

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #42



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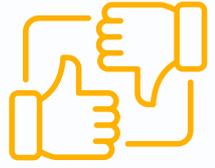


 *Edited by Faeq Ojelade of 10B* 





THE WORST AND BEST SPY



SHUVAM 7A

The video *The Greatest Double Agent* by Primal Space tells the remarkable true story of Juan Pujol García, one of the most successful spies of the Second World War. Unlike the glamorous spies often shown in films, Pujol was not trained, armed, or recruited at first. Instead, he was an ordinary man whose strong beliefs, intelligence, and creativity allowed him to deceive Nazi Germany from the inside. His story shows how determination and clever thinking can be just as powerful as weapons.

Why Juan Pujol García decided to act

Juan Pujol García was born in Spain and lived through the Spanish Civil War, a conflict that exposed him to extreme violence, political chaos, and dictatorship. During this time, he witnessed suffering on both sides and became deeply opposed to fascism and authoritarian rule. These experiences shaped his worldview and strongly influenced his actions during World War II.

When the Second World War began, Pujol believed that Nazi Germany posed a serious threat to Europe and to innocent civilians. Rather than remaining a bystander, he felt morally obligated to act. However, he was not a soldier, politician, or intelligence officer. He had no official power or influence, which makes his later achievements even more remarkable. Initially, Pujol contacted British intelligence and offered to help them as a spy. At the time, the British did not believe he was useful and rejected him. For many people, this would have been the end of the story. However, Pujol refused to give up. Instead, he decided to take matters into his own hands by pretending to spy for Nazi Germany, while secretly planning to sabotage them with false information.

This decision marked the beginning of his life as a double agent. His motivation was not money, fame, or excitement. He acted out of belief and principle. The Primal Space video highlights this to show that Pujol was driven by personal conviction, not selfish reasons.

How he convinced the Nazis to trust him

Pujol began by contacting German intelligence and presenting himself as a loyal supporter of their cause. He claimed to have access to information from Britain and offered to spy on their behalf. The Nazis accepted him, believing he could provide valuable intelligence. Instead of claiming that all information came directly from him, he created imaginary agents with names, personalities, jobs, and locations. Some of these fictional agents were described as dock workers, others as government employees, and some as ordinary civilians. Each had their own role and access to information. By doing this, Pujol made the Nazis believe they had a wide and powerful intelligence network operating across Britain.

His reports included fake troop movements, invented military plans, and misleading details about Allied operations. The information was written carefully so that it seemed realistic but would ultimately lead the Germans to make poor decisions.

Who he blamed the wrong information on

One of the most important parts of Pujol's success was how he explained mistakes. When information arrived late or turned out to be incorrect, he never took the blame himself. Instead, he blamed his fictional agents. For example, he might claim that an agent had been delayed by bad weather, arrested by authorities, or killed before delivering full details. Sometimes he said an agent misunderstood instructions or misheard plans. These excuses made his reports more believable, because real spy networks often fail or suffer losses.

By blaming fake people, Pujol protected his own credibility. The Nazis believed the errors were normal problems within a large intelligence network, not signs of deception. This allowed Pujol to continue misleading them without raising suspicion.

His role in D-Day deception

Pujol's most important contribution came before D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. He helped convince German leaders that the Normandy landings were only a distraction and that the real invasion would take place elsewhere. As a result, German forces were kept away from Normandy for longer than they should have been. This delay reduced resistance for Allied troops and played a crucial role in the success of the invasion. Historians widely agree that Pujol's deception saved many lives. The Primal Space video explains this clearly, showing how intelligence and psychology influenced the outcome of the war as much as military strength.

Why Juan Pujol García is remembered

Juan Pujol García is remembered as one of the greatest double agents in history because he succeeded without traditional spy skills. He relied on imagination, patience, and understanding human behaviour. His story proves that intelligence work is not always about action and danger, but about planning and persuasion.

The video presents him as a man who turned rejection into opportunity and used deception to fight a powerful enemy. His actions remind us that one determined individual can influence major historical events.

Thank you for reading my article, I hope you guys enjoyed and if you have any ideas for me, message me privately [@25A-Paudel](#). Again thank you Faeq and Ms Stevens. Bye, this is Shuvam out!



NASCAR 25: GAME REVIEW



NASCAR 25



iRacing

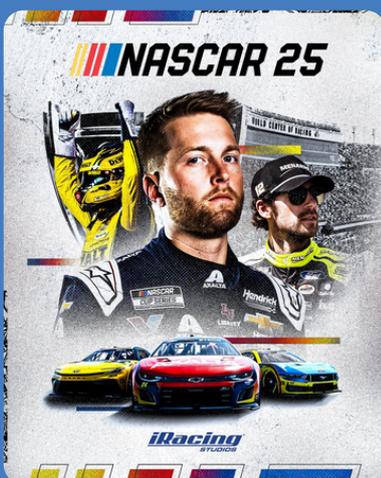
FAEQ 10B¹ [EDITOR]

Greetings once more, readers - to those of you that are reading Best of the Beths for the first time, welcome to the newsletter that's 'produced for students, by students' - welcome back to those of you that have been reading it before! Hopefully you've had a good half-term and are looking forward to the Easter break, and possibly this article too! I am Faeq (**pronounced: Fi-EEK**) of 10B, the editor of BotB, and you regular readers may well be aware of my high enthusiasm for NASCAR; I write about it quite often, but this time my content is going to be a little different!

Did you know that we haven't had a game review in the newsletter since the November 2022 edition? FIFA 20, Fortnite, Overwatch 2 and a couple others had their honourable mentions in the newsletter's early days, but it's about time we add a new game to the list! For my March article, I have decided to produce a review based on **NASCAR 25** by iRacing Studios! It's been sitting on the digital shelves for around five months now, but in that span I was able to get the game on PS5 this past Christmas and accumulate some playing time too (nearly 70 hours total)! Featuring the facts and my own experience, let's dive into BotB's first video game review for nearly 3-and-a-half years!

*Context/Background of Development

NASCAR 25 by iRacing Studios is the first console release for the mainline NASCAR series (available on PS5, Xbox/Series X/S and Steam) since *NASCAR 21: Ignition* a whole four years prior. What happened in that time? Well, both *NASCAR 21* (on PS4/5, Xbox Series S/X, Xbox One and PC) and *NASCAR Heat 5* (PS4 and Xbox One) received a 2022 season expansion in October that year, and Motorsport Games (the developers at the time) sold the licence of NASCAR games to iRacing in 2023. From there, the game was developed on Unreal Engine, and in January last year it was announced that the NASCAR Cup, Xfinity (nowadays O'Reilly), Trucks and ARCA Menards Series were to be added into it, featuring nearly 200 licenced drivers total as a result.



This is the official cover for the NASCAR 25 game, unveiled prior to the 2025 Cup Series Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona in August. It features the following Cup Series drivers:

- **William Byron** [centre] - driver of the #24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, 2024-25 Daytona 500 Champion
- **Christopher Bell** [left] - driver of the #20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, 2025 All-Star Race winner
- **Ryan Blaney** [right] - driver of the #12 Team Penske Ford, 2023 NASCAR Cup Series Champion

[IMAGE CREDIT: NASCAR on X/Twitter]

*Driver Ratings

For each of the four series, NASCAR 25 features a highly-detailed driver ratings system provided by Racing Insights', with each driver given an Overall as well as an individual rating on **six** different track types: super-speedways, speedways, intermediates, short tracks, concrete tracks, and road courses (sounds lengthy, I know!). Not just this, but the top driver in each series (bar ARCA) receives a coveted 100 Overall rating. Cover driver William Byron got the 100 OVR for the Cup Series, with Connor Zilisch doing so in Xfinity and Corey Heim earning it in Trucks. While 2025 ARCA champion Brenden Queen didn't get a 100 himself, he still received a series-high 99 OVR.



RATING	DRIVER NAME	OVR	SSW	SW	INT	S.INT	C	RC
1	24 WILLIAM BYRON	100	98	94	97	97	90	88
2	11 DENNY HAMLIN	99	83	100	96	94	100	70
3	5 KYLE LARSON	99	93	94	100	92	97	83
4	12 RYAN BLANEY	98	97	88	90	100	92	81
5	20 CHRISTOPHER BELL	97	91	87	92	100	92	91
6	9 CHASE ELLIOTT	96	99	93	90	93	89	85
7	19 CHASE BRISCOE	95	91	87	91	86	87	87
8	45 TYLER REDDICK	92	94	90	93	85	84	85



You'd get two views of the Driver Ratings, the simplified and detailed view - the image above shows the full driver ratings for the top-8 drivers in the NASCAR Cup Series for 2025. In both views, you can sort the drivers based on the track type (with the button on PS5, for example). The best driver(s) for each type will get a rating of 100 for that section. | ***NOTE:** You may want to zoom in to view the ratings above in further detail.

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]

*Game Modes and Customisation Options

As established already, you have four series to check out, and you can do so across four different modes: Quick Race, Championship, Online and Career. The first three are somewhat self-explanatory, but in terms of the Career (which I am yet to consider taking up), you experience a 'from-the-ground-up' type of journey, starting in ARCA, advancing up the ladder to Trucks and Xfinity before reaching Cup. You build a custom team while managing sponsorship deals, car parts and finances along the way; you can also adjust AI difficulty and race lengths for a more personalised experience.

Outside of that, you have the 200 drivers up for selection in Quick Race, Championship and Online too. In the game's Standard Edition (which I have), each driver gets just one base livery except the cover drivers (who each have a bonus scheme) and 2025 Cup Series Champion Kyle Larson (who has three other paints to do with his title on top of his base one). Many drivers get DLC paint schemes in the Gold Edition of the game though! Alternatively, you can play with your own customised car that can feature real-life brands; there are many livery templates and sponsors to use in the Customisation section of 'My Team'. Unfortunately however, when it comes to Championship, you're only allowed to play as an official driver from the series you choose, not yourself too.



In each of the four series, you can have up to four different paints featuring numerous colours and sponsors [like iRacing] for decals on your car while also experimenting with many colours and 24 styles of livery! You can also choose between Chevrolet [pictured], Toyota and Ford for your car manufacturer!

[IMAGE CREDIT: [Myself](#)]

*Tracks (Present AND Absent...)

With all that said, NASCAR 25 has a comprehensive list of tracks for each series based on their calendars; while some series have some tracks in common, you're unable to take Cup Series cars to circuits like Lime Rock Park (for Trucks and ARCA), for example. In fact, there are even a few tracks missing, like Bowman Gray (which hosted Cup's pre-season Clash), and Mexico City (the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez) which hosted Cup's first international event for 67 years. This is because the sheer volume of work (such as tuning the AI, and adjusting car models for 30 different tracks) prevented a fully accurate 2025 schedule at launch. Not just that, but tracks like Mexico were added to iRacing shortly before NASCAR 25 came out and couldn't be developed in time!

*Main Gameplay

Now, why don't we actually get into the proper experience? My gameplay has only gone as far as the Cup and Xfinity Series with a few Trucks excursions too, but the cars do handle well and the game feels approachable on a controller. Of course, at times, you'll have to loosen up the car (as I do with a few Quick Setups) if you need it to be more responsive to your input and find your ideal line (normally down at the bottom of the race track for me) but once you tame it, a loose race car feels quite good! Not just this, but there's also a wide range of assists available to you; I've stuck with the ones I've adjusted in December, and have learnt how to drive the cars that way ever since!

Why don't we get onto the AI? Their difficulty is on a scale of 85-105, and I'd say I peak around 98-100 outside of superspeedways as many of my challenges have come from those difficulties. Numerous other sliders are there to allow a more personal experience racing them, such as Skill Range (which determines the field spread), Incident Frequency (a higher value meaning more chaos) and more! When you get them right, wheel-to-wheel combat is quite exciting, but at times the AI can be a bit too tentative from either dodging a wreck in front, or when the user picks up a corner cutting penalty (where you're stopped for nearly 5 seconds and they most likely queue up behind you).



A screenshot of racing at Dover Motor Speedway, one of three concrete circuits on the Cup Series schedule! It is worth noting, all of the drivers here are nearly in rating order for concrete tracks, as you'll find on all other track types (bar superspeedways, maybe)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: [Dover Motor Speedway on X/Twitter](#)]

When it comes to the damage model, I personally don't mind how it looks, but it really tilts towards something more simplistic rather than massively detailed. Even so (with damage disabled), it actually looks somewhat cool seeing drivers with torn race cars still fighting up front (at least, from what I have seen)! Crashes are again dependent on how frequent you want them to be, and while most of them may feel like expected NASCAR incidents, the craziest crashes in my gameplay have come from some of the most unlikely locations (such as short tracks like Rockingham). It's worth noting though, that mechanical failures/DNFs don't actually exist for the player or AI!

The graphics are generally sound as well, but the lighting seems to be a bit too dim at night. Nowadays, NASCAR races feature Stages (breaking up the race into three segments except for Cup's Coca-Cola 600, when there's four), but you may disable those if you want a more continuous flow of action. On another topic, pit stops in this game seem to be unrealistic and I'll explain why. In Cup for example, the elite teams take 9.5-10.5s on average to complete a pit stop in real life, whereas in NASCAR 25 they'll take 15-16s if you're going for something like four tires and fuel. Even a splash-and-go of fuel may take longer than it should, and maybe the AI will leapfrog you as a result.

*Post-Race and the Replay System

In terms of this, not a lot happens! If you win, you're put into a cutscene where the driver you played as simply phases through the window net (which in real life is put down) like an inter-dimensional being and punches the air - all before then being taken to the results of the session. There, you'll have the option to look at the race replay, and this is where I get many of my screenshots from! Be mindful, the replay system is actually quite limited, as you don't get many great angles for pictures (at some tracks, you might have to go back and forth to force the game a little bit into giving you a good angle) and unlike franchises such as the Formula One games, you're unable to go onboard with another driver to have a look at (let's say) a spin they had, for example.



Here, it's worth noting that the official drivers in the game don't actually sport their real-life helmets! Instead [as seen with William Byron], iRacing have designed the helmets (mostly) based on their main paint scheme in the game (which is why drivers like Kyle Larson have a predominantly blue helmet with a bit of white and red at the back)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]

*Final Verdict and Rating

As this is the first NASCAR game on consoles for four years, it does seem evident that iRacing went for a stable and solid foundation for the franchise that they can build upon in the next few installments. There are definitely quite a few things missing from this game that a racing game could perhaps benefit from, but that's not to say iRacing haven't done a great job with NASCAR 25, which they definitely have. Certain sources and critics may rate it along the lines of a 6-7/10 (seriously!), but I'll rate it slightly higher than that; it's still good to the point where I'm quite excited to hop back on it as soon as possible after a long week of school! With that, here's my rating for NASCAR 25...

NASCAR 25 RATING: 7.5/10

That'll be the end of this article!

That'll do it for BotB's first video game review since November 2022! Thanks for giving this one a read, it's of course something quite different to what I usually do when it comes to NASCAR, but given that we haven't really mentioned video games for nearly 4 years, I'd say I've done quite well with this one! If there are any questions about this article or my role as the editor of the newsletter, do feel free to contact me [@22B-Ojelade-Faeq](#) on Microsoft Teams, or my Outlook email or in-person if you're able to identify me! Should your queries be more tilted towards the newsletter as a whole, then feel free to get in touch with Miss Stevens, the founder and organiser of BotB!

NASCAR 25, while somewhat limited, deserves to be regarded as a successful start for iRacing with the franchise, and hopefully this solid Year 1 effort from them can be converted into even better and more fantastic releases in the years to come! It's been a joy to play over the past three months, and I look forward to more game-time soon! When it comes to the newsletter, it would really be nice to see a clearer emergence of video game reviews in our near future, probably at a similar rate to how often they appeared in BotB's earlier days, if not more!

For now though, thanks for reading yet another piece on NASCAR produced by yours truly, Faeq of 10B! As always, I've got an extra gallery (which I'll make **optional**) right after this; should you wish to advance from that onto what's next, you may! Whether you end it here or with the gallery is up to you, but if you move on to the next topic, then see you next time! Goodbye for now!



[*PRODUCER'S NOTE: This article was last updated on March 20th 2026. Facts within the article are correct as of that date, with some potentially being subject to change in the future months, weeks, and years as well! Even so, I hope you found this interesting!]



NASCAR 25: BONUS GAMEPLAY SCREENSHOTS (GALLERY!)



NASCAR 25



FAEQ 10B² [EDITOR]

As I said, this is really just an added bonus to my lengthy review, so if you want to skip this and advance, you may! Those of you that have been reading the newsletter regularly in recent months should know me quite well by now. For this month, not only have I decided to write a review based on NASCAR 25, but I also have a few (of many) gameplay screenshots lined up for all four series featured in it! These shall include some of my most recent adventures on NASCAR 25 in no particular chronological order, mainly featuring Cup, Xfinity and Trucks, but ARCA will have a screenshot too! Nevertheless, enjoy I guess!



BRISTOL-1: Let's start with some Cup adventures! Here, I went for a 65-lap dash (13% distance) around Bristol, NASCAR's fastest half-mile circuit. I was running around the back of the top-10 for most of it before surging up all the way up to P2 as Christopher Bell in the #20 in the final stage, 0.031s away from victory despite making a last-corner lunge on Denny Hamlin [right image]!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



CHARLOTTE-1: The longest race I've done so far was a 13% distance Coca-Cola 600 (one of NASCAR's crown jewel events) which took nearly 25 minutes to complete. It was also one of my most challenging events racing the AI, but I still managed to recreate Ross Chastain's real life triumph by 2.078 seconds!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



COTA: When it comes to road-course racing in Cup, you're most likely going to find Shane Van Gisbergen [behind, white car] (and rated 100 on road courses) in your tyre tracks if you're leading the race! I've been there and held him off many times though, including this instance driving as 2026 rookie Connor Zilisch for a Grand Prix victory at Circuit of the Americas!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



DOVER: After finishing 2nd to Denny Hamlin in Stage 1, I accidentally tagged him and sent him spinning before we properly started Stage 2! Hilariously, I ended up taking the win in my 50th race on NASCAR 25, but in no way did I mean to take him out to do it (I was quite a bit faster than the AI overall near the end of the race anyways, but make of it what you will)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



HOMESTEAD: Homestead's another very good track in terms of cool camera angles, such as this one with the AI cars of [left to right] William Byron, Chase Elliott and Chase Briscoe battling for position here! I will also say, these are 3 of my favourite liveries for the Cup Series in the game, so why not have this image?

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



KANSAS-1: Kansas Speedway is the home of the closest finish in NASCAR Cup Series history [pictured on blue patch] (decided by 0.001s), and it looks as though we've got something of the sort here between myself as Alex Bowman [#48, right] and Denny Hamlin [#11] for P4 at the end of Stage 1 of a 13% Kansas race, which I just about snatched!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



MARTINSVILLE-2: Some late-race action of the Xfinity 500 event at 13% distance, leading a Chase 1-2 as Chase Elliott in my slightly dinged-up #9 (which is simply a part of short track racin', I guess!) ahead of the #19 of Chase Briscoe and the #12 of Ryan Blaney (who won the first two stages of the race).

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



MICHIGAN: This is probably one of my most comical moments ever on the game, as Brad Keselowski in the #6 spun behind me with a few laps to go in the race, yet (perhaps owing to NASCAR 25's weird scoring systems and the fact that I also had damage disabled) still beat me and everyone else to win at Michigan. I didn't actually realise this until having a look at the replay system post-race (I had a mirror on the screen during the race but was only focused forward)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



PHOENIX-2: At the end of January, I took Kyle Larson's #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet (with its special Championship paint scheme) for a quick 4% sprint at Phoenix to re-create his real life 2025 title for fun! This is before I recently did the same for his teammate William Byron in the #24 (who was also title-eligible at the last round) as a 'What If?' scenario during a 13% contest (it's cool that Larson's AI will sport the special championship livery for the Phoenix-2 event, isn't it?).

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



TALLADEGA-2: I thought I'd have at least one picture of drafting action in the Cup Series, and I chose NASCAR's biggest oval for it! You've got an image of three-wide racing (for the most part), but with the settings I run of drafting tracks, sometimes there is the potential for things to get as crazy as five-wide!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



CHARLOTTE ROVAL: Now for some Xfinity shots, starting with this one at the Charlotte Roval (or in simpler terms, the Charlotte Road Course, a part of which lies within the oval. Parts of both the oval and the road-course are implemented into the 2.28-mile circuit, hence it being dubbed the 'Roval')!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



ECHO-PARK-1: Here's some Atlanta action with 38 Xfinity cars - again, you could put a blanket over the whole field, being led by myself as I engaged in some Austin Hill [front] roleplay (where he basically dominates and wins most of the superspeedway races in the series, indeed quite predictable for a style of racing that's meant to be more dramatic)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



LAS VEGAS-2: The finale of my Xfinity experience (for now) had quite an extraordinary scene, as the AI of Connor Zilisch (the driver rated 100 overall in Xfinity) suddenly *flipped up and over* from the lead at Las Vegas, literally opening the door for me to win the race as Corey Day and leave the Xfinity action on quite a dramatic note indeed!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



PHOENIX-2: Now let's take it back to my first Xfinity race as Connor Zilisch for a hypothetical challenge of making him the Champion at Phoenix (which he deserved to be, but the Playoffs stole it from him), and what an ending to that first race it was! After a fierce battle with the #19 of Aric Almirola [left] with two laps to go, I eventually wrestled the lead from him and (hypothetically) made Connor Zilisch an Xfinity Champion while also giving the #88 Chevrolet the Owners' crown!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



PORTLAND: *Did you know?* Portland Internantional Raceway wasn't present in NASCAR 25 by the time the game released, but was later added as part of a patch in January this year! Thankfully, I got to go for a spin around the circuit (not as any of the drivers pictured here, but rather in the #20 Toyota of Brandon Jones)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



DAYTONA: Let's move on to the tough Trucks of NASCAR, and what better way to start such an experience than slicing through the field from 23rd en route to victory at Daytona (as, of course, the #11 of Corey Heim)? In my article, I said my AI difficulty is 98-100 at most normally, but I actually bumped them up to 102 for this one and still emerged victorious!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



LIME ROCK: When I think of Lime Rock, Austria's F1 Spielberg circuit comes to mind - both are short, situated near forestland and mountains, many elevation changes and a downhill right-hander for the last turn! I experienced all of that in a 7% dash of the *LiUNA!* 150 in Tyler Ankrum's #18 *LiUNA!* Chevrolet (funny that, isn't it? I actually won it too)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



LUCAS OIL IRP: Rather than dominating the AI (which I do, mostly on accident), this is an instance [in the #98 of Ty Majeski] where I'm rather trying to hang on to a top-5 finish from guys behind, including *Cup* regulars Kyle Busch and Kyle Larson [last two on the right, close up] - in the end, I helplessly sank to P8, my second-worst finish to date (my worst being 10th)!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Myself]



TEXAS: That's the end of my screenshots, now enjoy a couple of official ones, including this one from Truck Series gameplay at Texas as one of the first to be released as sneak-peek gameplay for NASCAR 25!

[IMAGE CREDIT: NASCAR 25 Website]



WATKINS GLEN: The ARCA Menards Series is the only one I'm yet to experience some gametime with, but there you'll be racing Generation-6 NASCARs at tracks like Watkins Glen [pictured here] with drivers like Brenden Queen, William Sawalich and Cleetus McFarland [centre, #30]!

[IMAGE CREDIT: NASCAR 25 Website]

That'll be the end of the gallery!

This was really just an added bonus, but (provided you did) thanks for having a look at 24 of the many gameplay screenshots taken for NASCAR 25! As much as I talked about the main parts of the game in my review, I thought it would also be nice for you to get a sense of what some tracks and their racing products looked like under the sun, shadows and the (somewhat dim) floodlights at night! Again, if there are any questions you wish to ask me, feel free to contact me [@22B-Ojelade-Faeq](#) on Teams, my Outlook email, or in-person if you can find me.

Quite a lot of time was invested into both my pieces for this edition, from the game-time I managed to get in my free time to conducting some further research where needed and taking some cool snaps post-race (some of which I thought would be nice to share)! Overall, it was really nice to share all this as part of the newsletter's first real video game content since the November 2022 edition; hopefully we get some more of the sort in the near future, as I said! Be ready for some motorsport content next month, albeit (probably) in a smaller amount as I also gear up for my trial exams! For now though, thanks for viewing my March'26 content; see you next time!

[*PRODUCER'S NOTE: This gallery was last updated on March 20th 2026, with edits made to improve accuracy while maintaining this. Facts within the article are correct as of that date, with some potentially being subject to change in the future months, weeks, and years as well! Even so, I hope you found this interesting!]

ALIEN ALLEGATIONS



ARYAMAN 8C



They're real, but I haven't seen them, and they're not being kept in Area 51" - Barack Obama

In February, the US president Donald Trump, announced that he is going to release government files concerning **Aliens**. These files will likely concern topics like **Area 51**, the **UAP** and other information that may describe possible UFO sightings

What was the initial reaction?

Firstly, there was an abundance of political drama surrounding the announcement coming from major roles, including a comment from the Former President Barack Obama, who said that Trump made a "big mistake" and made an accusation that he improperly used his power and discussing classified government information. However, there was also support for this decision from people like Anna Paulina Luna, a Republican Congresswoman and the chairman of a UAP task force, who showed eagerness and welcomed such a directive. Additionally, Democratic Senator John Fetterman called it "fantastic" and said that the world needed the information.



Allegations concerning the files

Trump claimed that the decision was made upon tremendous interest and that he wanted to share transparency on "extremely interesting and important matters" like these files. But some people say that this was a reckless decision and are extremely sceptical. But everything is a theory at the moment, so nothing is confirmed.

Thank you for reading my article!



CARLOS ALCARAZ: MAESTRO AT 22



ZUBAYR 7W



Hello everyone! I'm back with some more tennis news yet again! But this time, I'm not talking about a tournament. I'm going to talk about a specific player. But he's not just any player. You've all heard of him. **CARLOS ALCARAZ!**

From a young, aspiring tennis player to a seven-time Grand Slam champion and a generational talent, people all over the world know about him. Born on 5 May 2003 in the small village of El Palmar, Murcia, Spain, Carlos Alcaraz Garfia entered the world with a future far too big, with shoes far too big to fill.

From a young age, Alcaraz showed extreme talent in tennis. It is widely believed that he first picked up a tennis racket at the age of 4 and to an extreme liking to the sport. He played at his father's tennis academy until he was about 10 and then former World No.1 Juan Carlos Ferrero saw him play for the first time. Then, Alcaraz started to play in Juan's academy instead of his father. Since then up until February 2026, Juan Carlos Ferrero had been Alcaraz's coach.

At the age of 12/13, Alcaraz caught the eye of Rafael Nadal, one of the big dominators of tennis (Big 3) alongside Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, and knew that Alcaraz would make a name for himself in tennis and would one day be at the pinnacle of the tennis world. A couple years later, Alcaraz played a small ITF tournament, the category where all players start, in Alicante, Spain. There, in the first round, he faced Jannik Sinner, a tall Italian 1 and ½ years older than Carlos (and would potentially be his biggest rival) and beat him in a grueling match.

1 year later at 16, Carlos Alcaraz made his first official ATP debut in the main draw in Rio de Janeiro, facing Albert Ramos-Vinolas, the eighth seeded player, and managed to win but lost in the second round. His first ever tournament win came in Umag, Croatia 2021 in the ATP 250 tournament, beating Frenchman Richard Gasquet in straight sets to win his first ever title. That same year, he won the Next Gen ATP Finals for new, young players looking to make a name for themselves and have just started their career.

2022 was **the** year for Alcaraz. In this year, he won his first ever ATP 500, Masters 1000 and his first Grand Slam tournament in the same year. He started off by winning his first ever tournament played which was if you can remember, the Rio Open. Then, in Miami he became the youngest man to win a Masters 1000 beating Casper Ruud in the finals. Next, he went to Barcelona where he won the title by beating Pablo Carreno Busta. And in the next tournament, he beat both his idol Nadal and Djokovic back-to-back before beating Zverev in the finals to win the Madrid Open.

His final tournament win was special. In the City that Never Sleeps, Alcaraz traveled there for the final Grand Slam of the year in September. He battled fiercely and relentlessly, also having to play 3 5-set matches in a row before going into the final as the tournament's 3rd seed. There he played a grueling 4-set final against Casper Ruud, winning 6-4 2-6 7-6 (7-1) 6-3, ending the match with a wide serve that Ruud just couldn't reach. That week, Alcaraz left the USA not just with the trophy, but left holding the title of being the youngest ever Grand Slam champion and the youngest ever World No.1.

Alcaraz didn't win the US Open in 2023 but he did win Wimbledon, beating his other idol, Novak Djokovic in a thrilling 5-set final. The next year in 2024, Alcaraz beat Zverev in 5 sets to win Roland Garros (French Open) and beat Djokovic again but this time in 3 sets to win Wimbledon a second time.

Alcaraz started strong in 2025, winning Rotterdam first before transitioning to clay. On clay, he won Monte-Carlo and Rome before rival Jannik Sinner came back for Roland Garros after serving a 3-month suspension for disobeying ATP rules. In Roland Garros, Alcaraz did face Sinner in the final and the Italian was leading Alcaraz, even having many championship points against him but Alcaraz fought and fought until he won it all in the 5th set tiebreak. However, Sinner managed to regain composure and beat Alcaraz in Wimbledon, a brutal loss of 4-6 6-4 6-4 6-4 to Sinner. But in the US Open, it was Carlos who struck, beating Sinner in the final 6-2 3-6 6-1 6-1, exacting his revenge, taking back the title of World No.1. He lost a few weeks after but regained after making it past the group stage in the ATP Finals in Turin for the 8 best tennis players in the world.

So far in this year, Alcaraz has been asserting his dominance from the top, starting strong in Australia, winning the Australian Open by beating Zverev in the semi-finals in 5 sets before having to beat Djokovic (who beat Sinner in the semis) in 4 sets to win it all, becoming the youngest man ever to win the Career Grand Slam. Then, he went to Doha where he beat Arthur Fils in the final. Sinner entered the same tournament but lost early. Some call it 'The Curse Of Mustard Sinner', referencing Sinner's losses while wearing an unusual shade of yellow on his shirt. But in Indian Wells, Alcaraz's perfect winning streak came to an end, with Daniil Medvedev beating him after 16 wins in a row undefeated since the start of the season.



This video above shows the highlights of his career and what other players think about him. It shows what a kind person he is off the court and how fierce he can be on the court.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL INTERVIEW



NEEL 11A



Recently, I had the great privilege of interviewing the school's new Head Boy and Head Girl. It was a very insightful interview as both of them explained their aims for the school, what spurred them to apply for their roles and everything in between. Both Kelly and James are incredibly kind, devoted and intellectual heads, whom I hold no doubt will do brilliant things for our school. Kelly Teixeira is the Head Girl and she studies Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. James Burton is the Head Boy and he studies Maths, Chemistry, Geology and Further Maths.

How do you plan on balancing A Levels with your new role?

Kelly: I will ensure my organisation is on point by making sure I keep on top of my work and ensure homework is done as soon as it is set.

James: It is about distributing your time well, getting a timetable of what you want to do and being on top of organisation. If there are any events for the prefects, I would organise them well in advance, instead of a week before.

For students who do not know you, how would you best describe yourself?

Kelly: I am sometimes an extrovert, but sometimes an introvert. I am someone who loves to step outside their comfort zone and do stuff that I would not normally see myself doing.

James: I would say I am sure of myself, confident in my actions and dedicated, holding no regrets over what gets done.

What has been your favourite moment of your time here at Beths so far?

Kelly: Embracing the community and meeting the new people here at Beths, which is a lot different to my old school. This is a much more welcoming environment where everyone is genuinely nice. Upon transitioning from an all-girls school to Beths, it was a big shift, but it was a nice difference, which I am grateful for.

James: I have really enjoyed adding to the community, such as in Year 9 when I won the Kent 7s Shield with the school. Playing for and representing the school fills me with immense pride.

What spurred you to apply for your roles?

Kelly: I really wanted to step outside my comfort zone and try new things, as this is not something I would normally do. I wanted to embark on a new challenge and see where it went, and it ended up being a success.

James: Even when I was younger, I have wanted to be a future Head Boy or Deputy Head Boy and be a good role model for the younger students, so that I could be someone they look up to.

What do you look to achieve in your position? What changes do you want to make?

Kelly: Community is a big part of what I want to improve in the school. Currently, the Sixth Form is detached from the younger school, so I will strive to incorporate the whole school in activities and bring everyone together.

James: I plan on encouraging sport a lot more as everyone has a sport for them. I use my brother as an example, someone who took time to find their true sport, but eventually found swimming and cycling. The perfect sport does not need to be football, rugby, the popular ones, it can be a niche one, if students are partaking in physical activity.

How challenging did you find the application process and what do you think helped you stand out as a candidate?

Kelly: It was a quite challenging process as personally; I have never been the type of person to stand up and talk in front of a large group of people. To do this, I had to build up my confidence which helped me further along in the application process. With the interview stage, I had to really think about my answers and give ones that other people might not have thought of. At times I thought I would not get through to the next stage, but once I did, I was always thinking of how I could be better for the next stage and changed my mindset to believe that I will do well.

James: I found the speech at the start to be the hardest part of the application, as speaking in front of people is not something I have done before. However, I really enjoyed the interview stage, as I managed to express my thoughts freely, which helped make me stand out. The application process has lots of ups and downs, but you are always thinking of how you can be better for the next stage.

Do you think you are perceived differently now that you are in this role?

Kelly: Now that I am in this role, I have been able to talk to new people, that I have not talked to before. It has allowed me to meet even more people and become more integrated within the school community. I do believe we are more trusted now as well.

James: For me it was half and half, as some believed I could become Head Boy, whilst others were surprised, I got the role. So, to those that believed in me, their beliefs stayed the same, and the others now respect me more now that I have achieved this role.

What advice would you give to prospective students who look to apply for these roles in the future?

Kelly: You should be yourself and not rush things. Do not try to make a bigger impression of who you are, instead stick to expressing who you are as a person.

James: Be confident about yourself, especially in speeches, as one of the main things that is noticed is the speed at which you talk. Those that are not as confident, will rush and try to get the speech done over and quickly. Hence, you should speak slow and be confident and assure of yourself.



What are the biggest challenges and rewards you expect from your roles?

Kelly: I believe having the opportunities to speak in front of crowd is a huge reward of the role. Especially as I want to become a lawyer, being able to interact with many different people, as well as speaking to large groups, are incredibly useful skills for my career journey. However, some of the challenges would be organising the prefect team and events, having lots of responsibilities and making sure everyone in the prefect team communicates about events, and any problems that may arise.

James: Some of the rewards would be the experiences I gain from being able to manage a team and speaking in front of a lot of people. These are skills that you can apply later in life and is something that Universities would appreciate as well. Some of the challenges would be organising the prefect team, as there are 60 of them, pushing them to attend events and the pressure and expectations of the role.

What would you like students at the school to know about you or your plans for this year?

Kelly: Potentially incorporating more sports and have sporting events where you include the whole school, achieving a joint communal sports day, strengthening the school community.

James: I plan to bring the school community closer together through a myriad of events that intertwine with the school curriculum.

AI CHATBOTS



CHUKWUMA 10E

AI chatbots are quickly becoming a part of everyday life, especially for students. From helping with homework to answering questions instantly, chatbots are changing the way people learn and communicate.

AI chatbots can:

Provide instant support anytime, anywhere; break down complex ideas into simple explanations; Help students study independently; and for students who struggle to ask questions in class, chatbots can be a helpful alternative; Get quick answers instead of searching through websites

However, there are also some concerns:

People might become too reliant on AI; information may not always be 100% accurate; It can make it easier to copy work instead of learning. There is also the possibility that someone uses an AI Chatbot to the point of developing a strong emotional attachment and over time, beginning to rely on it for comfort and communication, treating it like a real person.

This was the case for 14-year-old boy Sewell Setzer III from Florida in 2024. He had been using Character.AI for several months, in which the platform allows users to talk to AI characters, including fictional personalities. Sewell became especially attached to a chatbot based on a character from Game of Thrones. Sewell formed a romantic-style attachment to the chatbot, and as his use increased, his mental health reportedly declined, and he became more withdrawn. The chatbot responded in a human-like and sometimes affectionate way, which may have strengthened his emotional dependence.

In his final conversations, the chatbot did not challenge his distress or encourage him to seek real help, and instead appeared to reinforce his feelings. Sewell later died by suicide, and his family filed a lawsuit against the company. The case raised serious concerns about AI safety, especially for young users.

Overall, this case shows that AI chatbots can be very useful in a lot of things, such as with learning and helping to develop communication for real life interactions but may fail to respond appropriately to vulnerable individuals, showing the need for stricter safeguards and human oversight.

MY PREMIER LEAGUE PREDICTIONS



AARON 7A

Well, well, well, we have met for the 4th time, I assume, so why not introduce me before starting this. I'm Aaron from 7A, (You may have seen me in other articles or in the school.) and I'm talking about a **very very** (maybe) discussed topic... **Who will win the Premier League of the 2025/26 season?** Without further ado, let's dive right in!

As you can see under this text, we have the Premier League table as of 1st March. As you can see here, Arsenal are reigning at the top, with Man City nearly catching up with **2 points behind**. Now you may ask, what about the Champions League predictions? We're not getting into that. It'll come next edition **OR** the next after that because I might talk about Bruno Mars' new album **'The Romantic'**. I'll give you some time to look at this Premier League table.

Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1 Arsenal	28	18	7	3	56	21	35	61	✓ ✓ - - ✓
2 Man City	28	18	5	5	57	25	32	59	- ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
3 Aston Villa	28	15	6	7	38	30	8	51	✗ - ✓ - ✗
4 Man United 0-1	28	13	9	6	48	38	10	48	✓ ✓ ✓ - ✓
5 Liverpool	28	14	6	8	47	37	10	48	✓ ✗ ✓ ✓ ✓
6 Chelsea	27	12	9	6	48	31	17	45	✓ ✓ ✓ - -
7 Brentford	28	13	4	11	44	40	4	43	✓ ✓ - ✗ ✓
8 Everton	28	11	7	10	32	33	-1	40	- ✓ ✗ ✗ ✓
9 Fulham 1-0	28	12	4	12	39	41	-2	40	✓ ✗ ✗ ✗ ✓
10 Bournemouth	28	9	12	7	44	46	-2	39	✓ - ✓ - -
11 Crystal P... 1-0	28	10	8	10	30	32	-2	38	✗ - ✓ ✗ ✓
12 Brighton 2-1	28	9	10	9	38	35	3	37	✗ - ✗ ✗ ✓
13 Sunderland	28	9	10	9	29	34	-5	37	✓ ✗ ✗ ✗ -
14 Newcastle	28	10	6	12	40	42	-2	36	✗ ✗ ✓ ✗ ✗
15 Leeds United	28	7	10	11	37	47	-10	31	✗ ✓ - - ✗

On 28th February 2026, Everton won against Newcastle with a stunning 3-2 clutch at the 83rd minute by Thierno Barry! Honorable mention to Newcastle United though as they did play well and was close to beating Everton.

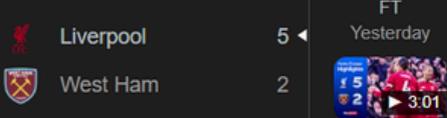
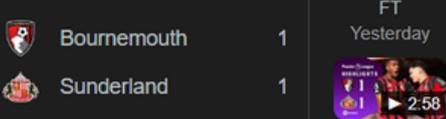
Newcastle vs Everton

Premier League · Yesterday Full-time

 Newcastle	2	-	3	 Everton
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Jacob Ramsey 32' ❄️ Jarrad Branthwaite 19'
Jacob Murphy 82' Beto 34'
 Thierno Barry 83'

However, my other mention goes to Jordan Pickford as he made an unbelievable save that **could have** been a goal.

 <p>Leeds United 0 Man City 1</p>	 <p>Burnley 3 Brentford 4</p>
 <p>Newcastle 2 Everton 3</p>	 <p>Liverpool 5 West Ham 2</p>
 <p>Bournemouth 1 Sunderland 1</p>	 <p>Wolves 2 Aston Villa 0</p>

Other than that, here are **all** of the matches in the week of 23rd February to 1st March (I didn't include Arsenal v Chelsea because this image was **last updated 1st March at 3PM, it will be included on the 3rd page though if you DO want to see**)

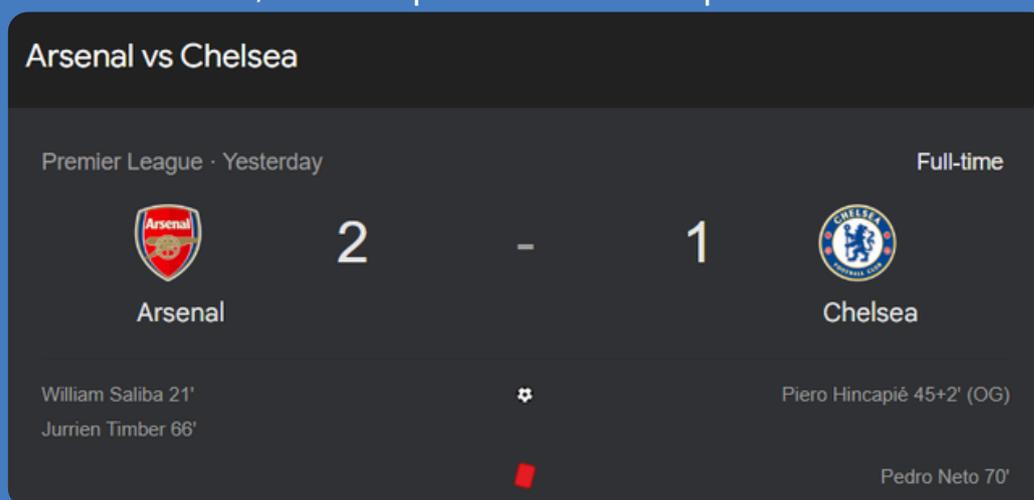
One that particularly stands out to me is Liverpool v West Ham. A whopping 5-2 victory to LFC! Now you may be wondering, Aaron, why do you find this interesting? Well to answer that, if you look back at the Premier League table, Liverpool is on a win streak of 3 games (as of 1st March) and Man City is on a win streak of **4 games!**

Woah, woah, woah there, did you think I would end this early? Not so fast. I got a lot more games and galleries to show you!

Note: I'll try get some more writing done, I only have pictures.

Image credit: Google Chrome (I snipped it off)

Now this is the real part. The part where you all have been wanting to see. Yes, I have 3 pages (maybe more if I have more to show) because I am **not** done yet at all. To all my Arsenal and Chelsea fans, buckle up and look at this picture below:



Now with all this information, it's time to say my Premier League predictions, **who is 1st, runners up and third?!**

On first place I will predict **Arsenal** to win the league. Ok I get it, I'm one of them Arsenal fans okay? However, this is my **honest** opinion and I have not rigged it **at all**. You all may have different opinions which is fine. For my runner-up is **Man City**. It may be me but something is really off with that club, I just can't prove it to you all reading this. Now, all of you may be shocked seeing this but third is **Man United** for me. Now, if I am honest, they really did improve from last season (if you know) which catches my eye, not literally. However, I'm surprised and impressed with Man Utd ever since their downfall from last season.

*Outro for this Article

Now before I sign off, there are some things I would like you to talk about. Most of these images were last updated on the 1st of March, maybe 2nd if I'm active to change. Next edition I will do my UCL predictions, which may also be the same amount of pages as this article. As someone says (maybe many Spanish footballers/people) a lot, **Vamos!** Big thanks to Faeq and Ms Stevens for starring me in this edition for the **4th time**, which I find crazy to appear. But anyways, Bruno Mars, here I come!

*Extra Info

Thank you for reading this! Hope to see you all in the next edition, where I do the new Bruno Mars album + Champions League predictions in the edition after!

Teams: @25A-Gurung - Aaron
Outlook: @25A-Gurung - Aaron

These are my accounts for Teams and Outlook if you want to talk with me (this is for staff + students) in either apps/sites. See you in the next edition! :)

Last updated 05/03/26, some things may not be up-to-date or maybe not accurate.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP



DAANISH 8C

Hello everyone, just before I get started in this article, I wanted to let you all know why I chose to write about this topic. Sleep is a major part of our lives, taking up about $\frac{1}{3}$ of our daily routine and I know many (Yes, many) students who don't get enough of it due to stress, schoolwork or gaming. If you are reading this it means you either want to learn more about the consequences of a lack of sleep or want to make a difference in your sleep routine. So let's get right into it.

Why Sleep Matters

Sleep is essential for both our body and our brain. When we sleep, our body gets time to rest and recover from the day. At the same time, our brain processes information we learned, helping us remember things better. Without enough sleep, it becomes harder to focus in class or understand new topics.

How it contributes to our Health and Energy

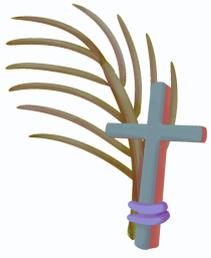
Sleep also helps the body recover and stay healthy. During sleep, the body repairs muscles, restores energy and supports growth. For teenagers like us, this is especially important because their bodies are still developing. Without enough sleep, people often feel tired, weak and less motivated in school.

How Much Sleep Do Students Need?

There is usually a big debate, mostly by young children, on how much sleep is sufficient to carry out our daily lives. A minimum of 8 Hours is necessary to perform well, with around 10 hours helping you feel fresh and ready to learn in the mornings. Having a good routine is quite crucial if you want to be healthy.

How to Get Better Quality Sleep

Now, how do we actually get a better quality of sleep? I've stated that we need between 8-10 hours, however the time we sleep also has a pretty big impact on how we perform. I would recommend sleeping before 10pm if you wake up around 6:30 or 7. Getting better quality sleep often comes down to building simple daily habits. One helpful habit is going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, even on weekends. This helps your body develop a regular sleep schedule. It is also a good idea to avoid screens such as phones, tablets or gaming devices before bed because the Blue light from them can make it harder to fall asleep. If possible, turn on Eye Comfort shield which adds more yellow light. Creating a calm sleeping environment can also help. Keeping your room quiet, dark and comfortable allows your body to relax more easily. Small changes like these can make a big difference in helping you fall asleep faster and wake up feeling more refreshed.



LENT



GOODLUCK 10E

What is Lent?

Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday - the day before Easter. The 40 day period is symbolic of significant biblical events including: Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11); Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28); Elijah's 40 day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8); The 40 days of rain during the great flood (Genesis 7:12); The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33). However, the most known symbol of Lent is Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation. This year Lent started on the 18th of February and is going to commence on the 2nd of April.

What do Christians do during Lent?

The 40 days of Lent involve fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Fasting often includes abstaining from certain foods or luxuries as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with Christ. Today some still observe fasts that reduce quantity and type of food but many see it as a time to give up bad habits and vice. In certain denominations, e.g. Catholic, fasting includes the abstinence of all animal products whereas other denominations do not require it to be that way and instead see the time as a time of self reflection and a time where you can spiritually develop yourself to become closer to God.

Examples of common practices that people abstain from are: smoking, alcohol, a lot of social media, sweets, chocolate, complaining, video games and much more. These 40 days are set aside to read the Bible more to have the knowledge of whom God is and to have a more closely bonded relationship. Almsgiving is the giving to charity which can also be seen as a sacrifice during Lent but also a way to give back to the community and to spread the love that Jesus always preached.

Simple ways to observe Lent

Even if you are not a Christian, you can still observe Lent in these ways.

1. Confessing the sin - this shows that you take responsibility of your actions and are not ignorant. It also gives you a clear starting point to work from.
2. Partner with other Christians - togetherness binds us with stronger ties and being together helps us to keep pushing each other up and helps us to grow together. You could also say that it gives headway for more personal deeper relations with others.



3. Your abstinence should feel like a sacrifice - you should make sure that it is significant to the troubles and sins you repeatedly do instead of something that doesn't really affect you.
4. Time with God - this is crucial for making your period of Lent substantial as it allows for self-reflection and the time to formulate a deep relationship with God.

All in all, I believe that Lent is a special time to better yourself and work on your spiritual health in general. To Christians like myself, Lent is a very important time in the year to step back and build your relationship with the Lord.

CHOCOLATE THEFTS IN BRITAIN



BRITAIN



MOHAMMAD 8B

Hello everyone, and welcome to another edition of the newsletter! Somehow, half of the school year has already gone, and it's only 4 months left until July, which is when the summer holidays start! Anyways, let's go to the main focus of the article, which is thankfully not about America, but something here in the UK! Let's start.

What is actually happening?

Recently, (and you'll see why later on), there has been an unexpected surge in chocolate thefts nationwide, and this has led to big brands such as Tesco and Sainsbury's to lock up their chocolate bars in the same boxes normally used for medicines/medicinal drugs. For example, the popular store Co-Op said that chocolate thefts cost them over £250,000 last year, and was the most stolen item in 2024 (not a very good achievement but an achievement nonetheless). The Chief Executive of Co-Op also said *"In a particular shop, one individual could cost us thousands of pounds in a week. They were coming in... then literally swiping the whole shelf."* He said that one single shelf could be worth over £500 and that Co-Op had already spent more than £3M trying to stop the thieves.



An example of the chocolate being locked up



Why is this happening?

Put simply, chocolate has become a very important target for thieves because not only is it small, but it can be very lucrative (remember, £500 per shelf). It is also small and easy to conceal, but still wildly popular with the public. Thieves are generally not alone, but involved in organized crime rings stealing from multiple stores at a time. Furthermore, stores are now upgrading their CCTV to catch perpetrators in the act.

As always, thank you for reading and I hope you have a good month! Bye!



THE RISE OF CRIME IN TODAY'S WORLD



JOSHUA 10W

Recently, Ipsos released a report which showed something interesting, but concerning all the while: **crime and violence are now the biggest worry for people around the world.** To some, this may be surprising, due to the fact in the last few years everyone's been talking about inflation, the rising cost of living, and how expensive everything is. But this data begs to differ.

So, what is actually going on?

Well, do not get me mistaken, money problems have not disappeared (they're still a big issue). But in many countries, people now feel concerned about their safety and the dangers around them. In some areas, crime rates have increased, while in others, it's as if people feel that **gut** feeling, which can be right most times. What's also interesting is that this is not the same case everywhere. In some countries, most especially those in South America, crime has been a major concern for a very long time. But now - surprisingly - people in Europe are beginning to feel the same way too.

For us, as students, it makes us question ourselves.

What actually makes people feel safe?

More police? Better communities? More opportunities for us, as young people? At the end of the day, this report shows that what is happening in the world can heavily impact what people worry about. A few years ago it was about COVID, money, and whatnot. Now, it's about safety.

And, I mean, who am I to judge? Perhaps In a year or two it might be something completely different.



EL MENCHO



EHIMEN 10W

Who is El Mencho?

Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes also known as “El Mencho” was a Mexican Drug Lord and head of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), an organised crime group based in Mexico. The CJNG operates in 21 of 32 states in Mexico and reports say 80% of organised crime killings in Mexico involve the CJNG. El Mencho was one of the primary founders and the undisputed leader of the CJNG, therefore he had a large bounty on him with the United States government offering up to US\$15 Million and Mexico’s Office of the Attorney General (PGR) offering MX\$300 Million in rewards, for information leading to his arrest.

REWARD
OF UP TO
\$10,000,000.00 USD
FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF:

Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes
“EL MENCHO”

+1-213-237-9990
SUBMIT TIPS TO

Twitter Tips: @DEALosAngeles

MENCHOTIPS@usdoj.gov

How was El Mencho found and killed?

Around February 2026, Mexican special forces launched a major operation with the aim of capturing El Mencho after intelligence agencies from the United States helped to locate him in a rural area near Tapalpa in Jalisco. A battalion of soldiers surrounded the residence but cartel gunmen opened fire, leading to a fatal shootout between the two groups that resulted in the death of several cartel members and wounding El Mencho in the process whilst he tried to escape into a nearby woodland. Mexican forces then captured him and attempted to airlift him to a hospital in Mexico City, but he died from his injuries on the flight on the 22nd of February 2026.

What was the Aftermath of El Mencho's death?

After the death of El Mencho, Mexico experienced a large amount of violence with members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) retaliating against the government. According to ABC news at least 73 people were killed during the operation to capture him and the violent aftermath that followed including 25 members of the Mexican National Guard, 30-32 cartel members, 1 civilian as well as several law-enforcement officials.

Will El Mencho's death affect the World Cup?

Although El Mencho's death postponed many football matches mainly in Guadalajara, officials say the World Cup qualifiers in March and the World Cup itself will still go ahead with up to 100,000 security staff in total protecting stadiums, airports and fan zones during the tournament.



BETHS EXAMS 2026



NATHAN B. 10H

ITS EXAM TIME! For year 10 to year 11, we are preparing for our mocks and final exams. The year 11s have been going through trial exams whereas these set of exams starting on Monday 27th April for year 10 will be the first ever GCSE standard mock exams! The legitimate GCSEs will start for year 11s on Thursday 7th May.

Why are these mocks so important for Year 10 students?

As stated, this will be the first mock exam ever taken for me and my peers on our journey here at beths. We have been revising thoroughly to ensure we achieve the best results possible. But why are these exams so important? Well not only does it give us a chance to feel what it's like to sit an exam in real exam settings, these grades are useful if any of us would want to enrol back into Beths for sixth form.

Advice and recommendations

Some top tips from me would be:

- Use revision strategies that work best for you - this may be reading notes or making mind maps
- Use past papers and exam techniques - treat them as real exams and time yourself as well as using mark schemes to mimic how exam boards want you to answer your question
- MOST IMPORTANTLY take care of your well being - don't focus on cramming the night before however pre-plan your revision and get enough rest, take breaks in between study and reward yourself!

STUDENT INSIGHT

Over the past week I have asked some of my good friends from year 10 and 11 to share their opinions and experiences during their exam period. It's always good to gain strategies from fellow peers, especially the ones who have been in the exact situation before.

Ehimen 10W

"With the mock exams coming up soon in the next 40+ days or so, I find myself to be a bit anxious but also motivated to work hard and achieve the best possible grades I can produce. Sometimes, it can get very stressful so I do recommend to you all that you make sure to get a good amount of sleep. As someone who only understood the importance of sleep recently, it made me appreciate how valuable it is and how much it helps your body to regenerate. Furthermore, it is very helpful to limit your phone use and it is a major route to procrastination, which can shrink the amount of time you have to prepare for exams."

Gurshaan 10H

"Me personally, I think the upcoming mocks will definitely be a challenge, our first official trial exams. But I firmly believe that the exams will be of great benefit to all of us as year 10, letting us see our bench mark in real time. For anyone struggling - I think the best advice I can give is to put in your utmost effort, even if your scores aren't what you expected, it's the effort that counts at the end of the day."

David 11W

To be honest, as a Y11 student my experience with mock exams has been a mix of stress as well as learning. When they were first announced, I felt really stressed and anxious as we were constantly told these trial exams are "as close to the exams in the summer". After completing them all you realise that it's useful practice and nothing to panic about - it helps you understand exam conditions and how to improve in your subjects.

Going into my GCSEs, I feel more prepared because we've done 3 sets of mock exams, which has majorly boosted my confidence and makes the pressure feel normal. Mocks judged the quality of my revision but now going into the real thing, I have adapted my revision giving me this sense of safety."

My advice to younger students is to do little and often with revision, really listen in class, take a lot of notes in class and do not leave everything to last minute. They should use mocks as a benchmark to how effective their revision is and then do things that work for them e.g Anki flashcards; Note taking; Blurting. Don't be obsessed with competition- water your own grass. Make sure you enjoy the process.

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #42



A Note of Thanks



Thank you for reading the 42nd edition of Best of the Beths!

Another month, another successful edition of the newsletter to end the second third of this academic year! Our strong start to 2026 has continued with our third instalment of the year, one that marks a whole straight year of possible editions becoming a reality - it was from this very edition last year (March'25) onwards that we have had an edition of the newsletter for every month we have stepped onto the school site, and for that I (**Faeq of 10B**) would like to congratulate our team on yet another job well-done in making editions like this one for you all to enjoy!

We started things off with one of the '*worst and best*' spies, followed by the newsletter's first video-game review since November'22 with NASCAR 25! Other sports coverage included tennis and football yet again, as we also interviewed our new Head Students! Sleep is something many students struggle with at times, and it was good to highlight its importance - speaking of highlights, crime was also one with chocolate thefts and an analysis as to why it is currently rising. The potential dangers of AI chatbots were also explored, but on a more positive note, we took a deeper dive into Lent and what better way to end this edition than previewing key exams soon to take place in the school next half-term?

That is all our coverage for now, but don't worry, we'll be back in around a month's time! For the April'26 edition, I shall step out of the editor role as I am bound to undergo my first set of trial exams - Miss Stevens shall fill in for April, and I shall return to editing duties in May! Hopefully you enjoyed this one though, and if you did (and perhaps still want to read more), do click my trademark red button on the next page that'll send you to the *Newsletters* section of the school website. There, you'll find the Best of the Beths dropdown menu - click on that to revisit publications of old and our more recent efforts (including the ones from this year)!

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #41



Next up will be the April edition; that same edition last year saw a changing of the guard for the newsletter where I stepped in as the new editor. Time has definitely flown by since then, but the newsletter has continued to deliver consistently for all of you, and I hope you are looking forward to our next instalment. For now though, thank you for reading Best of the Beths, the newsletter that's put together '*for students, by students*', and has been since September 2019! Until the next one, it's goodbye from us - and on that note, have a nice Easter break too!



[Want to read some more over Easter? Click here to find our past publications, old and new; enjoy them and see you next month!](#)



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 again soon!