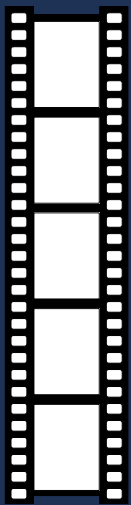


# BEST OF THE BETHS



# THE BEST OF MARCH

# BEST OF THE BETHS



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Edited by Edwin 12C1 and Oke 12A1

# AM - FAVOURITE WORST NIGHTMARE

HADI 10A

## Album Background

Favourite Worst Nightmare (2007) is the critically acclaimed second album by English indie rock band Arctic Monkeys. It experiments with heavier guitar usage and complex drum patterns and so was recorded within one month to achieve a higher quality, yet more unpolished sound. It debuted at number 1 on the Albums Chart and went 4x platinum, spawning chart hits such as 'Fluorescent Adolescent' and 'Brianstorm' and even a viral TikTok song in recent years.



## Track Listing

1. Brianstorm
2. Teddy Picker
3. D is for Dangerous
4. Balaclava
5. Fluorescent Adolescent
6. Only Ones Who Know
7. Do Me a Favour
8. This House is a Circus
9. If You Were There, Beware
10. The Bad Thing
11. Old Yellow Bricks
12. 505

# ARCTIC MONKEYS

## The Real Arctic Monkeys

BANANA BANANA  
BANANA!!!



# AM - FAVOURITE WORST NIGHTMARE

HADI 10A

## My Review

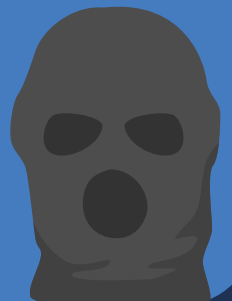


1. Brianstorm - **11/10** - Probably the heaviest song on the album. Folks named Brian should feel called out.
2. Teddy Picker - **11/10** - A riff-based song about celebrities. Contains some fairly suggestive lyrics.
3. D is for Dangerous - **7/10** - The album title comes from this song. The band's drummer sings co-lead vocals.
4. Balaclava - **10/10** - Quite poetic. Also quite an earworm.
5. Fluorescent Adolescent - **8/10** - A piece of catchy pop rock. The video for this song is a piece of art; it's truly a classic in the art of film-making.
6. Only Ones Who Know - **6/10** - The track's good, but ruins the pacing of the album. It's a very calm song in the midst of heavy garage rock and anthemic pop rock. Also, I know.
7. Do Me a Favour - **8/10** - Someone should do this man a favour.
8. This House is a Circus - **7/10** - From this and Teddy Picker, I conclude that the Arctic Monkeys don't like the music industry.
9. If You Were There, Beware - **9/10** - Continuation of the previous song. I guess that he's threatening partygoers now.
10. The Bad Thing - **8/10** - Pretty aptly named.
11. Old Yellow Bricks - **10/10** - 'Moving to New York' by the Wombats but with references to the Wizard of Oz.
12. 505 - **11/10** - Back to 505, back to 505, back to 505, back to 505, back to 505, back to 505, back to 505...

Check out Brianstorm,  Picker and 505!

I bestow upon this album...

7  10!





# LEADBEATER'S ASSISTED DYING PROPOSAL



SEREN 12W1



Labour MP Kim Leadbeater has proposed an amendment bill to the assisted dying bill in the UK and whilst many members of public and parliament support it, for many it is a cause for concern.



What is assisted dying and what is the law that surrounds it currently in the UK? It generally refers to a person who is terminally ill receiving lethal drugs from a medical practitioner, which they administer themselves. At present the act is illegal and has been since 1961 and is punishable by up to 14 years in prison. On the 16th October 2024 Leadbeater presented the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill 2024-2025 to parliament. It proposes giving terminally ill people the right to choose to end their life. For England and Wales it states that anyone wanting to end their life must be aged 18 or over, have the mental capacity, terminally ill and must be in the final 6 months of their life, in order to be able to request it from a doctor to end their life. If the person meets the eligibility criteria and their application is approved, they would have to wait 14 days before they may proceed. A doctor would have to prepare the substance being used to end the patient's life but the patient would have to take it themselves. Whilst the initial proposal, entailed that a High Court judge would have to offer their approval, Leadbeater has suggested instead that the applications should be overseen by a panel of experts. The panel would be chosen by a commission and would be led by a High Court judge or Senior Former judge. This is because there are concerns that a High Court judge does not have the capacity to rule on each individual case.



Due to it being proposed by an MP who is not a government minister, it is a private members bill. The bill has to be scrutinised by parliament and has to go through particular stages for approval. There is the risk of it being 'talked out' by only a few stages in, because particular MPs have a lot to say on it. As of now, however, the committee are holding public meetings and considering expert opinions with hopes that the process will be finished by the time for the bill to return to the House of Commons on the 25th April 2025. Once it is, MPs would have the opportunity to vote and debate on it and suggest changes to it they deem crucial. It is possible the bill could fall and not become a law at all.



# LEADBEATER'S ASSISTED DYING PROPOSAL

SEREN 12W1

At present among those MPs who have approved the bill is Chancellor Rachel Reeves and the PM himself Sir Keir Starmer and former PM Rishi Sunak along with a minority of Conservative MPs. Those who are not in support are Deputy PM Angela Rayner and the Health and Justice Secretary along with many Conservative MPs. Those who are not in support of the bill often hold the view that people may feel pressured to end their life and believe changes should be made to palliative care. Leadbeater argues that the option should be made available to people because despite, good palliative care being accessible, some people *"have a horrible, harrowing death."*



# A COMPLETE UNKNOWN REVIEW

RONNIE 12H3

A Complete Unknown is a 2024 biographical film directed and produced by James Mangold, following the life of a young Bob Dylan arriving in New York. The movie stars Timothée Chalamet as *Dylan*, Monica Barbaro as *Joan Baez*, Edward Norton as *Pete Seeger*, and Elle Fanning as *Sylvie Russo*. With an 81% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, the motion picture attained eight Academy Award nominations at the 2024/25 Oscars, in which Chalamet is up for Best Actor, Barbaro for Best Supporting Actress, and Norton for Best Supporting Actor. Currently, Chalamet and Barbaro are considered one of the frontrunners for their respective categories.

I have currently watched A Complete Unknown 3 times, and each was more enjoyable than the last. As a long-lasting fan of Chalamet - having been following him since I watched 'Call Me By Your Name' back in 2011 - I was quite excited for this film, albeit never having listened to Bob Dylan in detail before. I thus went into the cinema quite blind. Upon leaving, however, it seemed as though a part of me had changed; I developed a love for Bob Dylan, having now listened to over 1,000 minutes of his music since, and a new level of respect for Timothée's outstanding acting.

The method in which Dylan's story is depicted drew me back again and again, hence the 3 watches. From the cinematography to the screenwriting to the acting, this was most likely my favourite movie of the 2024/25 season - beating *Anora* by a small margin. Upon my second watch, I sped over to my Letterboxd account and added it to my Top 4 movies of all time. That is how remarkably good I deem the film to be.

My favourite part of the movie, though, has to be Monica Barbaro's performance as Joan Baez. Whilst I am not a super-fan of Baez in actuality, her portrayal in the movie and Barbaro's ability to convey emotion and tension in a Dylanian context is outstanding. Whilst Zoe Saldaña is eyeing to beat her for Best Supporting Actress, it is of my opinion that Barbaro wholly deserves it.

Overall, I would give, as hinted towards with the film's invasion into my Top 4, the film 5 stars. If you have not yet seen it, I prompt you to. Some cinemas are still showing it, but it is also on digital streaming now, too.



**"TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET GIVES AN OSCAR-WORTHY PERFORMANCE IN ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2024."**





# SUPERBOWL LIX

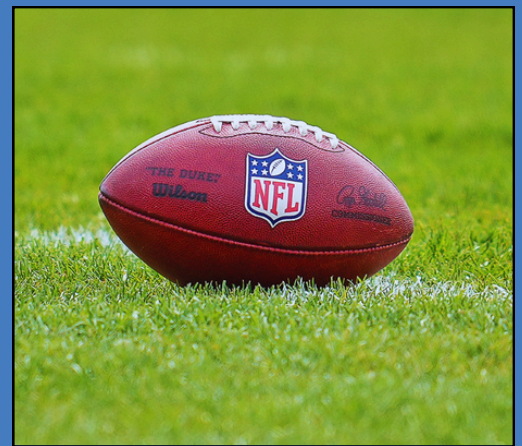


OLUWANIFEMI 11A



While football remains the most dominant and popular sport in the UK, American Football captures the heart of millions of Americans, and this Superbowl LIX (59 in Roman Numerals as it's the 59th year it's been held) offered some intriguing highlights worth sharing. In simple terms, the Superbowl is like the Champions League and Club World Cup, held as one game for American Football. This year, it was the Philadelphia Eagles VS the Kansas City Chiefs, with the Eagles winning 40-22, ending the Chiefs' hopes of winning the Superbowl for the 3rd time in a row.

The Philadelphia Eagles came into the game having the NFL's top ranked defence, and they proved this by holding the Chiefs to 0 points in the 1st half, whilst the Eagles had 24 points. The 2x MVP and 3x Superbowl Champion Patrick Mahomes struggled against this defence, committing 3 turnovers, a 38 yard interception by Eagles' rookie Cooper Dejean (second rookie in Superbowl history to do this), and being limited to only 23 yards thrown in the 1st half, the second-lowest in Superbowl history!



Although the Chiefs started the second half with a 22-6 rally, it wasn't enough to win thanks to an incredible MVP performance from Jalen Hurts. The Eagles' quarterback completed 17/22 total passes and covered 221 yards, scored 3 touchdowns, and rushed for 72 yards, a Superbowl record for quarterbacks.

	1	2	3	4	Total
KC	0	0	6	16	22
PHI	7	17	10	6	40



# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: SEASON PREVIEW

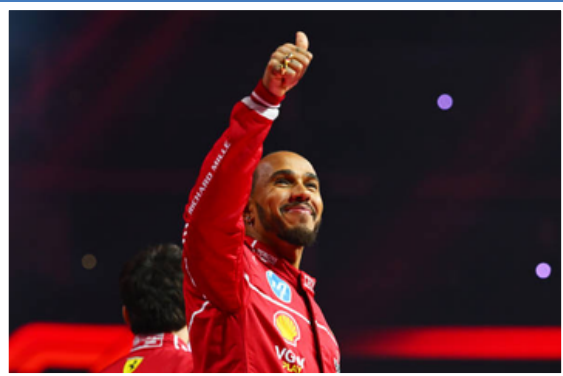
FAEQ 9B



Greetings again, readers! Hopefully, you had a restful half-term break as we embark on the second half of this academic year! I am Faeq Ojelade of 9B, and last time I covered a season preview for the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series. If you guessed from it that I'm a NASCAR fan, you'd be absolutely correct! But despite that, I also have some 'wheel knowledge' about F1, for I was a fan of it before. And now, I shall apply said knowledge to give you a season preview of the 2025 F1 World Championship, starting with...

## **\*Numerous faces in numerous places!**

Can you really say it better than that? Only two of the ten teams haven't changed their driver line-up for this year, and they are reigning World Constructors' Champions McLaren and Aston Martin. There have been big transfers, though, with 7-time champion Lewis Hamilton (#44) joining Ferrari after 12 seasons with Mercedes (half of which saw him win the championship). Not just that, but Liam Lawson (#30) has been promoted to a drive at Red Bull following the somewhat abrupt departure of Sergio Pérez. Additionally, 6 rookies are to make their full-time debuts in F1, including Lawson, Oliver Bearman (#87 Haas) and the 2024 Formula 2 Drivers' Champion: Gabriel Bortoleto (#5 Kick Sauber).



Lewis Hamilton (#44 Ferrari) gives a thumbs-up to the crowd from the stage during the Formula 1 75 Live launch event at the O2 Arena in London, England on February 18th 2025. Hamilton will drive for Ferrari after a dozen years at Mercedes, the longest and most successful driver-team partnership in Formula One history.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**

## **\*The removal of the fastest-lap bonus point...**

Now, I want to touch upon this briefly, but the bonus point for setting the fastest lap of a Grand Prix has been scrapped for 2025. Since its inception in 2017, it has given drivers that finish in the top-10 something extra to compete for, and teams a chance to strategically deny their direct rivals this extra point. But, it may not have really succeeded in improving the spectacle, and has often been earned by drivers that have happened to have a large gap to the car behind to the point where they could pit for fresh tyres. Maybe interestingly, while F1 has dropped this, NASCAR and its premier partner Xfinity have inceptioned it for 2025 onwards in its top three series. You might find that interesting, you might not even care; I just wanted to put that out there as a bonus fact!



# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: SEASON PREVIEW

FAEQ 9B



## **\*Changes to the calendar!**

This may not be overly exciting, but Formula One has continued to make changes to it in the sense that it creates a better geographical flow of races for 2025. To begin with, the season begins down-under, as the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne will be the season-opener for the first time since 2019. Additionally, the Grands Prix in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are moved into April as the Islamic festival of Ramadan goes on throughout March. However, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix weekend on December 5th-7th will still be the last of 24 this year, and the season finale for a 12th season in succession.

Max Verstappen (then/now: #1 Red Bull) leads the field at the start of the 2024 Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park Circuit in Melbourne, Australia on March 24th 2024. The Australian Grand Prix will be the first Grand Prix of the 2025 season, and the first race of the year for the first time since 2019.

**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



## **\*And last, but definitely not least, the championship picture!**

2024 was a relatively competitive season, with 7 drivers from 4 different teams winning multiple Grands Prix! Lewis Hamilton (#44 Ferrari) made a return to victory in F1 at Silverstone after 945 days, as Lando Norris (#4 McLaren) and Charles Leclerc (#16 Ferrari) had notable seasons highlighted by first career wins and victory at Monaco respectively. But while Ferrari and McLaren (and arguably Mercedes) caught up to Red Bull, Max Verstappen (#1 Red Bull) held on to win a fourth consecutive World Drivers' Championship. So can he make it five in a row in 2025?

Well, the odds at Bet365 have Norris sitting as the outright odds-on title favourite over Verstappen by over 11%. After their on-track tussles last season, it'd be interesting to see how a potential full-season title battle between the two unfolds. However, the Ferraris could well be involved, with Leclerc and Hamilton in 3rd and 4th respectively. What about Oscar Piastri (#81 McLaren) and George Russell (#63 Mercedes)? Piastri may well represent a strong outside bet after having some breakthrough performances like his victory in Azerbaijan last year, and Russell is set to lead Mercedes in 2025 with new teammate Kimi Antonelli (#12) being promoted from Formula 2. Now, where exactly do these drivers stand?

# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: SEASON PREVIEW

FAEQ 9B



## \*Odds-On Favourites for the 2025 F1 World Drivers' Championship:

- 1) | Lando Norris (#4 McLaren) - 36.36%
- 2) | Max Verstappen (#1 Red Bull)\* - 25.00%
- 3) | Charles Leclerc (#16 Ferrari) - 18.18%
- 4) | Lewis Hamilton (#44 Ferrari) - 15.38%
- 5) | Oscar Piastri (#81 McLaren) - 11.11%
- 6) | George Russell (#63 Mercedes) - 7.69%

(\***SMALL NOTE:** Please beware that all probabilities above are implied, meaning they are not literal but rather serve as a rough indicator. The odds are from Bet365, but have been censored down into probability figures to put them across to you as maturely and sensibly as possible. Odds shown are as of March 2nd 2025 at 17:00 GMT.)



Max Verstappen (then/now: #1 Red Bull) celebrates after winning the 2024 Formula One World Drivers' Championship following the 2024 Las Vegas Grand Prix at Las Vegas Strip Circuit in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 23rd 2024. Verstappen enters the 2025 season as the reigning World Drivers' Champion.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**

That is just a glimpse as to how this 2025 F1 World Championship could potentially play out! Hopefully, you enjoyed the article (as well as maybe finding out more about the sport), and if you wish to comment to me about this, please private message me via Teams and/or Outlook. Don't worry, for I would really like to hear from you and shall respond as quickly as possible. If there are any questions about the Best of the Beths newsletter platform, please ask, in some form, Miss Stevens.

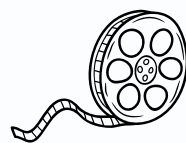
As stated, there's quite a bit to look forward to in Formula One in 2025, but that's just a sneak-peek. Again, hopefully you enjoyed the main article (especially if you're an F1/motorsports enthusiast), and I'll hopefully appear again for you next time on the Best of the Beths newsletter. Until then, goodbye! :)

**[WRITERS' NOTE:** This article was last updated by me on March 2nd 2025. Facts and statistics within the article are as of that date, and may be outdated with the 2025 March edition's release (including articles produced for February). Nevertheless, hopefully you enjoyed the article.]



# MIKEY MADISON & TIMOTHEE CHALAMET

RONNIE 12H3



On March 2, 2025, the 97th Academy Awards (informally known as the Oscars) were hosted at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. Amongst the nominations, the 2024 motion picture *Anora* saw a sweep, attaining wins through the majority of major categories - Best Editing, Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Director. With this, however, it also saw the film's lead, Mikey Madison, take Best Actress.

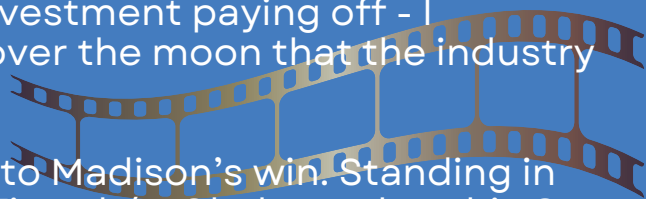
Having followed Madison's career since her 2022 appearance in *Scream 5*, her rise from being obscure and almost entirely unknown to forcing her way into the A-List via *Anora* was astonishing. She has always been extremely talented, but her portrayal of Anora Mikheeva visibly pushed her theatrical bounds to a completely other level - so much so that the Oscars viewed her as the worthy candidate.

However, much controversy had plagued her nomination. After the first few months of the announcement of the nominees, including other names such as Cynthia Erivo and Fernanda Torres, her and Demi Moore were picked as the front-runners; except Moore was deemed to have the upper hand. As time progressed and Madison became the most awarded actress of the 2024/2025 season holistically, though, her chances began to increase. Nevertheless, the internet upon the night of the 97th Academy Awards had Moore picked as their predicted winner (and many argued rightfully so).

When Emma Stone read out Madison's name, then, many were shocked - but I, for one, was indescribably happy. To see her win the most prestigious award within the field almost felt like an investment paying off - I recognised the skill in *Scream 5*, and was over the moon that the industry finally paid attention, too.

Despite this, my mood was quite low prior to Madison's win. Standing in front of the television, I had just watched Timothée Chalamet lose his Oscar to Adrien Brody; something which I took *personally*. After Chalamet's snub for his outstanding performance in the 2017 *Call Me By Your Name*, I thought the Academy would have fixed up this time, prepared to reward his (arguably) superior performance. His portrayal of Bob Dylan was far above Brody's performance, in my opinion, and feel free to read more about this in my alternate article on *A Complete Unknown* (2024).

As a big fan of Chalamet's and a genuine admirer of his artistry and work ethic, I was understandably disappointed, then. But the closing of the night with Mikey's win and Sean Baker's directorial award lifted my spirits, and closed the 97th Academy Awards off as a night to remember. I am still annoyed Madison and Chalamet did not get a photo together, though!



# THE OSCARS: POLITICALLY CORRECT OR POLITICALLY PERFORMATIVE?



EVIE 12A2



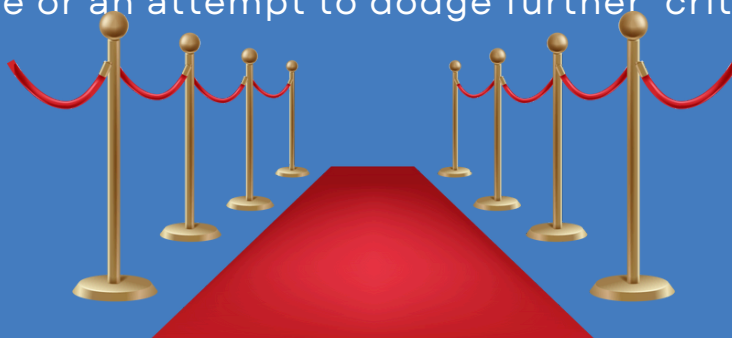
This year's Oscars was full of wins and subjective losses, but perhaps the most shocking occurrence (or lack thereof) is the politics. Despite America's highly controversial recent election, the awards seemed to avoid contributing to the country's political discussions.

It is highly notable that 'Trump' and 'politics' were largely absent from the ceremony with there being relatively few references to politics. The most direct commentary alluding to Trump and the turbulence in the capital was subtly referenced to by the host: Conan O'Brien. As he referenced the now Oscar-winning film "Anora", he said "You know 'Anora' is having a good night ... I guess Americans are excited to see somebody finally stand up to a powerful Russian." This comment was the closest reference to Trump's presidency and more specifically his public blow-up in the Oval Office with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. The discourse involved Trump chastising Zelenskyy for his harsh words against President Putin of Russia.

Aside from alluding to the country's "divisive politics", O'Brien steered clear of discussion on any politically related issues that could be perceived as controversial. Mr O'Brien's monologue focus remained on Hollywood. However, whether that topic can be deemed as politically neutral is subjective.

Within recent years, the Academy Awards have been criticised for making a "political choice" among the winners and nominees. In some cases, it seems to be an actor being rewarded for their overall performances throughout their career rather than their singular performance in their nominated role. Whereas in other cases, the Academy has been scrutinised for choosing a film to highlight underrepresented groups to appear diverse. This can be seen as problematic as these oddly timed awards can feel performative rather than true allyship.

For instance, the 2016 Oscars was heavily criticised for lacking any diversity among the majority of categories and even the winners themselves. Since then, we have seen an uptick in diversity in the Academy's nominations; starting the following year when there was a noticeable increase in diversity amongst the nominees. While this is a refreshing and long-overdue change, many wonder whether this is a genuine attempt to diversify Hollywood culture or an attempt to dodge further criticism.





# THE SECRET OF US TOUR



SEREN 12W1



On the 6th of March, I had the privilege of attending Gracie Abrams's 'The Secret of Us Tour' with two of my best friends at the O2. This tour is the ongoing fourth tour by the American singer and songwriter and is in support of her second studio album. The tour started in September 2024 and is scheduled to come to an end in August 2025.

The London show was highly anticipated, as a result of Abrams having to cancel her two previous shows in Nottingham and Leeds, and it was certainly a relief when it was posted on Instagram that the show was in fact still going ahead. As my friends and I made our way into the arena we became lost in a sea of bows and pastels. The last time I saw Gracie was when she joined Taylor Swift on stage at the Eras Tour. My friends and I could not wait to experience her live in a smaller venue. From the moment Gracie stepped on stage, the crowd erupted with excitement and we were all out of our seats. The stage set-up and the lighting used cleverly reflected the album with a B-stage paying homage to her roots and younger years. Throughout the night, we got to sing along to a range of songs that Abrams had written over her years of being a song-writer and weirdly enough it felt quite therapeutic. As like many singers, she has a way of connecting with her fans and many of her songs expertly capture the essence of being a teenager or young adult, undergoing universal experiences. Us London fans were made to feel special when Gracie sat down at her piano to perform her surprise song 'Right Now' from her first album, 'Good Riddance'. It did not end there though - she remained seated at the piano and told the crowd that she wanted to play us a new and unreleased song that she had been working on over these last few months called 'Death Wish'. The set was a perfect length, lasting just under two hours and Gracie's stage presence was incredible. Throughout the night, Abrams interacted with fans reading signs and receiving gifts and at every possible moment expressing much gratitude to those in attendance.

The concert was amazing and it was incredible to hear some of my favourites such as, 'Blowing Smoke', 'That's So True' and 'Risk'. Despite not thinking it possible, I was able to fall in love with her music even more.





# YEAR 9 HOUSE FOOTBALL FINALS 2024/25



FAEQ 9B

Hello again, and welcome back to the Best of the Beths Newsletter. I am Faeq Ojelade of 9B, and for the 2025 March edition, you may see that I have covered not only a 2025 season preview for F1 (produced for an intended February edition), but also the 2024/25 Year 9 House Football finals. The article choice here is interesting, especially given that I made a return to the Best of the Beths Newsletter platform in March of 2024 - for that edition, I covered the House Football finals for my year group (albeit whilst in Year 8). Now that another year has come and gone, here is another personal take on the finals that took place a few weeks ago...

## \*Cray vs Hurst: the fight for 5th

Unfortunately, Cray and Hurst each ended up last on both sides of their year group this year as opposed to 2nd in 2024. This also ended up being a rematch of their encounter in the match for bronze last year, which Hurst won 2-0. Now, this match was the one I saw the least of, and that really owed to the fact that the matches for bronze (which involved my form) and the final were happening over at the field (where a vast majority of the spectators were). But, I managed to catch a bit of the action with this match, albeit maybe not the most exciting parts of it.

From what I myself saw, it seemed like Cray were the more dominant force in that match, as they had quite a few chances. They nearly converted some of those, but before I arrived from the ongoing third-place match, they managed to convert one. Victor of Cray scored the first, only and winning goal of the match to give Cray 5th place. And do you know what makes that more impressive? The fact that he was playing with a **broken arm**. In my opinion at least, it takes bravery to play in that condition, and for that achievement I will happily commend him. With that then, Cray had their revenge for last year, albeit whilst ending their campaign in 5th place, lower than ever before.

### Year 9 House Football Finals 2024/25:

#### 5th-Place Final

Cray (9C)

Hurst (9H)

1-0

\*Victor (1-0)

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# YEAR 9 HOUSE FOOTBALL FINALS 2024/25



F AEQ 9B

## **\*Brampton vs Wickham: the battle for bronze**

For the first time in three years, Brampton had avoided coming in last place on the ABC side of the year group; meanwhile Wickham were not to return to the grand final after being beaten by Eardley to the title of 'best side in EHW' for a second time in three years. This match had also meant that Brampton had faced (at some point) each EHW side - Hurst in 2022/23, Eardley in 2023/24 and Wickham this year. Now, this is where I came from in terms of going to check on the 5th place match over at the rugby field before coming back in the closing moments.

In terms of what I remember seeing though, it really seemed like a good contest, with no side actually having such a dominant edge. Brampton were making slightly more advances though, and they managed to break the deadlock with Devan scoring. Perhaps interestingly, whilst that was happening I was leaving to see the 5th-place playoff (but at least I caught Devan celebrating). By the time I returned (a few minutes later) Brampton still led 1-0, and held on to their advantage to claim bronze, their best finish yet. As a result Wickham slumped to 4th, a joint-worst result in three years (4th in 2022/23 before coming 2nd in 2023/24).



<b><u>Year 9 House Football Finals 2024/25:</u></b>		
<b><u>Bronze Final</u></b>		
<u>Brampton (9B)</u>	<b>1-0</b>	<u>Wickham (9H)</u>
*Devan (1-0)		---



## **\*Abbey vs Eardley: a memorable rematch**

These two were the victors on their respective sides of the year group. Abbey pulled this off for a third year on the bounce, whilst Eardley had plummeted from 1st in 2022/23 to bottom in 2023/24, before rising back up to the top (and the final) this year. Now, these two had faced off for the title of Year 7 House Football Champions in the 2022/23 academic year, which Abbey managed to claim via a 1-0 win. If you thought at the very beginning that this was going to be a tight match, I wouldn't actually blame you. But of course, you don't know until you know with many things in life, and this was surely one of the countless examples of that.

# YEAR 9 HOUSE FOOTBALL FINALS 2024/25



FAEQ 9B

Quite a few tackles were made to start, and you could hear the noise of the crowd watching on. Then, as Abbey got into the Eardley box and a handball was made, a penalty was given. Pamilerin was chosen to take it, and converted to put Abbey 1-0. However, it was still early and next to nobody (including myself) was aware of what was to follow. Eardley would later win a free-kick, which was taken somewhat quickly; not to the point where Abbey were fully 'caught napping', but to an extent where Manveer had a good chance to equalise (which he did, 1-1). That therefore made this the first final for my year group to feature multiple goals. Interestingly, that didn't happen under blue skies the past two years, but it was somewhat cloudy this time... coincidence, anyone?

Anyways, that was it for the first half, and in the second, Eardley soon made a run. Manveer tucked the ball into the bottom-corner to turn the game around and put Eardley ahead 2-1. And if you thought he'd stop there, you'd be wrong, because Eardley would later win another free-kick (this time on the edge of the box). Manveer took this one and scored it to claim a brilliant hattrick and effectively win the game for Eardley. As he scored, many in the crowd went wild - some of the spectators even took off their shirts in the process! That may have effectively been game over, but it didn't stop there, as Eardley had another free kick similar to their last - this time though, Manveer shot it over the bar.

Regardless of that, it proved enough for Abbey to finally be dethroned as well as denied a three-peat, with Eardley getting their revenge for the 2022/23 finals. They claimed the title of 2024/25 Year 9 House Football Champions, with Abbey ending up on the losing side of the final for only the first time (which is still highly impressive). In terms of my perspective of the immediate aftermath, I was standing outside the D&T-block ready to continue with Session 2, and yet I could still hear some of the chants and noise nearby from what had just happened...

## Year 9 House Football Finals 2024/25:

### The Final

Abbey (9A)

Eardley (9E)

1-3

\*Pamilerin ([P] 1-0)

\*Manveer (1-1, 1-2, 1-3)

# YEAR 9 HOUSE FOOTBALL FINALS 2024/25



FAEQ 9B

That's a summary of the 2024/25 Year 9 House Football finals, and congratulations to Eardley from going bottom overall last year to the exact opposite end in 2025! It was actually fun to write about this, but more importantly make some mental notes as I watched the matches unfold; had I not done that, I may not have been able to produce this! If there are any questions or feedback for this, please contact me on Teams [@22B-Ojelade-Faeq](#). If you, as a reader, are interested in how to join the newsletter platform, the best person to go to for that would be Miss Stevens (the leader of all this).

If there's one thing I'll say, it's that House Football is perhaps the most popular House Competition you get at this school (outside of Sports Day). Of course there may be other potential contenders like House Basketball, but the atmosphere from this was (and perhaps is) generally unmatched. It was fun to mark a year since my return to the newsletter platform by doing this, as well as mark a 9th (or 10th) appearance for myself overall (depending on how you look at it). Anyways, thanks for reading, and I hope you read again soon. See you (hopefully) in April!



Manveer Jheeta of 9E (centre) lifts the trophy as Eardley celebrate their 3-1 victory over Abbey (9A) in the 2024/25 Year 9 House Football Final on March 17th 2025.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Beths Grammar School PE & Sport on X(/Twitter) or Mr Webb)**

#	<u>^/-</u>	<u>House</u>
1)	<b>^5</b>	Eardley (9E)
2)	<b>-1</b>	Abbey (9A)
3)	<b>^2</b>	Brampton (9B)
4)	<b>-2</b>	Wickham (9W)
5)	<b>-1</b>	Cray (9C)
6)	<b>-3</b>	Hurst (9H)

**[WRITER'S NOTE:** This article was (and could have been) last updated by me on March 21st 2025.]



# THE TRUMP-ZELENSKYY MEETING



MARTIN 12E1

## Introduction:

On February 28th 2025, a controversial meeting was held between President Trump and President Zelenskyy in the Oval Office, televised live for the whole world to see. The meeting was called to discuss the status of US support to Ukraine and was expected to end with the signing of the Ukraine-United States Mineral Resources Agreement, the agreement for joint investment by the USA and Ukraine into Ukraine's natural resources. However, the meeting devolved into a "kind of spat" in the words of Zelenskyy. The final ten minutes of the meeting saw Trump and JD Vance, his Vice-President, hurl criticism after criticism at the Ukrainian President, owing mainly to the US desire for work towards a comprehensive peace deal clashing with the Ukrainian insistence on regaining all the conquered territories of the Donbas and Crimea. Some of Trump's rhetoric implicated Ukraine as the reason for the conflict, culminating in Trump calling Zelenskyy a "dictator". As a result of these events, the meeting ended abruptly and without resolution, leading to the suspension of American aid to Ukraine temporarily and causing a wide range of international reactions which I will be exploring in this article.

## Ukraine:

Immediately following the meeting, Zelenskyy issued a statement on social media thanking Trump, the US congress, and the American people for support. In a later interview with Fox News, the Ukrainian president expressed regret about the interview, stating that it was "not good for both sides", and he expressed interest in repairing their relationship. He later stated that he still held interest in signing the minerals agreement. In Ukraine itself, the message was one of overwhelming support for Zelenskyy and his actions, with opposition People's Deputy Inna Sovsun stating "Under no circumstances should we agree to calls for the president to resign". This sentiment was echoed in the military, with Ukraine's commander-in-chief reaffirming support for Zelenskyy and emphasising the need for unity.

## USA:

Opinions regarding the meeting in the US were expectedly spilt across party lines. For Republicans, the meeting was an outstanding success, with Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller declaring the event as "one of the great moments in the history of American diplomacy". Trump benefitted from absolute cabinet support, with both secretary of State Marco Rubio and Head of the Department of Government Efficiency Elon Musk expressing their support for Trump's rhetoric and actions. In the



# THE TRUMP-ZELENSKYY MEETING



MARTIN 12E1

wider party, most Republican senators and representatives were in full support of Trump, pushing his suggestion that Ukraine is ungrateful for the international aid and support provided to it. For Democrats, the response was one of almost universal condemnation of Trump's actions and rhetoric in the meeting, with many suggesting that he was working on behalf of Putin to end the war with favourable terms for Russia. One of these was the Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who stated that Trump's and Vance's behaviour was "doing Putin's dirty work". These sentiments were echoed across the Democratic Party.

## Russia:

Predictably, Russia's response to the meeting's outcome was that of overwhelming support for Trump and his cabinet, and this was expressed by multiple members of Moscow's political elite. For instance, former president and current deputy chairman of the Security Council Dmitry Medvedev praised the incident and tweeted "the insolent pig [Zelenskyy] finally got a proper slap down in the Oval Office". The Russian support of these events does little to dispel the growing sentiment that this Trump administration, intentionally or not, is aiding Putin's war effort and his push for favourable terms in a future settlement with Ukraine.

## Europe:

Despite almost the whole of Europe being close to America politically, economically, and militarily, almost the entire continent is united behind reaffirming their commitment to aiding Ukraine and opposing US actions. The UK under Keir Starmer reiterated it's "unwavering support" for Ukraine, President Macron stated France and its allies were "right to help Ukraine and sanction Russia three years ago and to continue doing so", German chancellor Olaf Scholz reiterated Germany's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and condemned Russia's ongoing aggression. The only EU country which sided with Trump was Viktor Orban's Hungary, who commended Trump's stance on peace. Overall, the nations of Europe remain largely unfazed by the Trump-Zelenskyy meeting and intend to maintain aid to Ukraine until peace is signed.



# AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD PREFECTS

EDWIN 12C1

On Monday 24th January, the newly built, long-awaited Jubilee Sixth Form Centre was opened for Year 12 and Year 13 to populate. Since then, almost a month later, the 6th Form Centre has perfectly integrated itself into the flow and function of our school, with the 6th form seamlessly transitioning their lessons and directed studies into all 16 classrooms and the food-court-esque 6A1. Coincidentally, around the same time, the news of who would be on our new Prefect Team was revealed to us. And so, in order to both introduce a few members of our Head Prefect Team, and to look at the 6th form centre in a bit more detail, I conducted a mini 2-person interview – the biggest one yet – in order to learn more. With my 2 interviewees being Dominik Garner, Uriel Akinbode, and an addition from myself, here's what we spoke about:



## What do you think of the social impacts of giving the 6th form their own space?

*I think that having our own space to recreate has allowed us to mingle more, as prior to this, groups of sixth form students were strewn across the school site, for example the hall, canteen and quad. Now we can speak with different groups far more easily as well as interacting with the year 13s.*

*However, I think we are now distanced from the younger years, making it harder for us to be the role models in the school. – Dominik Garner, Head Boy*



## If given the chance for a redesign, what aspects would you add to the 6th form centre?

*A nap room, because A-Levels are very demanding, and we need an area to unwind and relax. – Uriel Akinbode, Deputy Head Boy*



# AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD PREFECTS

EDWIN 12C1

And here are my thoughts on a few more questions:

## What do you like most about the 6th form centre?

*Personally, I really love the multitude of classrooms. With 14 main classrooms, not including the central parts on the 2nd and 3rd floor, and the open-plan 1st floor, there is so much room for all sorts of activities – classes, study sessions, and even extracurricular activities. Specifically, the open-plan bottom floor is likely my favourite aspect. It is so spacious, and with all of its seating areas, inviting colour scheme and its own catering area, it really fosters a social environment that makes getting to know your peers (in a school with over 300 people in the Year 12 alone) that much easier.*



## How do you think the 6th form centre has changed our school academically?

*There is a much larger capacity for teaching with the additional classrooms. The school has suddenly become so much bigger, so much more capable at providing a good education. The rapid transformation means we can all learn and study much more efficiently, and I believe the academic impact has been immensely positive so far.*

## What are the positives and negatives of the 6th Form centre in comparison to the LRC?

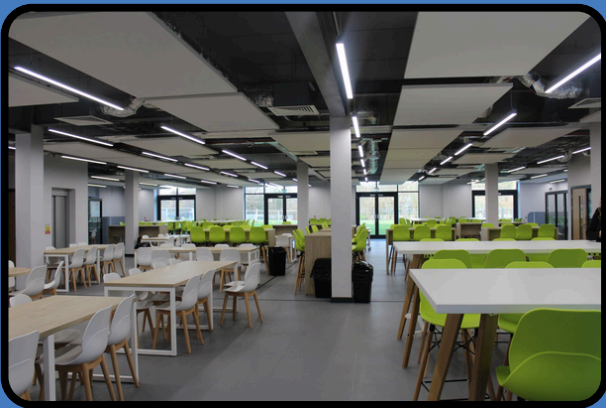
*The clearest positive is the space. The 6th form centre has, I'd say, over x9 the space that the LRC has. It also has its own catering area, and is its own designated teaching area. 6A1 alone fares better as an educational area than the LRC in its entirety. However, it is crucial to remember that the 6th form centre serves as its own designated hub for 6th form students, while the LRC is meant to be more akin to a library. In that regard, the LRC has aspects that the 6th form centre severely lacks in. Students still return to the LRC when they need access to computers, and there are also books for revision and super curricular study in the LRC. While they both have their positives, however, I would much prefer to have the spacious 6th form centre than the LRC.*



# AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD PREFECTS

EDWIN 12C1

And that wraps up my interview with Dominik and Uriel on the new 6th form centre. I'd like to say thank you to my peers for helping me out with this article, and I look forward to the future of Beths with this new building as an asset. In my past years at Beths, I witnessed the former LRC be demolished, the previous 6th form centre become a new LRC, and this new 6th form centre rise from mounds of dirt and metal poles to a fully established learning environment, something that will remain a staple at Beths for decades to come. Something undeniably beautiful



# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: PRE-SEASON TESTING IN BAHRAIN!

FAEQ 9B



Formula One pre-season testing is an opportunity for the teams to see whether their new car design for the upcoming season is working well for them. The test additionally allows them to use it to make further changes ahead of the opening race of the year, which is going to be the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne for 2025. But, the test has taken place at Bahrain International Circuit for a third year in a row, and the 2025 machines have taken to the track. Below are photos of every team's car, including reigning World Constructors' Champions McLaren.



Lando Norris (#4 McLaren) drives the McLaren MCL39 Mercedes on-track during Day Three of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 28th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Lewis Hamilton (#44 Ferrari) drives the Scuderia Ferrari SF-25 on-track during Day One of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 26th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Max Verstappen (#1 Red Bull) drives the Oracle Red Bull Racing RB21 on-track during Day Three of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 28th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



George Russell (#63 Mercedes) drives the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team W16 on-track during Day One of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 26th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: PRE-SEASON TESTING IN BAHRAIN!

FAEQ 9B



Fernando Alonso (#14 Aston Martin) drives the Aston Martin F1 Team AMR25 Mercedes on-track during Day Two of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 27th 2025 in Bahrain.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Pierre Gasly (#10 Alpine) drives the Alpine F1 A525 Renault on-track during Day Two of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 27th 2025 in Bahrain.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Oliver Bearman (#87 Haas) drives the Haas F1 VF-25 Ferrari on-track during Day Three of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 28th 2025 in Bahrain.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Yuki Tsunoda (#22 Racing Bulls) drives the Visa Cash App Racing Bulls VCARB 02 on-track during Day One of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 26th 2025 in Bahrain.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Carlos Sainz (#55 Williams) drives the Williams FW47 Mercedes on-track during Day Two of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 27th 2025 in Bahrain.  
**(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**

# 2025 FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: PRE-SEASON TESTING IN BAHRAIN!

FAEQ 9B



Nico Hülkenberg (#27 Kick Sauber) drives the Kick Sauber C45 Ferrari on-track during Day Three of F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 28th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



The 2025 Formula 1 Drivers stand for the drivers photocall prior to F1 Testing at Bahrain International Circuit on February 26th 2025 in Bahrain. **(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)**



Thank you for viewing the extra gallery based on the 2025 Formula 1 World Championship Pre-season Testing at Bahrain International Circuit from February 26th-28th. You may need to zoom in, if possible, to try and pick out any other details within these pictures if you want to.

Thank you for reading and viewing the bonus gallery, and I hope you read the Best of the Beths newsletter again soon! :)

| Faeq Ojelade of 9B |

# BEST OF THE BETHS



## A Note of Thanks

Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter!

That wraps up our March Edition, including articles from the never-released February Edition. As a result, this edition was packed to the brim, covering nearly every topic imaginable in a newsletter - the perfect way to send off our previous editors, Oke 12A1 and I, Edwin 12C1, and introduce Faeq 9B as the new editor! We looked at sports, both within our own community at Beths, and across the globe. We took a trip across the landscape of music and cinematography. And we reviewed the recent political occurrences, and their impact on the wider world - a truly packed edition!

If you haven't had your fill of the Newsletter, (and we hope you haven't!), we'll see you soon for the April Edition! Happy Ramadan, Lent, and everything between, and have a great Easter break!

-Regards from the Best of the Beths Newsletter team.