

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #32



THE BEST OF APRIL 2025



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Contents Page!

1) Memorial for Alexander Cardoza

Written by: Edwin 12C1 | Page(s): 3



2) Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood: Review

Written by: Ronnie 12H3 | Page(s): 4

3) The Future of Space Tourism

Written by: Lucas 9W | Page(s): 5

4) Panic at the Disco - Pretty. Odd: Album Review

Written by: Hadi 10A | Page(s): 6-7

5) Skiing in Canada 2025

Written by: Imran, Ollie and Christopher (all 9E) | Page(s): 8-10

6) Choosing Your GCSE Options

Written by: Ehimen 9W | Page(s): 11-12



7) The Bay of Naples 2025

Written by: Jay 9E | Page(s): 13 -16

8.1) 2025 NASCAR Cup Series: Quarter 1

Written by: Faeq 9B* | Page(s): 17-20

8.2) 2025 NASCAR Throwback Weekend at Darlington: Bonus Gallery

Produced by: Faeq 9B* | Page(s): 21-23



 *Edited by Faeq Ojelade of 9B* 

MEMORIAL FOR ALEXANDER CARDOZA

EDWIN 12C1

Nobody could smile the way that Alex did.

He was well-known and well-loved by the majority of the school, so I'm sure many people would be able to testify to this. He was almost always smiling, whether it was during Year 11 English with Dr Easton after someone said something funny, or during a PE lesson after one of us punted a football sky high - even when playing video games with him, you could feel him smiling through the screen. Alex had such a perfect blend of mischief and maturity. Even when his laughter rang across classrooms and halted the lesson, he was always paying attention, always listening, one of the most intelligent people I ever knew. It was like he was always thinking.

His academic skills were not overlooked - he was awarded with a well deserved Honours Tie and other accolades for his academic prowess. He put 100% into everything, and that included being a ray of light to brighten even the darkest days. He shined brighter than the sun ever could. His middle name, 'Adnan', has many meanings, but I think the one that fits best is 'Paradise', because that's how school felt when he was around, cracking jokes that made us all raise our eyebrows before breaking into complete, hysterical, body-shaking laughter.



You don't know how much you'll miss somebody until they're gone. If I had just one more moment with Alex, I'd make sure to tell him we love him. We miss him. We miss the way he lit up the room. But we all know that Alex would want us to remember him as the happiest boy in the world. And so we simply hope he rests in peace.

**Gone, but never, ever forgotten.
We will keep smiling for you, Alex.**

ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD: REVIEW



RONNIE 12H3

Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood is a comedy-drama/Western motion picture released in 2019, directed and written by the renowned Quentin Tarantino. It follows the lives of Rick Dalton (played by Leonardo DiCaprio), Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt), and Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie). Upon its release, it received favourable reviews from critics, averaging a score of 4/5 stars across rating platforms and 80/100 (by averages) through review-based websites.

Having watched the film a few years ago, I decided to revisit it recently, inspired by the resurgence of Tarantino's filmography across social media. I vividly remembered it was not only a good movie but a *great* one; and yet, once again, Tarantino blew my expectations out of the water. *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* is, to me, his best work (both objectively and subjectively). Fusing together elements of historical accuracy and creativity, the bending of life and death through the twisting of fates (such as Tate's), and encapsulating it in stunning cinematography and never-lacking pacing, the movie plays directly into Tarantino's strengths and revered attributes: memorability and the defamiliarisation of historical events.

One of the most interesting aspects of the film that only became prevalent upon my re-watch, however, is the cast. Obviously, it is stacked - you have some of Hollywood's biggest names (such as DiCaprio and Pitt) running the show. But, almost uncannily, the supporting cast has proven to become some of Hollywood's most promising future names also. For instance, one of the 'Manson girls' was played by Mikey Madison, the winner of the Oscar for Best Actress at this year's Academy Awards. *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* thus seems to be emblematic of the acting industry's top dogs currently; even if some of those 'top dog' statuses are still pending.

Whilst the overall plot of the movie lacks cohesion and is therefore practically unexplainable here, each segment is intricately woven together with the next, crafting an engaging narrative structure that does not rely on action-driven sequences but rather the idea of the film itself. Because of this - because of the very execution of the movie's concept and fulfilled reliance upon itself for its own intrigue - I would give *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* a solid 4.5/5 stars. It remains my favourite Tarantino project to date, and I strongly urge anybody who has not watched it to check it out (especially if you are into motion pictures that blend genres in a simultaneously nostalgic yet innovative way!)

THE FUTURE OF SPACE TOURISM

LUCAS 9W

During this century and the last, we have seen a wave of new transport and the use of interstellar travel, but who knows what lies next in the advancement of tourism on earth? Here are the list of the possibilities and challenges of the future of space tourism.

There are many different possibilities that could unfold, but here are the most likely that could happen hopefully during our lifetime.

Commercial Space Flights

As seen by Katy Perry a few weeks ago with Blue Origin, the space technology company responsible for the journey, shows the chances of just having a “day out” in space being really high in the next few years. The only downsides with that is it would be extremely expensive and wasteful.

Space Hotels

Alongside wasting your money on just the weekend off, you could possibly do it for many days and even weeks. With astronauts and celebrities now travelling into space, just for leisurely activities. But all that fun would not come without a whole heap of problems. It would be very expensive, there would be lots of dangers and the amount radiation you would get exposed to would not be fun while lounging at the pool.

The future of space tourism might not look exciting with the amount of problems that come with going to space, but that probably won't stop rich people from going to space, so spend your money however you like. Hopefully in the future scientists might find a way to tackle the many problems with space tourism.



PANIC AT THE DISCO: PRETTY. ODD.

HADI 10A

Album Background

This is Pretty. Odd. Released in 2008, it is PATD's second studio album, featuring a baroque pop and psychedelic rock sound instead of the techno-fused pop-punk of their first record. The album received additional production at Abbey Road Studios (it's the closest thing to modern day Beatles). On release, it received a generally positive critical response but did not reach the commercial heights of its predecessor, achieving platinum instead of quadruple platinum. However, it is the band's highest charting album across most territories.



Track Listing

1. We're So Starving
2. Nine In The Afternoon
3. She's A Handsome Woman
4. Do You Know What I'm Seeing?
5. That Green Gentleman
6. I Have Friends In Holy Spaces
7. Northern Downpour
8. When The Day Met The Night
9. Pas De Cheval
10. The Piano Knows Something...
11. Behind The Sea
12. Folkin' Around
13. She Had The World
14. From A Mountain In The...
15. Mad As Rabbits



PANIC
AT THE
DISCO

PANIC AT THE DISCO: PRETTY. ODD.

CONTINUED...

HADI 10A

My Review



1. **We're So Starving - 8/10:** The subject matter was probably more relevant in 2008 but it's catchy.
2. **Nine In The Afternoon - 11/10:** So good it changed the course of the day. Round of applause for showcasing the orchestral style of the album.
3. **She's A Handsome Woman - 10/10:** Somehow the title has absolutely nothing to do with the song. In fact, I don't even know myself what half the songs are about.
4. **Do You Know What I'm Seeing? - 10/10:** Harmonicas. Tons.
5. **That Green Gentleman - 9/10:** The Grinch's theme.
6. **I Have Friends In Holy Spaces - 9/10:** Bit crushing works well here, making the song sound alike to The Beatles!
7. **Northern Downpour - 11/10:** This track is evidence of an evolution in the band's sound (whiny emo to psychedelic).
8. **When The Day Met The Night - 11/10:** Truly a crescendo of artistry. We need to appreciate orchestras more.
9. **Pas De Cheval - 8/10:** Refers to a fast-paced ballet style, complementing the fast-paced nature of the song.
10. **The Piano Knows Something I Don't Know - 10/10:** Only Ones Who Know.
11. **Behind The Sea - 7.5/10:** Sung by the band's guitarist who adds an indie feel to it, akin to the band 'fun.'
12. **Folkin' Around - 10/10:** I don't think I'm allowed to make jokes here.
13. **She Had The World - 10/10:** Metaphors galore!
14. **From A Mountain In The Middle Of The Cabins - 10/10:** Most of the album was actually recorded in Las Vegas.
15. **Mad As Rabbits - 11/10:** Mad Hatter would be proud.



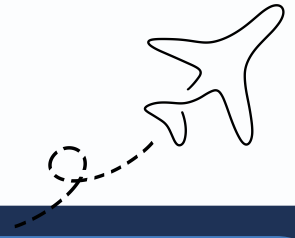
I bestoweth upon this album...

9  10!

SKIING IN CANADA 2025



IMRAN, OLLIE AND CHRISTOPHER 9E



After waking up early in the morning, we made our way to Hall Place to catch our Air Canada flight to Montreal, Canada, departing from London Heathrow. During the seven-hour flight, we enjoyed lunch, choosing between chicken teriyaki or a pasta option. Upon landing, we spent about an hour waiting for the connecting coach that would take us to Mont Tremblant, Canada. Following a picturesque drive, we reached our hotel and settled into our rooms before heading out to pick up our skis and snow boots. Once we returned, we had some free time to unpack, wrapping up our first day.

We rose bright and early, eager to kick off our first day on the slopes. Shortly after, we gathered in the foyer downstairs for breakfast, just a short walk away. The breakfast spread offered a delightful variety, featuring options like eggs, toast, potatoes, and much more for us to savour. Following breakfast, we returned to our room for a moment to don our snow gear before heading out to collect our skis and meet our instructors. Once we finished our introductions, most of us began learning how to ski, while our more experienced friends ascended the mountain to refine their skills. After a period of practice, we broke for lunch, where a selection of restaurants awaited us for a delicious meal. We explored the village before settling on a lovely spot to enjoy our food. After a day of skiing, we returned to our accommodations briefly before heading out for some mountain tubing, which proved to be an exhilarating adventure. We then enjoyed some free time as we prepared to transition into Day 3.

To kick off Day 3, we woke up at a similar time as the previous day and took some time to prepare for breakfast. We relished another array of options that were sure to energize us for the day ahead. Once we were geared up for skiing, some of us took our first ride on a chair lift to tackle a more challenging run. It was an exhilarating experience that had its share of tumbles, but we enjoyed it immensely. Before long, it was lunchtime, offering an opportunity for some to try out new flavours. As with the previous day, we continued skiing, pushing ourselves with more advanced runs. Soon enough, it was time for our evening activities, which featured a variety of escape rooms, laser tag, and virtual reality experiences. And that brings Day 3 to a close.

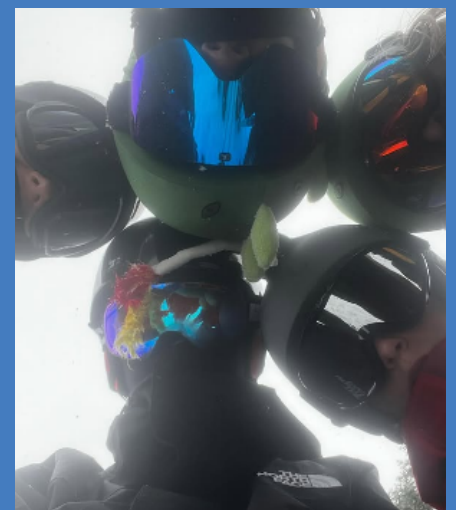


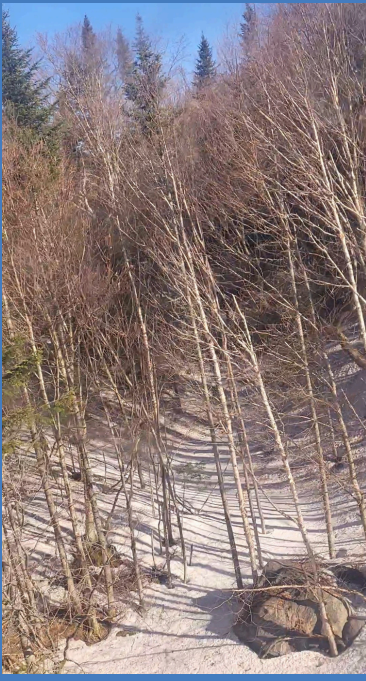
Day 4 closely resembled Day 3, as we continued our adventures from the previous day, skiing and taking on more challenging slopes despite the lumpy and difficult snow conditions. We wrapped up the day by rotating our evening activities, wandering through the market and visiting several ice cream shops to savour the delightful treats available in the village.

On Day 5, we woke up to a delightful surprise: snow blanketing the landscape. It was at that moment we knew a fantastic day of skiing awaited us; even the biting cold couldn't dampen our spirits. The snow was incredibly powdery, and we felt as though we were flying across it. After completing the last activity in our rotation, we returned to our rooms to enjoy some TV. The channels featured the NBA, Family Feud, and various other North American shows, which everyone in the rooms thoroughly enjoyed. Day 6 marked our final day on the slopes, and it certainly lived up to expectations with conditions that felt almost divine. This was the day we truly pushed our limits, skiing down the most challenging slopes Mont Tremblant had to offer. With joy, we realized we had gained proficiency in our skiing skills. After saying goodbye to our instructors, we returned to our hotel to pack and get ready for our journey home. While our free time wasn't particularly eventful, we still had a great time knowing our adventure was drawing to a close.

And so, we arrived at Day 7, the final day we would fondly remember. We woke up early to finish packing our belongings and then made our way down for our last meal at the resort. After breakfast, we returned to our rooms for a brief moment to gather our bags, bidding farewell to the rooms that felt like home for so long. Eventually, we headed downstairs and boarded the coach that would take us away. However, our Canadian adventure wasn't over just yet. We made a stop at a shopping outlet for some last-minute shopping, lunch, and a bit of sightseeing, although there wasn't much to explore. Following our time there, we proceeded to the airport, where we boarded a flight to Toronto before catching our connecting flight to LHR.

On Day 8, we either slept or struggled to sleep on the plane before finally landing back on home soil. A brief coach ride brought us to the conclusion of our journey, marking the end of the Canada ski trip 2025.

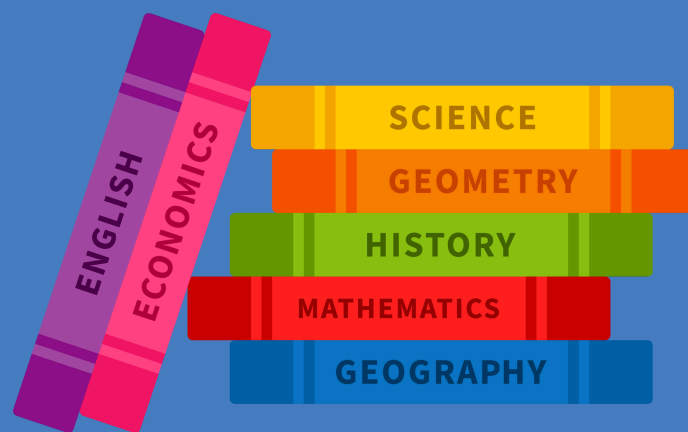




CHOOSING YOUR GCSE OPTIONS

EHIMEN 9W

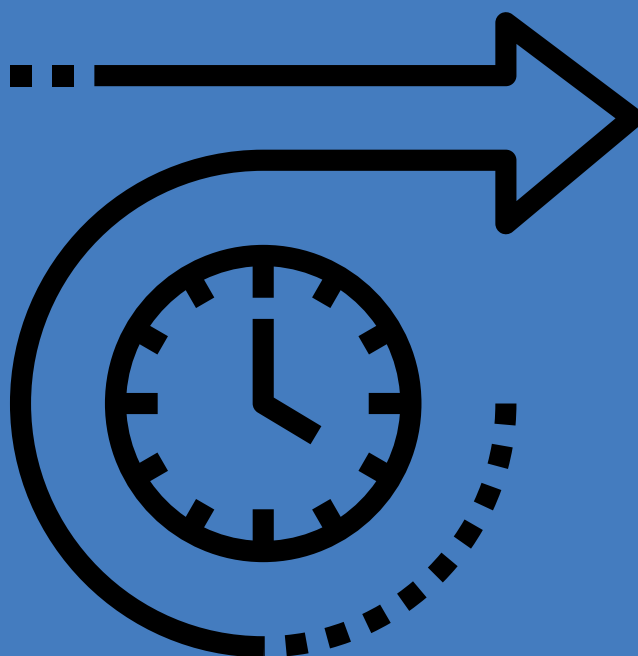
Currently in Year 9 at Beths we have just had the fantastic opportunity to pick our GCSE options for the subjects we will study for the next two years. In line with the government's recommendations under the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), which is a set of subjects at GCSE that keep young people's options open for further study and future careers. They encourage students to take English Literature and Language, Maths, The Sciences, (which are all mandatory at Beths) and Geography or History, and a Language. At Beths, we are fortunate to have a variety of subjects, from Modern Foreign Languages like German, Italian, Mandarin, to Humanities like RE, History, and Geography, to the Arts like Music and Drama, and to subjects that you won't have done in Key Stage 3 like Psychology, Economics and Engineering.



How does the Option Process work?

For this year's options, there are up to 24 subjects that you can choose from which you will commit to for 2 years until Year 11 when you sit your GCSE examinations. In addition to the 6 compulsory subjects mentioned above, students choose 4 options subjects from the 24 available. With your 4 options, you also need to pick a reserve which will be the subject the school could offer you, if for any circumstances they cannot fulfil one of your 4 choices, but this is very unlikely. There are many events, and assemblies that lead up to the Option Selection Process being the release of the Options Booklet, a Year 9 assembly informing us on our GCSE options and the factors we should consider, an options information evening informing our parents about the process and lastly the Options Choice deadline being on the 2nd May 2025 this year.

To summarise, Selecting your GCSE courses is a crucial decision that will influence your future academic and professional trajectory. Even though it could feel overwhelming, thinking about your long-term objectives, interests, and strengths can help you make wise decisions. Keep in mind that you should not be influenced by your peers; selecting topics that interest you is what really counts. Ask for guidance, maintain your curiosity, and have faith that you're positioning yourself for success by making smart decisions.



Take note of this when you have made your preliminary choices:

1. Have you a definite career in mind? YES / NO

What is the career?

What GCSE grades are required?

(the Careers Section within the LRC can help you find out)

2. Will the choice made preclude you from any particular career? YES / NO

The Careers Team can offer you advice and materials relating to University and other sixth form options.

3. Do your parents agree with your preferences? YES / NO

4. Are subject teachers sure that you can achieve at least a Grade 6 at GCSE in these subjects?

Is your current Key Stage 3 Attainment at least Grade 4?

Remember these are your preferred subjects – they should enable you to achieve your best grades.

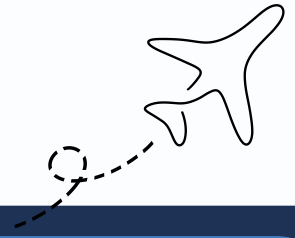


THE BAY OF NAPLES

2025



JAY 9E



Day 1:

Arriving at Hall Place... well... 1.55AM was a blast! A bunch of tired kids. Who couldn't ask for anything better! Moving that to the side, after a long (and very sleepy) coach ride, we arrived at Gatwick Airport around 3.00AM a bit bleary-eyed, but all present and accounted for! Everyone's tired, but there's definitely a buzz in the air as we get ready for our flight. The moment we stepped onto the plane, things started to feel real.

We landed in Rome with a mix of excitement and grogginess—some of us still shaking off the sleep from the flight, others just buzzing to finally be in Italy. Bags collected (eventually), passports stamped, and then... the legendary coach ride began. Let's just say, if you've ever wondered what a long coach journey feels like after a REALLY early morning flight—it's really long.

After finally stepping off the coach and stretching our legs (some of us looked like we'd aged 100 years from that ride), we headed straight into the ruins of Herculaneum—and wow, it was like walking into another world. The ancient streets were unbelievably well-preserved. We wandered through narrow stone alleys, past the remains of houses, baths, and even shops frozen in time. You could almost picture life as it once was—people walking those same streets, living their daily lives, unaware of what was coming.

Just when we thought we'd done our fair share of sitting... it was time for another coach ride—this time to our hotel. Spirits were still high (well, medium), but energy levels were definitely dipping. There were a lot of "I might just close my eyes for a second..." moments, followed by full-on naps. But finally, after what felt like an eternity (and possibly a few lifetimes), we arrived at our hotel. The sight of beds was genuinely emotional, both happy and disappointment- (the beds had very, VERY thin blankets). We checked in, dropped our bags, and took the deepest collective sigh of relief.

After sorting out dinner, it was time to catch some ZZZ's.



Day 2:

We visited Mount Vesuvius, the infamous volcano that destroyed Herculaneum and Pompeii. It was quite rocky- Mr. Martin would've loved it. It was a painful hike to the top, almost as painful as the coach ride there! After a few close call slips (I'm calling you out Ms. Stevens) we arrived at the summit- some cracks of the volcano were smoking! After dawdling around a bit, it was time for the fun part - buying souvenirs! Shop 1- hardly had anything but small models of animals, shop 2- similar but had more rocks, shop 3- the worst one of all... (they were definitely scamming us, 50 quid for a jaguar model!

Haggling skills came in handy). We then departed down Mt. Vesuvius (some even more close call slips, I think we all know who). Turned out Ms. Stevens' soles in her shoes were sanded down! It was just a smooth bit of shoe, no grip!



You guessed it. Sigh... another long coach trip! We arrived in Pompeii, quite similar to Herculaneum frankly, Mr. Chamberlain was a lovely tour guide, 'Chambersplaining' about what they ate, how they ate, about the public baths (very disgusting), and we saw a few tree saplings! They were the seeds that survived the pyroclastic flow (give or take) 2000 years ago!



.... Well.. you guessed it! Another coach ride!

Fast forwarding to the place where the coach dropped us off, we took a minibus to a pizza making activity! We made some dough. Some perfect... Others, odd. Then it was pizza time! After a SPECTACULAR show by some Italian dancers, we were served pizza by Luigi. Some devoured it down, some ate with etiquette - A knife and fork. Minibus ride back to the hotel! Time for some zzz's.

Day 3:

Boat trip! Boarding the boat we began our voyage to two locations along the Bay of Naples. **Destination 1 - Positano**, as the name suggests, it was positive indeed. I myself, don't remember much, however, the next destination was the most memorable moment of the trip!



Destination 2 - The Amalfi coast. After being allowed to roam free around the coast, we headed to a nice spot to eat our packed lunches, we chose a comically large rock to eat on. It was nothing much really, just a few sandwiches on a rock. Now heading off, I bought a hat - quite similar to Michael Jackson. My group and I then explored the back alleys of Amalfi, we would then stumble across a network of large tunnels, we thought it led to an airport - it was probably an entrance to the train networks. After a bit of singing 'Let me know' in the tunnel and a few jokes, we exited, only to find another group singing 'Let me know' (It was quite popular amongst us) on the side of a street by some benches- they got 5 euros from someone. Well.. Time to depart!

Back on the yacht... boat? Fishing boat? A small ferry? Anyhow - we got on the boat which would take us back to Sorrento. As we arrived back, it started pouring down with rain (I could've sworn it was hail). YUPEE! DRY LAND! Well, it was more of wet land though. Sadly my hat deformed.



Arriving at David's! We got a somewhat special show by Mario David on how to make gelato (we were quite rowdy). Even with soggy clothes, wet feet (Yes Ms. Stevens, I'm calling you out again-), and spirits soggy, David 'The magical gelato wizard' made us a lovely lemon gelato, some taking more than one cup of the lemon gelato... The gelato was LEGENDARY, not as legendary as Ms. Stevens' wet sandals though.

We then departed for karaoke!

Sitting down was the best feeling of the day. After being served snacks and drinks, we began singing! First song in, all the snacks disappeared, shame.... Shame on you all! A few songs later we sang.... 'Let me know'!
Let me knowwww!! Let me knowwwwwwwwww!

Day 4:

After a lengthy coach ride to the Archaeological Museum in the city of Naples, we arrived! (It was quite obvious really). Walking through, Mr. Chamberlain began 'Chambersplaining' about the history and facts to my group, and Mr. Papakostas was living his best life. We then departed the Museum for lunch. Once we arrived at a park, we settled down for lunch. Scrummy.

After browsing through Italy's finest genuinely fake bling (Ms. Stevens took part in buying a pair of Palm Angel sunglasses off the vendors. They looked quite legitimate!), we departed for the underground tour of under Italy's streets. WW2 Bunkers, radioactive water, and the tight tunnels weren't for the faint-hearted. Departing back to the hotel, we enjoyed our final dinner!



Day 5:

Shame really, shame the trip couldn't have lasted longer... Woke up at 5AM (GMT+2), room checks! Then a coach ride to the airport. Checking in and security was a breeze! We were let to go get lunch and explore the airport- it was really odd actually; the first pack of pasta I saw in Italy was in the Naples Airport. Buying a burger which was yummy!

After boarding the plane, some of us went to sleep, some just chatting away, I binged some movies on my phone. Cruising altitude! After some really last-minute shopping on the plane, I whipped out some pot noodles and began munching away. Before we knew it we were landing at Luton. First time at Luton, most of it was still under construction. On the coach to Hall Place- Snore mimimimi... Arrived at Hall Place - Cheers erupting from the back of the coach.

Well, that's the end of the trip.
Thanks for reading!

2025 NASCAR CUP SERIES: QUARTER 1

FAEQ 9B



Greetings, readers! I hope you've had a good and restful Easter holiday as under one-third of this academic year remains. I am Faeq (pronounced: Fi-eeq) of 9B, and despite now becoming the *editor* of Best of the Beths, I will continue to produce articles for you! This month, my focus shifts back to the NASCAR Cup Series, and by the time you would've read this (at least) nine of the 36 points races this year would've gone by. So what exactly has happened since my season preview back in January? Here's your opportunity to find out as I briefly recap the opening quarter of the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season! 😊

*Round 1: The 2025 Daytona 500

45 teams entered this year's Daytona 500, but 41 of them qualified for the main event. The big names of the Cup Series would be joined by the likes of 4-time Indianapolis 500 winner **Hélio Castroneves** [**#91 Trackhouse Racing**] and **Martin Truex Jr.** [**#56 TRICON Garage**], who retired from full-time competition at the end of 2024. **William Byron** [**#24 Hendrick Motorsports**] eventually won his second consecutive Daytona 500 after avoiding a last-lap crash that involved many of the leaders. Perhaps surprisingly, 7-time champion and now part-time driver **Jimmie Johnson** [**#84 Legacy Motor Club**] came home 3rd. This therefore marked his best result in the '500 since winning it for a second time in 2013, as well as his first top-5 finish in a Cup race since 2020 - among other things!



William Byron [**#24 Hendrick Motorsports**] celebrates with a burnout after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on February 16th 2025. Byron became the 5th driver ever to win back-to-back Daytona 500s, as well as the youngest-ever to accomplish such a feat.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

*Rounds 2-3: Atlanta 1 and Circuit of the Americas

A week after the Daytona 500 came the first Atlanta race of 2025. This was forced into Overtime following a late caution, and **Christopher Bell** [**#20 Joe Gibbs Racing**] would win after being ahead of **Carson Hocevar** [**#77 Spire Motorsports**] and **Kyle Larson** [**#5 Hendrick Motorsports**] at the last moment of caution. The Circuit of the Americas played host to Round 3, and this was the first road-course race of the season (where the drivers would turn left *and* right). In the first race with the new track layout, Christopher Bell would pass **Kyle Busch** [**#8 Richard Childress Racing**] for the lead with 5 laps to go and hold on to score the win in Austin (Texas' capital city), as well as back-to-back victories.

2025 NASCAR CUP SERIES: QUARTER 1

CONTINUED...

FAEQ 9B



Christopher Bell [#20 Joe Gibbs Racing] celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series EchoPark Automotive Grand Prix at the Circuit of The Americas on March 2nd 2025. Bell took his second race victory in a row and (spoiler alert!) his streak would continue into the race at Phoenix Raceway the following week.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

*Rounds 4-5: Phoenix 1 and Las Vegas 1

Phoenix was next, and this race saw the use of two tyre compounds: the prime tyre (slower yet longer-lasting) and the option tyre (quicker but faster-wearing). In a race where the option tyre was a powerful strategic weapon, **Christopher Bell** [#20 Joe Gibbs Racing] edged out his teammate **Denny Hamlin** [#11] for his third consecutive Cup Series victory. Las Vegas Motor Speedway was the venue for Round 5, and **Josh Berry** [#21 Wood Brothers Racing] scored his first-career Cup Series win in only his fifth race with his new team. He cleared **Daniel Suárez** [#99 Trackhouse Racing] for the lead on Lap 254 following a late-race restart, before eventually winning by 1.358 seconds.



*Rounds 6-7: Homestead-Miami and Martinsville 1

Homestead-Miami Speedway hosted Round 6, and **Ryan Blaney** [#12 Team Penske] suffered a blown engine after being the day's dominant driver. **Alex Bowman** [#48 Hendrick Motorsports] then hit the wall in turns 3 and 4 while leading with just 7 laps to go; his teammate **Kyle Larson** [#5] immediately took advantage for his 30th career win and first of 2025. The seventh round took place at Martinsville, and **Denny Hamlin** [#11 Joe Gibbs Racing] dominated by leading 274 of the 400 laps for his first Martinsville win since 2015. Post-race, **Erik Jones** [#43 Legacy Motor Club] Toyota was *disqualified* for failing to meet minimum weight requirements, therefore making it the first disqualification of 2025.



Denny Hamlin [#11 Joe Gibbs Racing] and his crew celebrate after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Cook Out 400 at Martinsville Speedway on March 30th 2025. The flag that reads '11 Against the World' relates to the Ohio State Buckeyes (an American football team), who Hamlin is a supporter of. He additionally quoted that Ohio State fans had '(their team) against the world. So now it's 11 against the world.'
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

2025 NASCAR CUP SERIES: QUARTER 1

CONTINUED...

FAEQ 9B



*Rounds 8-9: Darlington 1 and Bristol 1

Darlington Raceway was host to not only Round 8, but also NASCAR's annual Throwback Weekend. Despite **William Byron** [#24 Hendrick Motorsports] winning both Stages and leading the first 243 of 297 eventual laps, **Denny Hamlin** [#11 Joe Gibbs Racing] took his second straight win through Overtime as Byron finished 2nd. The Cup Series then went to Bristol for Round 9, and **Kyle Larson** [#5 Hendrick Motorsports] posted the most dominant performance thus far in 2025. He won both Stages and led 411 of the 500 laps to claim his 25th win with HMS. Larson dedicated the win to Hendrick's late Jon Edwards, a PR representative in NASCAR since 1994 - Edwards died suddenly on the Thursday before the race.

*Now, who are the Championship favourites at this stage of the season?

I may have just recapped the first nine races of the season, but I'm not done yet! Back in January, I wondered if **Team Penske** could be stopped this season, owing to them having won *the last three* Cup Series Championships. Well, **Joe Gibbs Racing** can do it. They've definitely started strong in 2025, with wins in five of the first nine contests. **Hendrick Motorsports**, however, have arguably been more consistent than JGR. Hendrick have all four drivers in the top-10 in points (after Round 9), and all four were even in the top-6 from Las Vegas to Martinsville. HMS have also had at least one car finish in the top-5 in *every race* thus far, making them the only organisation to achieve such a feat at this stage in 2025.

In terms of the drivers, **Kyle Larson** [#5 Hendrick Motorsports] sits as the outright odds-on title favourite after the ninth race of the season. His title chances after Bristol are the highest anyone's have ever been this year; Larson has an implied chance of **25.00%** to win his second-career NASCAR Cup Series Championship. There are other contenders though, like **Christopher Bell** [#20 Joe Gibbs Racing], who won three consecutive races, and Larson's teammate **William Byron** [#24], who has led the points standings since Round 3. So where (roughly) do they stand among the others? On the next page are the title odds, supplied by DraftKings Sportsbook at the conclusion of the first quarter! 🙄



Kyle Larson [#5 Hendrick Motorsports] celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Straight Talk Wireless 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway on March 23rd 2025. Entering the 2025 season, Larson was the co-favourite for this year's Championship alongside Christopher Bell [#20 Joe Gibbs Racing], but has since taken sole possession of the top spot on the odds-board.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

2025 NASCAR CUP SERIES: QUARTER 1

CONTINUED...

FAEQ 9B



*Odds-on Favourites for the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series Championship:

- 1) Kyle Larson [#5 Hendrick Motorsports]: **25.00%**
- 2) Christopher Bell [#20 Joe Gibbs Racing]: **18.18%**
- 3) Denny Hamlin [#11 Joe Gibbs Racing]: **14.29%**
- 4) Ryan Blaney [#12 Team Penske]: **13.33%**
- 5) William Byron [#24 Hendrick Motorsports]: **12.50%**
- T6) Chase Elliott [#9 Hendrick Motorsports]: **9.09%**
- T6) Tyler Reddick [#45 23XI Racing]: **9.09%**
- 8) **Joey Logano* [#22 Team Penske]: 6.67%**



[***NOTES: 1)** Please note that all probabilities above are actually implied, meaning they are not literal but rather serve as rough indicators. The odds here are from DraftKings Sportsbook and have been converted/censored from money-lines into probability figures to put them across sensibly and maturely to you. The odds shown here are as of April 25th 2025 at 22:20 BST (over a week after Round 9 at Bristol Motor Speedway). | **2)** Joey Logano (***highlighted in yellow**) entered this season as the 2024 and defending NASCAR Cup Series Champion.]

That's the first quarter of the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season in a nutshell. Thanks for taking time to read (if you did), this was a slightly *longer* article on NASCAR this time! 😊 If there are any questions/feedback, you can either contact me on Teams (**@22B-Ojelade-Faeq**) or find me in person... if you can. Don't be afraid to get in touch, for I'd quite like some feedback and shall respond to it as soon as I can. Should there be any questions about the Best of the Beths newsletter platform in general, the best person to go to is Miss Stevens.

By the time you would have read this, at least nine-ten races in the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season would've gone by, with *many* more to come! If you think what I've spoken about here is a lot, beware that there is still a very long way to go. How will drivers like Kyle Larson, Christopher Bell and William Byron fare in the upcoming months? If you want to find out for yourself, go ahead (*many* things were also unexplained here after all). As a NASCAR enthusiast myself, I'm looking forward to what the rest of 2025 will hold. Again, thanks for taking time to view this article, and I'll (hopefully) make *another* article for you again soon. That's the end of this one, but there's more awaiting you... 😊

[***PERSONAL NOTE:** This article was last updated on April 25th 2025. Facts and other statistics within the article are as of that date, unless stated otherwise. Those facts and numbers shall be outdated with the release of the 2025 April edition. Nevertheless, I hope you enjoyed this article.]

2025 NASCAR THROWBACK WEEKEND AT DARLINGTON: BONUS GALLERY!

FAEQ 9B



Here's some bonus NASCAR content! 😊 On April 5th-6th 2025, the 11th annual NASCAR Throwback Weekend at Darlington Raceway took place. But what exactly is Throwback Weekend, may you ask? Since 2015, this is a race weekend that's been dedicated to honouring, remembering and celebrating the legendary drivers and moments of NASCAR (in most cases, at least). This year, many teams across both the NASCAR Cup and Xfinity Series (the second division of NASCAR) came to the track 'Too Tough to Tame' in classic style. With that, here are 10 of the throwback liveries that I've chosen from this special weekend as Darlington Raceway also celebrated its 75th anniversary season!



Kyle Larson [#5 Hendrick Motorsports] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Denny Hamlin [#11 Joe Gibbs Racing] drives during the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 6th 2025.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Josh Berry [#21 Wood Brothers Racing] drives during practice for the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



William Byron [#24 Hendrick Motorsports] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

2025 NASCAR THROWBACK WEEKEND AT DARLINGTON: BONUS GALLERY!

CONTINUED...

FAEQ 9B



Erik Jones [#43 Legacy Motor Club] drives during the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 6th 2025.

(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Alex Bowman [#48 Hendrick Motorsports] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Cup Series Goodyear 400 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.

(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Carson Kvapil [#1 JR Motorsports] drives during the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.

(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



William Sawalich [#18 Joe Gibbs Racing] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.

(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Dean Thompson [#26 Sam Hunt Racing] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.

(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)

2025 NASCAR THROWBACK WEEKEND AT DARLINGTON: BONUS GALLERY!

CONTINUED...

FAEQ 9B



Matt DiBenedetto [#99 Viking Motorsports] drives during qualifying for the NASCAR Xfinity Series Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200 at Darlington Raceway on April 5th 2025.
(IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images)



Now you've had (at least) a glance at just 10 of the 44 throwback liveries from the 2025 NASCAR Throwback Weekend. But who are these drivers throwing it back to, do you wonder? Here is the full list...

NASCAR Cup Series: Goodyear 400

- ***Kyle Larson:** Terry Labonte's 2003 Southern 500 win *(*Best in Show winner!)*
- ***Denny Hamlin:** Carl Edwards' 2000s Office Depot livery *(*race winner!)*
- ***Josh Berry:** Jim Clark's 1965 Indianapolis 500 win *(*in IndyCar)*
- ***William Byron:** Jeff Gordon's last race in the #24 in 2015
- ***Erik Jones:** John Andretti's 1998 STP livery
- ***Alex Bowman:** Jimmie Johnson's 2012 Southern 500 win/the 200th NASCAR Cup Series win for Hendrick Motorsports

NASCAR Xfinity Series: Sport Clips Haircuts VFW Help A Hero 200

- ***Carson Kvapil:** Jamie McMurray's 2010 Daytona 500 win
- ***William Sawalich:** Kyle Busch's 2016 NOS Energy livery in Xfinity
- ***Dean Thompson:** Jamie McMurray's 2009 AMP Energy 500 win
- ***Matt DiBenedetto:** Jeff Burton's 2000 Exide Batteries livery

Once again, thank you for taking time to view the bonus gallery based on the 2025 NASCAR Throwback Weekend for both the Cup and Xfinity Series. I hope you enjoyed, and I hope you read the Best of the Beths newsletter again soon. See you (hopefully) in the May edition... until then, goodbye! 😊

| *Faeq Ojelade of 9B* |

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #32



A Note of Thanks

Thank you for reading the 32nd edition of Best of the Beths!

This edition may have (in some ways, at least) marked the dawn of a new era for the Best of the Beths newsletter, as I (Faeq of 9B) have now become the new editor. And with a new editor has come new looks to the presentation of certain pages, i.e. the Contents Page, and this one (somewhat)! Hopefully, you are welcoming these changes, with further adjustments to be made for edition #33.

Meanwhile, why not recap what we covered this month? We firstly took some time to remember Alexander Cardoza, who passed away near the end of last half-term. We also had a look at some international trips that happened over the Easter break (to Canada and Naples in Italy), as well as tips on choosing GCSE options. There were album/movie reviews too, and to cap it all off we dived into the world of NASCAR, where we not only recapped the start of the new Cup Series season, but also looked at 10 throwback liveries from the sport's 11th annual Throwback Weekend.

Have you wondered what it's like to be a part of the newsletter team? If so, then feel free to contact Miss Stevens on Teams if you want to join in! Even if you're in KS3 (whether that be Year 7, 8 or 9), it is never "too early" to contribute towards the newsletter. This could be good practice for our annual Sports Day edition in June, so please do consider gaining some bonus experience beforehand!

That is all we have to say for this month, but if you have not had your fill of the newsletter (which we *hope* you haven't), please consider clicking the red button for previous editions before we return for edition #33... which hopefully gets released sooner rather than later. Thanks for reading this one though, and we will hopefully see you again for an intended 2025 May edition! Until then, goodbye! 🙌

***Regards from the Best of the Beths Newsletter Team!**

Want more? Feel
free to click here!