence for Angie Thomas. It tells the story of a rose that grows from a crack in the concrete, defying the laws of nature. The concrete symbolises the hardship of the ghetto and the rose conveys the greatness that can rise from adverse circumstances.



Black History Month

2 Important Figures

by Mustafa 10H

The Importance of Black History Month

People with African and Caribbean descent have made significant contributions to British history for generations. Advocates claim that their worth and contributions to society are usually undervalued, misrepresented, or ignored. To combat this, BHM allows people to become more aware about the influence of Afro-Caribbean individuals in modern society.

The event was first celebrated in the UK in the year 1987 – eighteen months after the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC). The month also allows people of black heritage to understand their history in a positive way – **not just constantly reminded of the negative.**

Mary Seacole

Mary Jane Seacole, 23rd Nov 1805 – 14th May 1881, was not only a nurse in the Crimean war, but also a businesswoman, author, and Scottish-Jamaican woman. Seacole broke many social norms and proved many prejudiced societies wrong, healing people using traditional methods found in culture. She travelled to areas where people were in desperate need of assistance demonstrating that anyone can accomplish great things, regardless of their gender or skin colour.



Mary Seacole was granted the Order of Merit from the Jamaican government in 1991.

“Beside the nettle ever grows the cure for its sting”



Elizabeth Freeman

Elizabeth Freeman, a strong-minded, brave woman. She lived circa 1744 – Dec 28th, 1829, and still serves today as a strong reminder of the power that comes with speech and will power. Freeman, formerly named “Mum Bett” was the first enslaved African woman, let alone person, to file and win a freedom case in 1790.

“Any time while I was a slave, if one minute’s freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told that I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it just to stand one minute on God’s earth, a free woman.”

Black History Month

Classical Musicians

by Okeoghene 10A



Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745-1799)

He was known as 'le Mozart noir' (The Black Mozart) and he is remembered as one of the first Classical mus-

icians with African origins. He was born of a wealthy plantation owner and one of his slaves. He wrote string quartets, symphonies and concertos in the late 18th century. He led one of the best Orchestras in Europe 'Le Concert d'Amateurs' and even the president at the time complimented him as the most accomplished man in Europe.

On the flip side. Mozart was actually jealous of him because during Saint-George's successful period, Mozart's music was going unnoticed and a theory is that he used this jealousy as inspiration. In an opera he hosted, he made the villain a black character 'The Magic Flute'. It is just a theory though.

Link to his music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmiuh_OL2Zg



Florence Price (1887-1953)

She was the first African-American woman to have her music performed by a major symphony orchestra in 1933. A music critic during the time had heard the work and ironically declared it 'a faultless work' and 'a work that speaks its own message with restraint yet passion'

She was born in Arkansas in 1887. She was a deeply religious person and bought traditional church music into her pieces and she was influenced by other people like Dvorak Tchaikovsky.

Link to her music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s4yY_A2A2k



BEST OF THE BETHS

Thank you for reading this edition of the newspaper!

For our second edition of the year, we covered an interesting range of topics from the NBA and football to Black History Month and Politics.

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

msstevens@beths.bexley.sch.uk

-Regards from the Newsletter team