

# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



*\*Happy  
New Year\**

2026



Produced FOR students, BY students 40 times.  
Celebrating over 6 years of success!

# THE BEST OF JANUARY 2026



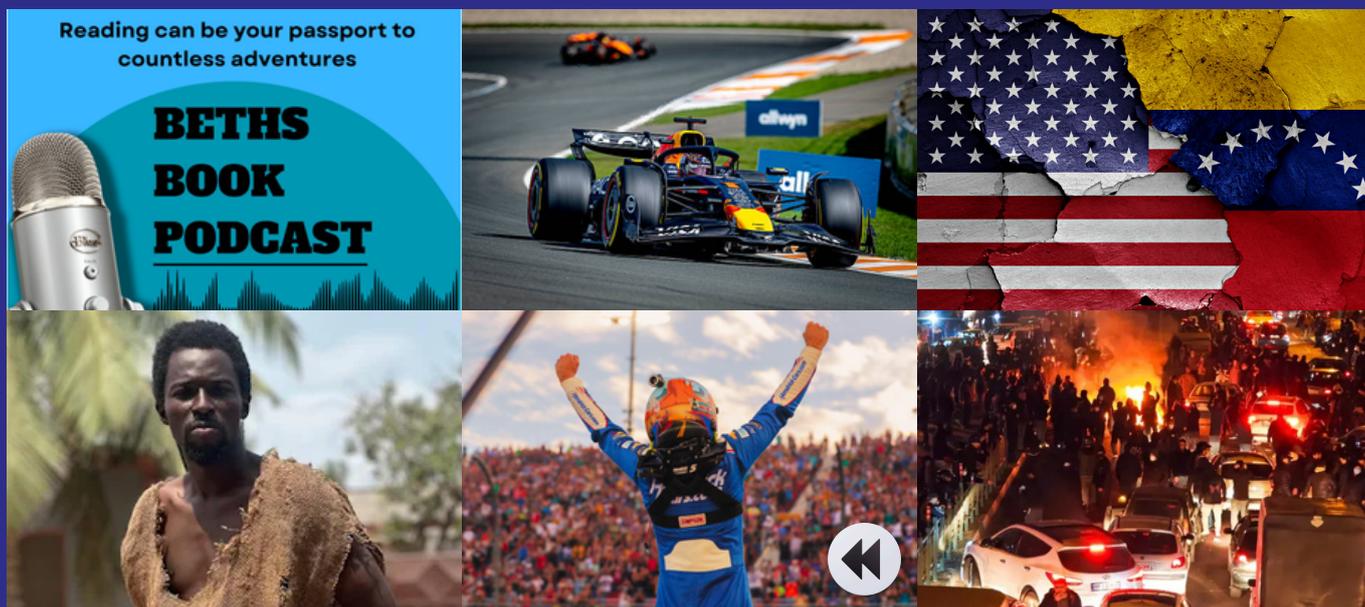
# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



*Happy New Year*

2026



# THE BEST OF JANUARY 2026



# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



## Contents Page!

### 1.1) USA-Venezuela Tensions

Written by: Mohammad 8B | Page(s): 5-6

### 1.2) Why Everyone's Fighting Over Greenland

Written by: Joshua 10W | Page(s): 7

### 2) The History of the Forms

Written by: Nathan 7W | Page(s): 8-9

### 3) School and the Wider World

Written by: Goodluck 10E | Page(s): 10

### 4) Interview with Mr A. Jones

Written by: Daanish 8C | Page(s): 11-12

### 5) Roblox Chat Restrictions

Written by: Zubayr 7W | Page(s): 13-14

### 6) AFCON 2025

Written by: Ishaq 10B | Page(s): 15-16

### 7) Being in the Beths Book Podcast

Written by: Finley 9B | Page(s): 17-18

### 8) Iran Protests

Written by: Sarkheel 9A | Page(s): 19-20

### 9) Silverstein - Discovering the Waterfront: Review

Written by: Hadi 11A | Page(s): 21-22

Happy New Year



(continues on next page →)

2026

# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



## Contents Page!

### 10) 2025 Formula 1 Results: Everything Noted

Written by: Aaron 7A | Page(s): 23-24

### 11) Storm Goretti

Written by: Muhamad 9W | Page(s): 25

### 12) Anthony Joshua: Tragedy in Nigeria

Written by: Ehimen 10W | Page(s): 26-27

### 13) What We Talk About When We Talk About Love: Review

Written by: Arjun 10B | Page(s): 28-29

### 14) Ebo Noah's Fake News

Written by: Zayan 8A | Page(s): 30

### 15.1) NASCAR: Season of the Century - Kyle Larson, 2021

Written by: Faeq 10B<sup>1</sup> | Page(s): 31-35

### 15.2) NASCAR: Best of Larson at Hendrick Motorsports (Bonus Gallery)

Written by: Faeq 10B<sup>2</sup> | Page(s): 36-40

### 16) Which is Better: Geography or History?

Written by: Shuvam 7A | Page(s): 41

Happy  
New Year\*



\*Edited by Faeq Ojelade of 10B\*

2026



# USA-VENEZUELA TENSIONS



\*MOHAMMAD 8B\*

Hello everyone, and a happy new year to everyone! By now you will have seen the news about tensions between America Donald Trump and Venezuela ('s oil), and that's what I'm going to talk about today. So let's dive right in! (cue intro music)

## What exactly happened?

When the clock struck 12 and 2026 officially started, everyone naturally assumed that this year would be much calmer than the chaos storm that was 2025. However, just 3 days later, on the relatively quiet evening of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, disaster struck as Donald Trump bombarded Venezuela with, as he described it, "A large-scale strike", capturing president Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores in the process. This act breaks international laws, and Trump's reasoning for this was Nicolás secretly helping Venezuelan drug cartels (Remember, Venezuela has the world's most oil). Trump's true motives were revealed a few days later, when he demanded 50,000 barrels of oil from Venezuela's 303 billion.



Some of the attacks on Venezuela

## Why is this a big issue?

Firstly, it's important to know that President Maduro was what some might call a dictator. It's still unclear as to whether he actually helped the gangs and drug cartels, despite the US "alleging that [he did]", according to about every news channel about the situation (seriously, you can check if you want). Still, whether he did support cartels or not, one thing was clear. Donald Trump and the Pentagon broke many laws that night. According to sources, Congress didn't even agree to the strikes on Bogotá, which is, when counted, his approx. 35<sup>th</sup> time disobeying them. Also, by capturing Maduro, Trump is setting an example to the rest of the world, effectively telling Putin (Russia) that it's okay to capture Zelensky (Ukraine), or telling Jinping that it's okay to capture Ching-te (Taiwan).

## Who will rule Venezuela now?

After the dust settled (literally), one person was the clear favourite to rule. That person was the woman Maria Corina Machado. She is the leader of Venezuela's Vente party and won the 2023 Presidential Primary election, before being banned from being in the 2024 one. After that, she went to live in hiding, and was not heard from until 2-3 months ago, when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. She was going to lead Venezuela, until Trump reportedly said that she shouldn't because she should 'have rejected the award and given it to him'. Other candidates to rule include the vice president Delcy Rodríguez, who is already the interim leader, and Edmundo González, another opposition leader who fled to Spain in 2024. However, there is also a slight possibility for Trump to fully capture Venezuela as a 51<sup>st</sup> state, but it is very unlikely.

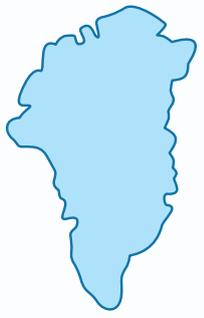
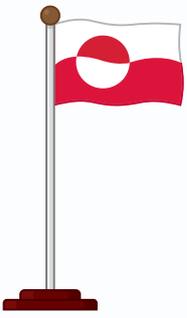


**Machado, the Vente Venezuela party leader**

Thank you for reading this article, and I hope to see you next month, hopefully with some less negative news! Bye!

# WHY EVERYONE'S FIGHTING OVER GREENLAND

\*JOSHUA 10W\*



Recently, Greenland has been in the news because the US and NATO are having some serious disagreements. Even though it's super far away and barely anyone lives there, it's actually getting pretty important in world politics.

Greenland is part of Denmark, which is in NATO. The US wants more control or influence there because of where it is in the Arctic. As the ice melts, new shipping routes are opening, and the place has lots of resources. From the US point of view, controlling Greenland would make them safer and give them more power in the Arctic.

But Denmark and Greenland's leaders are not having it. They've said clearly that Greenland is not for sale and that decisions about its future should be up to the people who live there. Other NATO countries are also worried that the US is putting too much pressure on its allies.

Things got even more tense when the US said it might put tariffs on European countries that disagreed. That didn't go down well because NATO is supposed to be about teamwork, not threats.



VS



Overall, the Greenland situation shows how tricky it is for countries to work together when everyone has their own interests. It's a reminder that even small places can have a big impact in world politics.

# THE HISTORY OF THE FORMS



\*NATHAN 7W\*



Hello guys! Today (or tonight), I am going to talk about the forms in our school and their history! The forms our school are Abbey, Brampton, Cray, Eardley, Hurst and (my house) Wickham! All houses have a coloured tie so people can easily tell which house you're in.

 Since Abbey was the first house, I'll start with that and continue in a chronological order. An abbey is a religious complexes that have played a crucial role in the development of monastic life, culture and education throughout history, particularly in the Christian tradition! Abbey is the name of an actual school called ... well...Abbey School. It is also recognized for its sporting excellence, especially in the Abbey Festival of Sport.

Ok now run along Abbey, you've had enough attention. It's time to talk about Brampton! So we've finished with Abbey so now lets see what Brampton has to share! Brampton is a city in the Canadian province of Ontario. In other words, the southernmost part of Canada! It was settled in by the Europeans in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The town has a significant historical presence. This includes the domes day book entry in 1086. It was also part of World War 1 and World War 2!



 Fly off now Brampton, its now Cray 's time to shine! Did you know that the name Cray was actually given to a river which is called (well I'm sure you can guess what it's called) the River Cray! The River Cray is in Priory Garden in Orpington where rainwater seeps. through chalk bedrock, forming a pond. The river flows through the Five Arches bridge (which was built in 1781) and Loring Hall (a historical building dating back to 1760). Well, I hope you had a splash with Cray but now it's time to move to Eardley!

So Eardley is actually a hard one but there is a person called Joan Eardley. Joan Kathleen Harding Eardley was a British artist noted for her portraiture of street children in Glasgow and for her landscapes of the fishing village of Catterline and surroundings on the North-East coast of Scotland!. The Eardley surname also has a rich history that dates to the back to the medieval period



 Now it's time for Hurst to show their stuff! The history of Hurst actually has a rich history that dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Hurst is a place in Berkshire and the village was originally settled at Whistley Green with the first church dedicated to St Nicholas built in 1080. Over the centuries, Hurst has evolved from a small settlement to a significant parish with it's own church and manor house! Hurst is also a shopping centre that deliver across the island and UK!

Now last and definitely not least we have the house of Wickham!  
Wickham is a village in Hampshire, England, with origins dating back to the Roman times and a rich tapestry of cultural heritage. Wickham's history can be traced back to Roman times when it served as a settlement along the road connecting Chichester and Winchester. Archaeological evidence suggests that the area has been inhabited since prehistoric times, with remnants of early dwellings and burial mounds still visible today.



So what *really* is the historical significance of these people and places?

Well for an Abbey it's the centre of spirituality, education and community. It served as centres of knowledge for the medieval period! Brampton's historical significance is connected to it's relationship with it's Roman heritage and it's role as a trading centre. Cray's historical significance has evidence of human activity that dates all the way back to the Mesolithic (10,000 BCE - 8,000 BCE) period!

Joan Eardley's work reflects the realities of life in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, often portraying the struggles of ordinary people against the backdrop of urban environments. For Hurst we have the fact that it was part of a chain of artillery forts designed to defend southern England against potential invasions particularly from France and the Holy Roman Empire. And last but not least, Wickham's historical significance lies in its rich heritage and notable historical figures. It has roots tracing back to the Anglo - Saxon times with its first mention in the Domesday book as 'Wicheham'!

Well, that's all for now. I hope you all enjoyed my article and I'll see you in the February edition!

# SCHOOL AND THE WIDER WORLD



\*GOODLUCK 10E\*



Many people complain about having to do certain subjects, especially in KS3 when you haven't chosen your subjects yet and you feel stuck with subjects you don't like. I am here to explain to you the benefits of doing these subjects, even if they do not supposedly align with your future career plans (if you are to go as far as that).

## How do subjects help me?

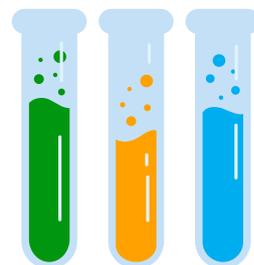
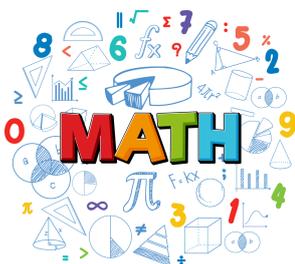
School subjects like Drama and Music are often overlooked because many see them as less important outside of school, and having no notable impact on their lives. However, Music offers major advantages once you enter the wider world, for example, hand-to-eye coordination. This is real self explanatory. and is a key skill if you are deciding to work somewhere which requires hands on work or and/or heavy lifting. Furthermore, it is essential for everyday tasks like: writing, typing, playing sport etc.

In the case of Drama, there are countless transferable skills such as communication — verbal or non verbal. Drama aids participants in learning how to evoke emotions through body language and also, to be able to express ideas and narratives effectively through dialogue. It also takes confidence to be on a stage acting in front of people which is a great thing to develop early on. As you can see there are numerous skills that you can develop by participating in these subjects, but how about extra-curriculars?

## How can extracurriculars help me?

The same way subjects can help you to develop skills needed for life, extracurriculars can do it as well. For example, STEM club is a very good club to go to if you are interested in pursuing STEM careers but also if you are not. STEM club encourages critical thinking and problem solving skills. Debate Club is important for helping to to be able to articulate your thoughts and ideas clearly, and fosters deep listening skills. Sport clubs facilitates teamwork, cooperation and resilience skills.

In conclusion, the school offers many subjects that set you up for later life in ways that you have not seen it before and contains extracurriculars that enhance your personal development and you range of skills.



# INTERVIEW WITH MR A. JONES



\*DAANISH 8C\*



Hello Best of the Beths readers! As many dog owners may know, dog ownership is a big responsibility that requires time, patience and commitment. To better understand what it takes to care for a dog, I interviewed Mr. Jones, who shared valuable insights based on his knowledge and experience. During the interview, we discussed many subjects which will come up in this following article.

## **His dog's name, breed and age.**

The first question I asked Mr. Jones was what kind of dog he had. Pelé is a two-year-old Working Cocker Spaniel. He is a rescue dog whom Mr. Jones and his family decided to take in after a tragic incident in which a litter of puppies—including their own—were found abandoned at a very young age.

## **Why he chose to get a dog**

Around 2 years ago, a news article from the Daily Mail titled “Heartbreaking litter of seven puppies with deformed legs and covered in mange are found cruelly dumped in a brutally cold field” really stood out to Mr. Jones, leading him to see it as an opportunity to teach his family several important life lessons. Additionally, during my interview with him, he commented—somewhat surprisingly—that he genuinely enjoys the sense of commitment involved, which is why he chose to put maximum effort into caring for his dog.

## **How owning a dog has influenced his daily routine**

Since owning Pelé, Mr. Jones explained that his daily routine has changed in many ways, particularly in terms of responsibility and commitment. He now ensures that Pelé is fed, exercised, and cared for every day, regardless of how busy his schedule may be. Mr. Jones also mentioned that this responsibility has helped him become more organised as his dog depends on him consistently. As a result, owning Pelé has strengthened his sense of dedication daily.

## **What his dog's favourite activity is to do and his funny habits**

When asked about Pelé's favourite activity, Mr. Jones shared that he absolutely loves playing fetch, especially when given the chance to run freely and burn off his energy. This game has become an important part of Pelé's happiness and a great way for him to stay active. Mr. Jones also mentioned one of Pelé's funniest habits: his love for cheese. Whenever cheese is around, Pelé is eager for it which Mr. Jones finds quite amusing.



### **Advice that Mr. Jones would give to families thinking about getting a dog**

When I enquired Mr. Jones on any advice he could give, he advised that families should carefully consider the responsibility that comes with owning a dog before making the decision. He explained that dogs require time, effort and long-term commitment and that owners must be fully prepared for the impact this can have on daily life. Mr. Jones also noted that having a dog can limit opportunities for holidays and travel, as care must always be arranged - Dog friendly hotels, restaurants etc. However, he emphasised that despite these challenges, dog ownership brings a strong sense of fulfilment and reward that makes the dedication worthwhile.

Thank you for reading and I hope to see you all next Month!

-Daanish 8C



**An Image of the litter of puppies that were found abandoned**



# ROBLOX CHAT RESTRICTIONS



\*ZUBAYR 7W\*



Roblox, the famous video game platform filled with millions of games or 'experiences' created by other users, has made some changes to their interactive system with other players.

## What have they done?

They have restricted chat and voice chat for everybody unless they perform an online facial age check. Once the person has done this, Roblox will sort you into a group filled with hundreds, thousands, even millions of people similar to your age (under 9s, 9-12s or 13-15s). But the only ones that can chat or voice-chat with others in their group are under 13s, under 16s, 9 to 17, 13 to 20, 16 & older and 18 & older.

Age Checks For Chat			
Your Age <small>(Based on Age Check)</small>	Can Chat With Users <small>(Age-Checked Users in Similar Age Groups)</small>	Cannot Chat With Users	
Under 9	✓ Under 13	✗	13 & Older
9 to 12	✓ Under 16	✗	16 & Older
13 to 15	✓ 9 to 17	✗	Under 9 & 18+
16 to 17	✓ 13 to 20	✗	Under 13 & 21+
18 to 20	✓ 16 & Older	✗	Under 16
21+	✓ 18 & Older	✗	Under 18

Through [Trusted Connections](#), age-checked users 13 or older can chat freely with people they know.

## How does this help?

This safety measure has been put in to limit interaction between young children (minors) and adults. Some will also see reductions of 'begging' in chat from younger people. This includes "pls fruit", "pls brainrot" or even "pls robux, im poor". Players will see significant depletions of some saying these things when the rule comes fully into place worldwide.

## Has this started already?

Yes, this initiative has already started. Back in Dec 2025, this rule was put into place in the regions of Australia, New Zealand and The Netherlands. Now, in January, this will spread to wherever any form of chat is available. Already, the UK has fallen into enforcement of this rule. Tens of millions of users have done this facial age checker and are able to get back to enjoying their fun without interruptions... or are they?

## **What are the reactions towards this?**

There are many mixed feelings towards this approach, with most being negative. There have even been cries to sack the owner/ manager, David Baszucki, and replace him with someone that will actually tackle the real problem at hand. However, there are some though very few that say this is a great thing to do as it helps to stop interaction between adults and children.

## **Can this be bypassed?**

Now, you might be thinking. With a system like this, made from a great company, surely nothing can go wrong? Well, it can. Even though Roblox has said that this cannot and will not fail, people have found ways that they can 'cheat' the system.



As seen in Youtuber, Kitt Gaming's video, "Blox Fruits Roblox Is Cooked", Kitt shows viewers that he and his son, Kyrie, have found ways to change how Roblox's facial age check determines what age it thinks you are. Others have even said that people can just use their younger or older siblings maybe even their children to do the age check for them. This proves that this security measure is not reliable and could be considered a hindrance to the playtime of the public.

## **Does this even help?**

No, this does not help whatsoever. Using the above section, we can determine that this does nothing but disrupt the fun in playing games with others. It can easily be bypassed so there is really no point in having it. The process itself takes a long time and can easily be mistaken. Someone that is 8 years old could be mistakenly called 10 or a 12 year old could be called 9. There are always problems even with a system said to be very sophisticated.

Personally, I think this is not a good idea. There is nothing good coming from this and it is a waste of time for the community. They have to spend a long time doing a face check which can sometimes not work and then they have to do it again and again repeatedly. Then, there is the chance that the age checker, might say that the person is entirely a different age, perhaps younger or older. This means that overall, this is a big, terrible executive decision made.

# AFCON 2025



\*ISHAQ 10B\*



## **What is the AFCON, and how many teams compete?**

The AFCON is the EUROS but only in African countries. It happens every two years but after the 2027 AFCON it will be every 4 years. AFCON stands for Africa Cup of Nations. There are 24 teams that compete in the AFCON with 6 groups of 4 teams.

## **Which teams qualified and their group stages?**

**Group A:** Morocco qualified with 7 points via wins against Zambia and Comoros and a draw to Mali, then Mali was second, drawing all their matches. The other two teams were knocked out.

**Group B:** Egypt qualified with 7 points via wins against South Africa and Zimbabwe and a draw with Angola. then South Africa with 6 points with wins against Angola and Zimbabwe but losing to Egypt. Then, Angola with 2 points and finally Zimbabwe with 1 point (those two were eliminated).

**Group C:** Nigeria topped their group winning every game, Tunisia qualified with 4 points by winning against Uganda, drawing Tanzania and finally losing to Nigeria. Tanzania went through with 2 points because of higher goal difference, so Uganda got eliminated.

**Group D:** Senegal and DR Congo qualified with 7 points by winning against both Benin and Botswana while drawing each other. Benin qualified with a win against Benin and Botswana were eliminated with 0 points.

**Group E:** Algeria qualified with 9 points from winning all their games, then Burkina Faso with 6 points, winning all their games apart from Algeria. Finally we have Sudan with 3 points who won just against Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea were knocked out with 0 points.

**Group F:** Ivory Coast and Cameroon qualified with 7 points, both winning against Mozambique and Gabon and drawing against with each other. Finally, Mozambique qualified with a win against Gabon.

## **Round of 16:**

Senegal won against Sudan with a comfortable 3-1 win with goals from Pape Gueye and Ibrahim Mbaye. Mali beat Tunisia 1-1 with a 3-2 penalty shootout with Mali scoring late to get the penalty with Lassine Sinayoko then El Bilal Toure scores the late penalty to win them the game. Morocco beat Tanzania 1-0 with a goal from Brahim Diaz. Cameroon beat South Africa 2-1 with goals from Junior Tchamuede and Christian Kofane.

Egypt beat Benin 3-1 with goals from Mohammed Salah, Yassir Ibrahim and Marwan Atta. Nigeria beat Mozambique 4-0 with a brace from Victor Oshimen and goals from Ademola Lookman and Akor Adams. Algeria beat DR Congo 1-0 with a goal from Adil Boulibana in the 119<sup>th</sup> minute. Finally, Ivory Coast beat Burkina Faso with goals from Amad Diallo, Yan Diomande, Bazoumana Toure.

### **Quarter-finals:**

Senegal beat Mali 1-0 with a goal from Iliman Ndiaye and a red card for Yves Bissouma. Morocco beat Cameroon 2-0 with goals from Brahim Diaz and Ismael Saibari. Nigeria beat Algeria 2-0 with goals from Victor Oshimen and Akor Adams. Finally, Egypt beat Ivory Coast 3-2 with goals from Omar Marmoush, Ramy Rabia and Mohammed Salah.

### **Semi-finals:**

Senegal beat Egypt 1-0 with a goal from Sadio Mane. Morocco beat Nigeria 4-2 on penalties with Samuel Chukweze and Bruno Onyemaechi missing their penalties for Nigeria and Hamza Igmanane missing for Morocco. Youssef En-Nesyri scored the winning penalty.

### **Final:**

This was a final between Senegal and Morocco with Senegal taking the AFCON home 1-0 with a goal from Pape Gueye in the 94<sup>th</sup> minute of the game. In addition, Brahim Diaz for Morocco missed a penalty trying a chip down the middle.



### **Were there any awards apart from the AFCON?**

Yes, there were more awards:

**Player of the Tournament** - Sadio Mane (Senegal)

**Top Goal-scorer** - Brahim Diaz (Morocco)

**Best Goalkeeper** - Yassine Bonou (Morocco) with 5 clean sheets

**Best Playmaker** - Ademola Lookman with 4 assists (Nigeria)

**Fair Play Award** - Morocco



# BEING IN THE BETHS BOOK PODCAST



\*FINLEY 9B\*

Before I start writing, I would like to say that I am really excited to be in the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of Best Of The Beths. I did an article in the June 2025 Sports Day edition where I interviewed myself and some others, like triple event winner Samuel Oseni (300M, shot put and relay). So, without further ado, this is my article. Hope you enjoy.

I joined the podcasting team after their live Christmas episode in Winter 2024 and have been in every episode since. When I started, we started doing the literary timeline, which we are nearly finished with. After the next episode, which will be on post modernism, we will have finished it. After that, we might be doing a manga episode, a TV books episode or after 2 years, the long-awaited Brampton edition. It's not just one person who does it. We have a whole team. The team is as follows:

- | Albert Collins 9A
- | Syed Sarkheel Quadri 9A
- | Theeshon Warnakulasuriya 9A
- | Finley Tatton 9B
- | Samuel Oseni 9B (our newest member!)
- | Luke Bastick 9C
- | Jack Phan 9C
- | Amir Abdelfadel 9W
- | Henry Anderson 9W
- And finally, Ms Monteith.
- Also Mickey the Mic(rophone) who appears on all our posters.

We cover a lot of things in our podcast. Not just books, but the writers themselves. We do book readings, interviews and discussions. We even do competitions sometimes. Our most known was where we asked listeners to write poems, which would be judged by us. The strange thing is, when we had five weeks to do an episode, it was six minutes long. We then had three days to complete the next episode which ended up as eighteen minutes long.

Though I do love reading, I also like writing. This is why I'm currently writing a book. The book is called 'The Stranger' but I'm only halfway done with it. I'm heavily enjoying writing it, so much so, that in fact, I'd like to share an extract with you. The extract is from Part one Chapter four. So, here it is.



The poster for the June 2024  
Eardley edition.

## Chapter 4

Finally at the bar.

At last, the duo had reached the bar. They stepped inside drinking in the fresh smell of chatter and alcohol. They sat down and bought an overpriced beer. As they sat down, I walked by, and I voiced my opinion about the 2." These 2 will go farther than any of you!" I exclaimed. Just then, an official-looking man stepped in to the bar. He shouted, "For reasons that do not concern you, all alcoholic drinks will be rationed!" There was outrage. Pure, unforgiving outrage. Punches flew; tables flipped, and bottles smashed. At that moment - for the official-looking man was knocked out - Brian declared "We will destroy the dark spirit!"

After they had left, the stranger slapped Brian. "What were you thinking!" he angrily shouted. They didn't talk as they walked away. The stranger was now praying that this was some twisted nightmare, that maybe he was going to wake up. But that punch felt too real-and the blood on his hands did too.

---

Did you enjoy it? Anyway, that's my article and I hope to write many more like it. Goodbye.

# IRAN PROTESTS



\*SARKHEEL 9A\*

Starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December last year, protests have swept the country of Iran in multiple cities such as Tehran, Isfahan and Mashhad. This is all due to unrest against the government and a downwards economic situation. These are larger demonstrations than the 1979 Islamic revolution. Discontent in Iran has also alleged to have been due to political corruption involving authoritarianism and prioritisation of proxies.

£100 is a lot of money and can get quite a few nice things here in Britain. But in Iran (at the time of writing) the same amount is worth 143,500,000 Iranian rial. That may seem like a lot but the situation in Islamic state is dire. This is due to an extreme case of inflation. Inflation is the general increase in prices and the fall in the purchasing power of money. The Iranian rial has become one of the world's weakest currencies. Although exchanging such money into Iran makes you a millionaire it is practically nothing compared to the pricing of items in the heart of the Persian Gulf where 1kg of rice can cost from 24,485 IRR to 34,279 IRR and 1kg of water can cost from 11,940 IRR to 21,492 IRR.

Although the economy is bad the government must be helping out right? ...Well that couldn't be farther from the truth as the Iranian government under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, has imposed a deadly crackdown on protests all over the country. At the time of writing over 5000 protesters have sadly been killed in the unrest. Activist groups claim this number is much higher but due to an internet blackout all over the country it is difficult to get information.

Iran's reaction to all this unrest is to blame the USA and Israel. This is coming after the recent conflict between Israel and Iran where Jerusalem accused Tehran of housing Hamas in Iran. This was Israel's reason to send missiles over to suspected areas in Persia. Iran's response was to send missiles back with fires spreading over Tehran and Tel Aviv. The conflict ended with United States intervention where Iran had nuclear sites bombed forcing a peace deal. The United States under Trump responded with threats of military action against Iran and urged protesters to keep going. Although many countries such as Russia and China were against the intervention of Iran's internal affairs. Israel on the other hand is tip-toeing around the situation with great caution waiting for the time to react.



Ayatollah acknowledges the casualties but blames US intervention.

Trump has been heavily involved in the situation. He has been the focus of Ayatollah's blame where he has been labelled as the enemy and reason for the situation because of his statement for the protesters to keep going. He has also threatened military action against Iran but it is unsure whether this is a real threat with Trump's focus on Venezuela and Greenland.

With all these events many protests have happened outside of Iran in many European cities. Many bad things have happened to the Iranian people and if we go over the list of it all it comes to a crippling currency, insanely high prices for everyday items, no internet and a prospected water shortage in the capital, what would you do if this happened to where you live?



# SILVERSTEIN - DISCOVERING THE WATERFRONT: REVIEW



\*HADI 11A\*



## Album Background

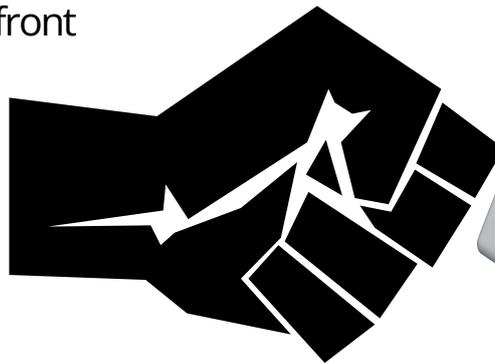
'Discovering The Waterfront' (2005) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> studio album by the Canadian band Silverstein - a band renowned for being able to develop their sound with every album, and for their consistent releases. This is one of the band's earlier albums, but is frequently praised for being one of the greatest entries within the third wave emo movement, containing elements of post-hardcore, metalcore, pop punk and math rock and even some progressive rock, alongside a notable hardcore punk influence.



## Track Listing

- 1) Your Sword Versus My Dagger
- 2) Smile In Your Sleep
- 3) Ides Of March
- 4) Fist Wrapped In Blood
- 5) Discovering The Waterfront
- 6) Defend You
- 7) My Heroine
- 8) Always And Never
- 9) Already Dead
- 10) Three Hours Back
- 11) Call It Karma
- 12) Rodeo Clown

Don't try this at home!



## My Review

**1) Your Sword Versus My Dagger: 11/10** | Probably one of oddest drum tabs I've seen from any emo band, since the time signatures are all over the place. It's a pretty good song to learn if you want to improve your rhythm chops!

**2) Smile In Your Sleep: 11/10** | One of the band's signature songs. It utilises a tapped lead guitar section (which is not easy to do at all) and is considered one of the most influential post-hardcore songs of all time.

**3) Ides Of March: 7/10** | Julius Caesar...?

**4) Fist Wrapped In Blood: 7/10** | I'd say that this is definitely one of the heavier tracks on this album, blending hardcore punk with the distinct sound of post-hardcore, and also including elements of metalcore.

★ **5) Discovering The Waterfront: 9/10** | A genuinely great ballad - which is generally near impossible for bands of this genre to make. Notably, screams are absent on this one but it makes up for it with spirit.

★ **6) Defend You: 10/10** | Quick and explosive, with extreme levels of guitar shred, calling again back to hardcore punk bands of the 80s, such as Minor Threat.

★ **7) My Heroine: 11/10** | Another of the band's signature tracks and post-hardcore essentials. This time, there's a more pronounced use of clean guitar tones and even synths!

★ **8) Always And Never: 7/10** | I think this is math rock?

★ **9) Already Dead: 8/10** | I didn't review the band's debut, since basically every single track contains the same subject matter as this song.

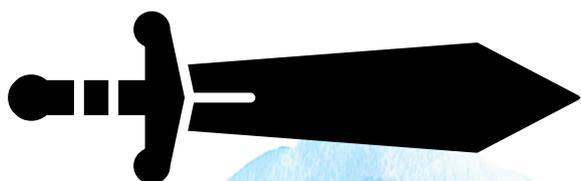
★ **10) Three Hours Back: 11/10** | My personal favourite! The band lets their guitar layering and pedals run wild here (including tremolo and some other weird effects) as well as having a nice breakdown near the end.

★ **11) Call It Karma: 9/10** | The second ballad of the album, serving as a sort of epilogue to the story it was trying to tell. This one is frequently played live as a result of this.

★ **12) Rodeo Clown: 10/10** | Bonus track time! This is a cover of a little known song by a melodic hardcore (or second wave emo) band named Lifetime from New Jersey, and this blows their original recording OUT of the water. Mainly because Silverstein's vocalist isn't tone deaf, unlike Lifetime's.

I recommend the songs 'Your Sword Versus My Dagger', 'Smile In Your Sleep', 'My Heroine', 'Three Hours Back' and 'Rodeo Clown' to all fans of hardcore punk, post-hardcore, alt rock, metalcore, etc.

I rate this album... 9  10!





# 2025 F1 RESULTS: EVERYTHING NOTED



\*AARON 7A\*

Now as you know, I'm a secret race car fan. You've all seen the drink Red Bull, because of this caption: 'Red Bull gives you wings'. Formula 1 stars a LOT in this article and I'm ready to show you, the official 2025 results with EVERYTHING explained. Get ready for this amount of series...



Now above are a couple images, from the start of the 2025 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and the drivers that made up the 2025 season. So it is time to kick off, the results for the F1 world motor championship...

## 2025 Results of F1 World Championship: In Detail

Lando Norris (credits to him) is the winner of the 2025 F1 championship! It's hard to actually believe as Max Verstappen (credits to him) has lost his 4 year streak of winning the driver's title! This was actually the first time Lando had won the driver's title in his 7<sup>th</sup> season, leaving Max as a runner-up. Now, let's show the people and who they are.

## Lando Norris - who is he?

Lando Norris is a British racing driver born 13 November 1999 that competes for McLaren. He had won his first ever title in 2015 at the MSA Formula Championship. He then started winning some more titles such as the Toyota Racing Series in 2016, which then led him to win the Autosport BRDC Award in 2017 and other ones in other years. In 2019, he joined McLaren with his partner Carlos Sainz Jr, with his debut at the Australian Grand Prix.



## Max Verstappen - who is he?

Max Verstappen is a Dutch-Belgian racing driver, born 30 September 1997. He won the driver's title consecutively from 2021 to 2024, being a runner-up to Lando Norris in 2025. Adding to that, he has won a total of 71 Grands Prix in 11 seasons. From 2022 to 2023, he had won two other championships, overturning the largest points deficit. Then, he secured his fourth consecutive title in 2024, winning 9 Grands Prix on top of that.



## How have their seasons gone?

Both of their seasons were *PHENOMENAL*, with Norris eventually winning the title (as I stated before in the article) and Verstappen winning the season finale in Abu Dhabi amidst an intense three-way battle for the championship including Norris, his teammate Oscar Piastri and Max Verstappen. However, as said in the article like a lot of times, Lando won the title race, leading McLaren back to the top. This had ended Max's streak of winning the title - finishing runner-up to Norris with Oscar Piastri behind.

## Outro/Thanks

I would just like to say thank you for taking your time and reading this article! Hope you also had fun reading the other articles! I'm Aaron from 7A (if you didn't know already) aka @25A-Gurung-Aaron on Microsoft Teams. I would like to say thanks to *Ms Stevens* and *Faeq (@22B-Ojelade-Faeq)* who run the newsletter for making me participate here. It was a honour to star in my 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Best of the Beths! This may be the longest time I have taken to write something (around almost a week and a half including making this idea) and I will see you in the next coming articles!

**Question of the Newsletter:** What position did Oscar Piastri finish in?



**Extra optional question:** Have you seen the Formula 2 and Formula 3 championships? Are they good in your book?

# STORM GORETTI



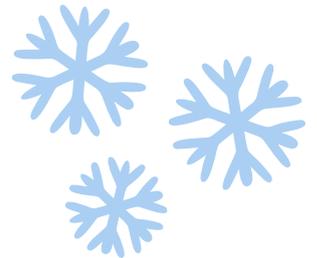
\*MUHAMAD 9W\*

Just 2 weeks ago, between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, the UK, the Channel Islands and parts of Western Europe were struck by what was characterised as a weather bomb. The winds reached speeds of 100mph+ where the strongest winds were 132mph in Barfleur, France.

Despite being listed down as a DANGER TO LIFE by the UK Met Office, only 2 casualties were suffered, including a man killed in Cornwall when a tree fell on his caravan. Over 500,000 properties lost power in Europe and 45,000 were from Cornwall alone and many were left without internet for 10 days. (I know NONE of you doom-scrollers are surviving that.)

Heavy snowfall occurred in some areas with it reaching 15-30cm in Wales, the Midlands and Peak District. In terms of damage, ST. Michaels Mount lost 80% of its trees and its estimated for its repairs to be in the hundred of thousands of £s. Widespread travel disruption was caused to all of the runways in Cornwall an Birmingham.

The storm has been described by local authorities as one of the most severe storms in the living memory of Cornwall, drawing comparisons to The Great Storm Of 1987.



# ANTHONY JOSHUA: TRAGEDY IN NIGERIA



\*EHIMEN 10W\*

On the 29th December 2025, days after Christmas and only 3 days till the start of a fresh new year, there was very sad news that came out of Nigeria, involving former heavyweight Champion Anthony Joshua and his two close companions Sina Ghami and Latif "Latz" Ayodele who both sadly passed away as a result of this incident. In Makun, Ogun State on 29/12/25, a major road traffic incident occurred around lunchtime on a bustling narrow highway. Anthony Joshua suffered minor injuries travelling in the back of a black Lexus that hit a truck. Accompanied by a driver, two of Joshua's friends were also in the travelling vehicle; Sina and Latif. Although, Joshua was transferred to the hospital and described by officials to be in a 'stable' condition, the same could not be said for Sina and Latif, tragically passing away on their first ever visit to Anthony's motherland.



Shortly after the incident, Nigeria president Bola Ahmed Tinubu commented on the tragedy on X (Twitter) saying: "I have spoken with AJ to personally convey my condolences over the passing of his two close associates, Kevin Latif Ayodele and Sina Ghami in the recent accident. "I wished him a full and speedy recovery, and prayed with him. AJ assured me he is receiving the best possible care." ( Source: Sky News ).

According to the Nigerian federal road safety corps (FRSC), The crash happened on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway near Sagamu, at about midday local time (11 am UK time),

The aftermath of this misfortune has resulted in driver, Adeniyi Kayode attending Sagamu Magistrates Court on 20/12/25 wearing all black clothing as seen in the picture below:



The driver was previously charged with death by dangerous driving. His case has been adjourned until the 25<sup>th</sup> of February after the prosecutor was granted more time to gain legal advice.

In conclusion, I would like to pay my condolences to the family members of both Sina and Latz as well as Anthony Joshua himself, considering the fact losing two close friends is never easy. I would also like to end by saying that if any of this news distresses or upsets you, you can always speak to a trusted adult who can help, whether that's a parent, teacher or any member of the Safeguarding team here at Beths.

# WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT LOVE - RAYMOND CARVER REVIEW



\*ARJUN 10B\*

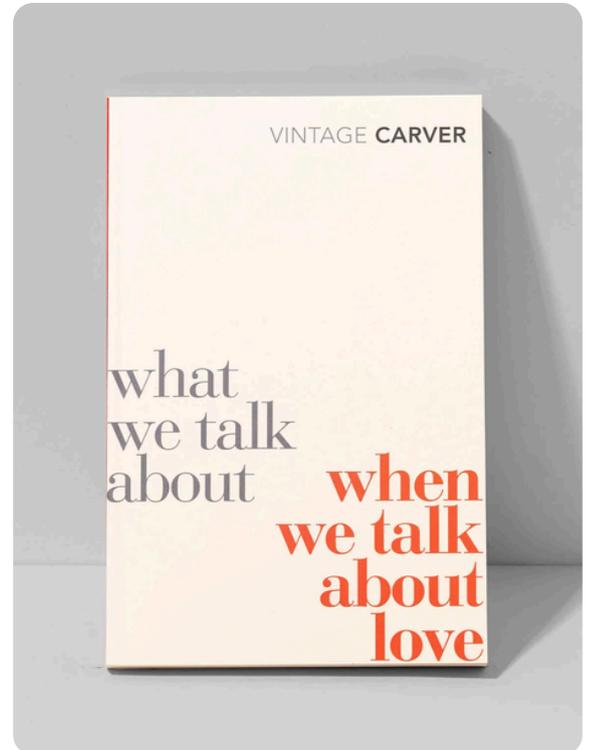
Raymond Cleve Carver Jr (May 25, 1938 – August 2, 1988) was an American short story writer and poet. He published his first collection of stories, *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*, in 1976. His breakout collection, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981). From this came one of his most well-known stories, which shares a name with the title of the collection, "What we talk about when we talk about love". Across the school curriculum you will at one point do short stories but not at much depth; additionally, English literature does not cover American literature (however, American authors are still prevalent in many of the genres we do). An amazing example is in Edgar Allen Poe when you do gothic literature.

This undermines and sometimes blocks people from reading and understanding great literature, from JD Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* – one of my favourite books – to classics such as *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe.

*What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (WWTAWWTAL) is a great but often underappreciated piece of literature. I may want to preface before you read it that American literature does not focus on elegance, and many of its authors, in my experience, follow this grunge raw form of writing, which helps beautifully express what Carver portrays in his short stories. His critique of human nature and our expression of love is true and unnerving.

A lot of times, especially now in the time of shallow empathy, we look at something on the surface and demonise or anglicise it without understanding that human emotion is too complex to categorise. Terri's ex-husband is ridiculed by her current one for how he treated her, but she knew that he had demons, and that didn't mean that he didn't love her.

Opposing this couple, we are shown this typical purist couple who, in my opinion, represent the outside of love, the newfound and picturesque of our world, and after reading the story, I hope you see that both are true forms of love. Sometimes love isn't represented properly by the media, especially now with the rise in social media and how interconnected we all are.



We have taken our emotions and classified them and analysed them for science and psychology, but due to this expansion in what we can learn and know, soon this data got misinterpreted and spread to us, people who aren't trained to understand the nuance of what these classifications mean.

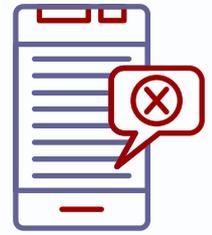
Abuse will never be normalised and never should be, but what we seem to forget is no one wakes up one day and chooses violence; that person in our eyes isn't moral or justified, but their internal conflict can be seen by people close to them. Terri is a survivor, and what she may have gone through in terms of abuse was terrible and shouldn't have happened. One thing that Carver captures even in that era is how this saviour complex incurs into people. Terri's new husband feels like he is superior to Torri's ex (in a way he is), yet he acts in the same debilitating patterns that Torri has been abused with.

In all, Carver truly portrays how human nature is complex and love isn't simple or understandable, and you can find it in the worst places. If you were to take one thing away from the story, it's that human emotion isn't a book; you can never judge what an emotion means to another person, because at the end of the day, that's what makes us human.

That's my opinion, what do you think?



# EBO NOAH'S FAKE NEWS



\*ZAYAN 8A\*

Hello everyone! In this article, I am going to teach you about Ebo Noah's downfall and the outcome of his decisions.

## **Fake News...**

The problem with Ebo Noah was not just fake news, but the way he announced it. It was like he wasn't even trying to hide it. He posted videos on social media to gain the attention from people and it was going well for him. What he said was the problem. He said that the world would flood once again on Christmas Day. He posted videos everyday since the middle of November-December 25<sup>th</sup>. Of course there was some people who didn't believe him but many did. Millions of people went over there to his county (Ghana) and helped him build a massive boat just like Noah did in the Bible.

## **Outcome...**

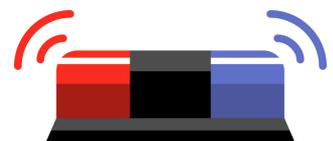
As you have expected, once Christmas Day arrived everyone got ready to hop on the boat and succeed. But succeed for what? There was no flood just like what Ebo Noah mentioned. It was a scam. Ebo Noah had gotten lot of hate since then, and at New Years.. he got arrested.



Ebo Noah...

## **The Conclusion...**

Ebo Noah's actions show how dangerous fake news can be, especially when shared online. His false claims caused fear, confusion, and wasted the time and trust of many people. This situation reminds us to always think critically, check facts, and not believe everything we see on social media.



# NASCAR: SEASON OF THE CENTURY - KYLE LARSON, 2021



\*FAEQ 10B' [EDITOR]\*

Hello again, readers, and welcome to the 40th edition of Best of the Beths! Hopefully, the first few weeks of 2026 have treated you well in your academic pursuits and life away from the school site! I am Faeq (**pronounced: Fi-eek**) of 10B, the editor of the newsletter, and those of you that have been reading it regularly may have (at some point) noticed that I'm also a NASCAR enthusiast! I've produced many pieces about the sport before, but this one is going to be somewhat different (because why not?).

Normally, I cover events within NASCAR that are only a few weeks old by the time an edition releases, but to begin 2026 I shall time travel around 5 years back from now to one of NASCAR's most legendary seasons, and perhaps the best Cup Series season a driver has put together in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. Kyle Larson is a two-time and defending NASCAR Cup Series Champion (having won his second title last year), but the road to his first in 2021 might seem like something out of a movie! So without further ado, let's break down this incredible journey, but first we actually need some...

## **\*CONTEXT: 2013-2020**

So, Kyle Larson first participated in NASCAR's premier series (the Cup Series) in 2013 on a part-time basis with Phoenix Racing before getting a full-time ride with Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) for 2014. With 8 top-5s and 17 top-10s, he won Rookie of the Year that season, and in 2016 he would break through for his first Cup Series victory at Michigan. The 2017 season would be the best of his career with 4 wins and 1352 laps led, but a collapse in form towards the end of the year saw him bow out of championship contention. Larson then went winless in 2018 (while finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in points) before getting a win in 2019 - now here comes the 2020 season, and this is where it all gets interesting.

As you may know, Coronavirus (a.k.a COVID-19) was looming large in 2020, and the pandemic caused NASCAR to suspend operations just four races into the new year. Racing action was now virtual, taking to an online simulation platform called iRacing. In terms of Kyle Larson, during an online event in April he got caught using (let's just say) a **racial slur**, resulting in a suspension from NASCAR (who also ordered him to complete sensitivity training) and getting fired by CGR with multiple companies terminating their sponsorship of him. Come October, he applied for reinstatement to the Cup Series; his competition privileges were successfully restored, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 onwards.

But now, who would he drive for? On October 28<sup>th</sup> 2020, Hendrick Motorsports (HMS) had signed him to a multi-year deal of driving their #5 car beginning in 2021. Until he found long-term sponsors, the #5 car would be sponsored by Nations Guard and mainly HendrickCars.com. But now that our context is essentially out of the way, let's finally dive into what this article is really about...

## **\*2021 NASCAR Cup Series: Regular Season (Rounds 1-26)**

To begin the 2021 season, Kyle Larson finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Daytona 500 before ending up 30<sup>th</sup> in the Daytona Road Course event. Not the best start, but he'd get his first top-5 of the year at Homestead-Miami and win his first race with HMS the next week at Las Vegas. Results of P7 and P2 at Phoenix and Atlanta would follow, with the next five weeks being quite turbulent; Larson got just one top-5 at Martinsville and otherwise finished no higher than 18<sup>th</sup> in that span. However, the #5 team picked themselves back up with three consecutive runner-up finishes at Darlington, Dover (which saw a Hendrick Motorsports 1-2-3-4 finish) and the inaugural race at the Circuit of the Americas.

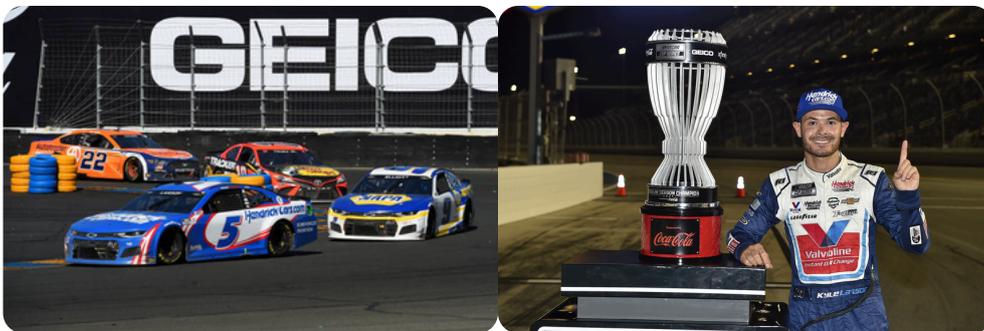


At this point, Larson (with one win) sat third in the points standings, 110 points away from leader Denny Hamlin. However, the #5 team had just come to life, and that intensified over the next dozen rounds in pursuit of the Regular Season Championship (which is won by the driver with the most points after 26 races).

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**

Larson's second win of the season came in the Coca-Cola 600, where he led 327 of the 400 laps and won all three stages. That win was also a record-breaking 269<sup>th</sup> for Hendrick Motorsports, who became (and are still) the winningest organisation in the history of the NASCAR Cup Series. He followed that up with another dominant win at Sonoma the next week, along with a victory (and bonus \$1,000,000) in the All-Star exhibition race at Texas, and a third points-paying win in a row at Nashville with another dominant run (leading 264 of the 300 laps) while closing to within 10 points of Denny Hamlin in the standings.

Larson came home 9<sup>th</sup> in the first part of the double-header at Pocono (which would've been a win had he not had a last-lap puncture) before finishing runner-up in the second leg. Two results outside the top-10 followed, but he finished 7<sup>th</sup> at New Hampshire and won his fifth race of the year at Watkins Glen, tying Denny Hamlin for the points lead. Kyle Larson would take sole possession of that lead with P3 finishes at both the Indianapolis Road Course and Michigan. Though he ended the Regular Season with 20<sup>th</sup> at Daytona, he had done enough to clinch the Regular Season Championship (which came with a bonus of 15-playoff points towards the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs).



Having now found his feet and dominated late in the Regular Season, Kyle Larson had banked a grand total of 52 bonus points ahead of the 10-week Playoffs (5 wins giving 5 each, 12 Stage wins giving 1 each, and 15 from winning the Regular Season Championship). He would begin the Playoffs as the #1 seed for the points reset, at least 28 markers ahead of the rest of his competition.

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images and HendrickMotorsports.com]**

### **\*2021 NASCAR Cup Series: The Playoffs (Rounds 27-35)**

In short, from 2014-2025, the NASCAR Playoffs was an elimination-style format covering the final ten weeks of a season and used to determine the champion. It's made up of 16 drivers (who qualified through race wins or having enough points from the first 26 races), and the first three rounds (each 3 races long) see the bottom 4 in the playoff standings get eliminated from title contention. That leaves the remaining four drivers (a.k.a the Championship 4) to race against each other for the title, with the first to finish the final race being crowned champion. To advance through the Playoffs, a driver could either win (automatically sending them to the next round) or accrue enough points.

Kyle Larson started the Round of 16 with a runner-up finish at Darlington, followed by 6<sup>th</sup> at Richmond and a victory in the Bristol night race. He'd easily advance to the Round of 12, where he finished P10 at Las Vegas before getting involved in a crash at Talladega, relegating him to 37<sup>th</sup>. Despite electrical issues at the Charlotte Roval, Larson still recovered to take the win and locked himself into the Round of 8. Larson punched his ticket to the Championship 4 with victory at Texas, but didn't stop there as he proceeded to win a third race in a row (**again**, remember he did it before) at Kansas the next week.

After Martinsville, it was confirmed that Larson would face off against reigning champion and teammate Chase Elliott, as well as Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Denny Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. (the 2017 champion) for the title the next week at Phoenix Raceway.



Over one-and-a-half years prior to this, Kyle Larson was left without a drive in the Cup Series. Yet despite sitting on the side-lines for the vast majority of 2020, Larson dominated the field upon his return, a return that had the potential to culminate in his first NASCAR Cup Series Championship.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**

### **\*2021 NASCAR Cup Series: Championship Race (Round 36)**

After a season that saw 9 wins and one of NASCAR's most dominant playoff runs in history, Larson made his debut Championship 4 appearance. For the season finale, Larson qualified on pole, and for a portion of the race itself, he was running up front ahead of his Championship 4 rivals. However, a long run in the final stage saw him drop to third, and a slightly slow pit stop pushed him further down to fifth. He recovered to fourth soon after, but with his title rivals ahead of him and the laps ticking down, the #5 team's title chances now looked bleak. They essentially needed a caution...

And debris with around 30 laps remaining gave them just that. Larson came onto pit road in fourth, but with an 11.8s pit stop from his team (their **second-fastest all year**), he exited in first and crucially ahead of his fellow championship contenders. This set him up for the final 25-lap dash to the chequered flag, where he held off Truex Jr. to claim a tenth win of 2021, and more importantly his first NASCAR Cup Series Championship. But don't forget, all of this is a mere year-and-a-half after the virtual racing incident that left him unemployed, so it may well be reasonable to say that with this championship came one of the biggest-comeback stories in NASCAR, if not all of sports as well!



As champions do, the #5 team came through on the money stop, helping to give Larson a much-deserved Drivers' Championship that really seemed optimistic at best to begin 2021. The triumph resulted in back-to-back Cup Series titles for Hendrick Motorsports (after Chase Elliott's first crown in 2020), as well as Larson becoming the 35th driver to earn the honour of Champion at NASCAR's top level.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]

### **\*With that, just how good was Kyle Larson's 2021 Championship season?**

Given the idea of this article, I wasn't simply going to just recap Kyle Larson's historic 2021 season, but also tell you a bit of how impressive it really was! Many things can be said when answering this question, and one of those things regards his 10 wins. It marked the first time any driver had scored double-digit wins in a Cup Series season since **2007** (when Jimmie Johnson took his second of seven titles), and Larson became one of only **11 drivers** in NASCAR history to do such a thing at the top level! All ten of his victories came at a wide range of track types, including short-tracks, road-courses, intermediates and 750-horsepower circuits!

Furthermore, Larson finished a race as runner-up another 6 times, meaning he scored 16 top-2 finishes (around **44%** of the time). He had another 2 third place results as well, equating to a **50%** rate of scoring a podium. His 2,581 laps led on the season were (and still are) the most since Jeff Gordon in 1995 (2,610), and that equates to about **28%** of the total laps run in the Cup Series in 2021. To further emphasise this dominance, he led at least 100 laps in **11 races** and at least 200 in five - out of those, he won seven times and finished second thrice (in Kansas in May, he led 132 laps but finished P19).

When comparing Kyle Larson to his teammates (Chase Elliott, William Byron and Alex Bowman), he led **over 1,000 more laps** than all three of them combined (2,581 to 1,538) and also won more races (10 to 7). In fact, if we take Larson by himself, he won more races in 2021 than any other organisation in the field (including Joe Gibbs Racing, who scored 9 wins across their **four** drivers). While Larson scored ten wins overall, nobody else got **more than 4** and we could alternatively say that Larson won more races in the final eight events of that year (five) than anybody did across all 36!

There's so much more to this as well, but those are just some of the key points! When looking at it, we could compare this to seasons like Jimmie Johnson in 2007, Martin Truex Jr. in 2017 and Kevin Harvick in 2020 (all three of which have similarities to Larson's 2021). Those are definitely impressive, but considering where Larson was a year-and-a-half before his first Cup Series title and how he performed in 2021 despite being unemployed for a vast portion of 2020, perhaps it's safe to say (at least, for now) that Larson's 2021 campaign is the best by any driver in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Before we officially conclude, let's have a look at Larson's final 2021 stats:

**Wins: 10 | Top 5s: 20 | Top 10s: 26 | Laps Led: 2,581 | DNFs: 2**  
**Average Start: 6.08 | Average Finish: 9.08 | Final Standing: 1st**

**[IMAGE CREDITS: [Getty Images](#)]**

**That's the end of the article!**

That will do it for an in-depth look at Kyle Larson's historic 2021 NASCAR Cup Series Championship! This was lengthy, I know, but perhaps it was with good reason - this wasn't just a random season I was recapping after all! Anyways, should you have any questions, feel free to contact me [@22B-Ojelade-Faeq](#) on Microsoft Teams or see me in-person! If your queries are more tilted towards the newsletter as a whole, then you may alternatively ask Miss Stevens, the founder and organiser of the newsletter (who I remind you, has led us towards 40 editions)!

It may be 2026 right now, but that legendary (and somewhat insane) campaign from Kyle Larson five years ago where he rose from the depths of unemployment to the peak of NASCAR racing in just over a year had essentially set the tone for what the Cup Series would be seeing in those following seasons! Even with the transition from the Generation 6 package to the Next-Gen car in 2022, Larson has still found a way to perform and dominate, having won more races than anyone else since then (16) as well as a second Drivers' Championship at the end of last year!

NASCAR is resurrecting the 'Chase' playoff format used from 2004-2013 for 2026 and beyond (*perhaps more on that soon!*), and it turns out that under the 2026 formatting, Larson would have won the title in each of the last two seasons (2024 and 2025) as well as 2021 (which actually would've been won under every championship format used by NASCAR in the 21<sup>st</sup> century). With that, and considering the momentum that he has gained over his tenure at Hendrick Motorsports, it makes Kyle Larson a formidable threat for the 2026 Drivers' Championship (and he could even be the #1 favourite)! For now though, thanks for reading this article; unless you view the **optional** bonus content I have right after this, see you next time! 🙌

**[\*WRITER'S NOTE:** This article was last updated on January 23rd 2026. Facts and statistics included are correct as of that date, with some potentially being subject to change within future months. Regardless, I hope this interested you even a little bit, now (provided you wish to see it) for my bonus content...]

# NASCAR: BEST OF LARSON AT HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS (BONUS GALLERY)



\*FAEQ 10B<sup>2</sup> [EDITOR]\*

Like I said, you may take this as an **optional** bonus: if you wish to view it, then you may, otherwise you are free to advance to the next topic! For those of you that choose to see this bonus content, I figured that I'd compile some of Larson's best moments in the #5 car not just from 2021, but across his five seasons driving for Hendrick Motorsports. Of course, Larson enters the 2026 Cup Series season as a two-time and defending champion, so why not have a quick glimpse over some of his biggest successes and most dominant performances with HMS ahead of his second title defence?



**2021 Las Vegas-I:** It only took Larson four races in 2021 to see the chequered flag first on behalf of Hendrick Motorsports, taking a dominant victory in Las Vegas. The win marked his first in Cup competition since October 2019 at Dover, with the #5 car returning to Victory Lane for the first time since July 2017.

[IMAGE CREDIT: [Getty Images](#)]



**2021 Charlotte-I:** For his first Coca-Cola 600 victory, Kyle Larson led 327 of the 400 laps, swept all four stages and had outpaced the field by a resounding 10.051 seconds by the drop of the chequered flag. This marked Larson's first career win in a race that was longer than 400 miles. His win was also the 269th for Hendrick Motorsports, making them the winningest organisation of all-time in the NASCAR Cup Series.

[IMAGE CREDITS: [Getty Images](#)]



**2021 All-Star Race:** Following wins at Charlotte and Sonoma, Larson would then earn a \$1,000,000 pay-cheque with a second-career All-Star Race victory at Texas. He held off Brad Keselowski and teammate Chase Elliott to become one of now nine drivers (eight at the time) to win the All-Star Race at least twice.

[IMAGE CREDIT: [Getty Images](#)]



**2021 Charlotte-II:** Larson won five times during the Playoffs in 2021, with this win potentially being the most impressive. Despite electrical issues at the Charlotte Roval, he would power towards his 7th win of the year and become the first driver in NASCAR Cup Series history to win on at least three different road courses in a single season.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2021 Phoenix-II:** Kyle Larson finished off a dominant season and remarkable comeback story with victory #10 in the season finale at Phoenix, giving him his first of two NASCAR Cup Series Championships. He became the fifth driver to win the title driving for Hendrick Motorsports while bringing home the #5's first championship for 25 years (Terry Labonte, also a champion for HMS, in 1996) upon the number's return to full-time action!

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]**



**2022 Daytona-I:** The 2022 Cup Series season saw the introduction of the Next-Generation car, yet Larson would still pick up from where he left off in 2021 by qualifying on pole position for NASCAR's biggest race, the Daytona 500. (Come the race itself, he'd actually get caught up in a late crash and finish 30th... 😞)

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]**



**2022 Watkins Glen:** Larson claimed his first win of 2022 in Round 2, but had to wait until Round 25 for his second triumph of the year. That came in a wet-to-dry road-course race at Watkins Glen, where he muscled by teammate Chase Elliott on a late restart and led only the final five laps for his first victory in 23 events.

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]**



**2022 Homestead:** The Playoffs didn't go so well for Kyle Larson, as he was ousted from title contention in the Round of 12. He would redeem himself a couple weeks later by leading 199 of the 267 laps for his first-career win at Homestead-Miami Speedway, which came after a couple of near misses (he led at least 100 laps twice there before, but couldn't seal the deal).

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]**



**2023 Martinsville-I:** Larson's second win of 2023 came at Martinsville as he took advantage of a two-tire pit stop to deliver the first win at the track for car #5 since 1984 (when Geoff Bodine scored the win that kept the struggling Hendrick Motorsports organisation alive)! It was also his first Martinsville win, coming in his 17th start at the 0.526-mile circuit.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2023 All-Star Race:** Coming from the back of the field, Larson led a dominating 145 of the 200 laps in NASCAR's return to North Wilkesboro and scored his third-career All-Star race victory (meaning another \$1 million cheque)! He would join Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Sr. as the only drivers to have won the All-Star Race at least thrice.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Hendrick Motorsports]**



**2023 Darlington-II:** Larson started the 2023 Playoffs by scoring another crown-jewel victory: the Southern 500 at Darlington (a.k.a 'The Track Too Tough To Tame'). This win was also the 500th for the Hendrick Motorsports engine department in national series competition (the Cup, now O'Reilly and Truck Series).

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2024 Kansas-I:** In the closest-ever finish in NASCAR Cup Series history, Larson edged out RFK's Chris Buescher [#17] for his 25th career win by **0.001s** (roughly an inch 🤪)! His top-5 result was also the 1,250th for Hendrick Motorsports, making them the first-ever organisation to hit that mark.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2024 Indianapolis:** Earlier in the 2024 season, Larson had attempted to complete IndyCar's Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 in the same day; he finished 18th in the former yet couldn't get back in time for the latter. Despite that disappointment, he would return to Indianapolis with the Cup Series in July, and charge through the field from P23 with 31 laps remaining to his third crown jewel victory: the Brickyard 400 (it's tradition that the winner kisses the bricks on the start/finish-straight as well!).

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]**



**2024 Bristol-II:** On a Saturday night in Bristol, Larson blitzed the rest of the field by leading 462 of the 500 laps, winning both stages and taking the chequered flag 7.088s ahead of teammate Chase Elliott (nearly half a lap). In doing this, he set the record for the most laps led in a race by a Hendrick Motorsports driver.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2025 Homestead:** Kyle Larson had an up-and-down day at Homestead to begin with, but at the end he capitalised on a mistake from teammate Alex Bowman to claim his first victory of the season. He also became (funnily enough) the 30th driver to win 30 races in NASCAR Cup Series competition.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2025 Bristol-I:** A few days after the death of Hendrick Motorsports employee Jon Edwards (a public relations representative for nearly three decades and a key person in getting Kyle Larson's career back on track), Larson dominated the spring event at Bristol by leading 411 of the 500 laps to storm to his 25th victory with HMS in honour of the late Edwards.

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2025 Kansas-I:** Larson's most recent Cup Series win came on May 11th 2025 at Kansas, where he also led 221 of the 267 laps, won both stages and set the fastest lap of the race. With this came a perfect score of 61 points, the first time that had been done under the 2025 points format (including a bonus point for the fastest lap) in NASCAR history!

**[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]**



**2025 Phoenix-II:** Despite going winless for the remaining  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the 2025 season, Larson used consistency to make the Championship 4 and face off against Denny Hamlin, Chase Briscoe and teammate William Byron for the title. Even though he suffered a puncture, he would rally back to the front of the field and master an Overtime restart caused by a flat tyre for Byron to become the third driver to win multiple championships for Hendrick Motorsports (joining legends Jimmie Johnson with 7, and Jeff Gordon with 4).

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images and NASCAR on Threads]**



With that, here are Larson's main stats from his tenure at Hendrick Motorsports so far, including comparative measures with the rest of the field since 2021:

**Seasons:** 5 | **Championships:** 2 (joint-most) | **Wins:** 26 (most)  
**Poles:** 14 (joint-second) | **Top-5s:** 78 (most) | **Top-10s:** 103 (most)  
**Laps Led:** 7,149 (most, at least 2,058 more than any other driver)

**[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images and Hendrick Automotive Group]**

### **That's the end of the gallery!**

That's officially a wrap on my January 2026 content! Even if it were for a minute or two, thanks for viewing this bonus compilation of Kyle Larson's best moments with Hendrick Motorsports (which is also the organisation that I happen to support 😊)! If you have any questions, do contact me [@22B-Ojelade-Faeq](#) on Teams, or Outlook, or in-person should you be able to find me!

Perhaps there was another interesting fact or two that you learnt from this, possibly including the fact that Kyle Larson has firmly been the best Cup Series driver over the course of the last five years (and it wouldn't be a surprise to see that continue in seasons to come)! If he wasn't already cemented as one of Hendrick Motorsports' legendary drivers after his 2021 title, he surely has been now that he's one of only 18 individuals to win multiple Cup Series titles while also being named as one of NASCAR's 75 Greatest Drivers back in 2023! Not only that, but by many he is considered one of (if not, the) best motorsports drivers on the planet, at times being compared with the likes of Max Verstappen from Formula 1 (sounds interesting, I know, but I'm actually serious here)!

Again, this has been made ahead of his second title defence; if he can stay in contention for the 2026 crown entering the finale, not only will he be the defending *series* champion, but also the defending *race* champion as well (Homestead-Miami Speedway, the venue of Larson's first win in 2025, will be hosting the 2026 NASCAR Cup Series season finale)! But for now, thanks for viewing this content if you did; until next time, goodbye! 🙌

**[\*PRODUCER'S NOTE:** This gallery was last updated on January 23rd 2026. Facts and statistics included are correct as of that date, with some potentially being subject to change within future months. Thanks for viewing my content this month; see you next time!]

# WHICH IS BETTER: GEOGRAPHY OR HISTORY?



\*SHUVAM 7A\*

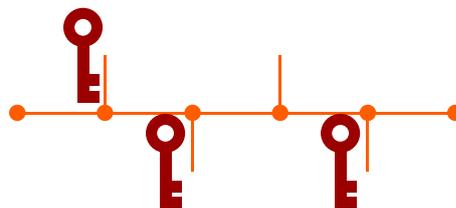


Welcome my dear viewers, and it's me Shuvam. I will be covering a topic which all of you people wonder which one is better Geography or History - many people don't like any of the subjects which I understand. Let's dive in straight away.

Both History and Geography are core subjects that will impact your lives, some of you could choose one of these subjects for GSCE. History and Geography have many things in common. History is about remembering key facts that you need to remember. Geography is about the study of the world and nature. History, pros and cons.

It helps students understand cause and effect, such as how wars, revolutions, and leaders influenced countries. Through History, we learn from mistakes and successes of earlier societies. It also develops skills like essay writing, analysing sources, and forming arguments. One disadvantage of History is that it requires remembering many dates, events, and names, which some students find difficult. Geography has pros as well due to remembering where to locate places. The cons of both are that they require you to remember facts which many people could find hard.

While both subjects are important, they complement each other in understanding the world. Geography explains where events happen and why certain places develop in particular ways, while history explains how and why those events unfold. Together, they provide a full picture of human life and the planet we live on. Geography and History complement each other in many other ways.



Geography can explain why historical events happened in particular locations, while History can provide context for geographic changes. For example, understanding the geography of Europe helps explain why countries fought over certain regions, and studying historical trade routes shows how geography shaped economic development. By combining knowledge from both subjects, students gain a more complete understanding of the world.

# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



## A Note of Thanks



**Thank you for reading the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of Best of the Beths!**

The first edition to be both produced *and* released during 2026 has come at a special point in time where we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of BotB (which also coincides with the start of the New Year)! To celebrate the milestone, the newsletter sports colours to pay tribute to those used in the debut instalment (just like it did in September 2025), mainly including a darker blue and a white background as well as hints of lavender. 6 years and 4 months ago, the first edition of BotB went live across school on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, the birthday of founder and organiser Miss Stevens, whose commitment and dedication over the past 76 months has been a key part in helping us get this far.

Our debut was nearly two years in the making, after she noted back in 2017 that there wasn't a platform for students to talk about their passions. But things have drastically changed in that respect, with scholars' topics consisting of experiences, teacher interviews and so much more. Not just that, but in recent months we've also seen other platforms following suit in communicating the student voice, including the **MedSoc Journals** and **Beths Science** with their debut earlier in January! So it's quite evident that BotB has had a profound impact on our school community, and we can only hope that this continues in the months and years to come!

For the 40<sup>th</sup> time, we had a wide variety of topics, starting off with key affairs involving the USA, alongside the history of the forms and an interview with Deputy Head Mr Jones! Sport was prominent yet again, including summaries of the 2025 AFCON and Formula 1 competitions as well as one of the best NASCAR seasons in recent memory. There were also a couple reviews and events within Africa along the way, while also considering the benefits of the school curriculum on future skills. Additionally, we had a sneak peek at life within the **Beths Book Podcast** team, and what better way to conclude than comparing two of our humanity subjects?

# BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #40



Of course, perhaps none of this would have been possible without the care and commitment that Miss Stevens has shown over the past 6+ years, so we should **all** be thankful for her service and congratulate her on 40 publications! Thanks will also go to the rest of the team, who have helped to create an edition at least 40 pages long for the third time this year and have continued to work brilliantly. And I (**Faeq of 10B**) will say that I am grateful to have had the privilege of editing each of the last nine editions, with much more to look forward to soon.

That'll do it for now, but before we come back, do click on the red button at the bottom of this page for many more of our past publications, and/or the blue button for a more in-depth look at BotB's history from the very beginning up to the start of this academic year! Try to stay warm and enjoy those past editions as we exit the cold of the winter season, and we hope you're looking forward to the February 2026 instalment, which shall release around a month from now.

For the time being, thanks for reading Best of the Beths, the newsletter that's been 'produced for students, by students' since September of 2019! Until next time, it's goodbye from us; we hope you enjoyed this one! 🙌



Haven't had your fill yet? Click on this button for some more of our 40 editions over the years before we return; enjoy them!

Do you want a little refresher of the newsletter's history? Click here for the September 2025 edition, where you'll find the story of Beths of the Beths (up to the start of this academic year) on pages 5-8!

**\*Note written by Faeq Ojelade of 10B, Editor of Best of the Beths\***  
with

**\*Regards from the Best of the Beths Newsletter Team! See you next time!\***