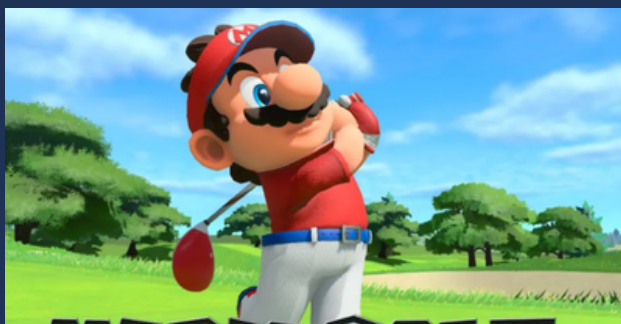


BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #43



THE BEST OF APRIL 2026



BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #43



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Edited by Miss Stevens and Faeq 10B



AN INTERVIEW WITH FAEQ, THE EDITOR



AARON 7A (& FAEQ 10B)

We're back into Best of the Beths with Aaron! Welcome back everyone to a delightful opening to this article! I'm **Aaron** (some people tend to spell my name wrong, which is fine, but this is how it is spelt anyway) and you are looking at an interesting topic! I am interviewing the best producer and editor as of today, Faeq! As you know, he is a NASCAR fan and sometimes also talks about Beths too! I'm really excited about interviewing him and I wonder what he may respond to some of it...

1) How do you edit your articles to make it look perfect and polished?

"Good question, and thanks! For me, when it comes to visualising things, I feel as though I'm a bit of perfectionist to an extent! Nobody's 100% perfect (except God, for fellow Christians that believe), but when it comes to it, I just want to make sure I'm putting in 100% and making sure this newsletter looks as good as it deserves to! It's quite a special newsletter, if you ask me, too - it's the first one to be student-fuelled, and I feel as though it deserves to be treated that way!"

A visually good newsletter (to me, at least) is one that looks consistent across the board and is neatly, well-presented while having a few creative elements (i.e. the cliparts at the top of each article) here and there to make it pop a bit more! I do put a lot of time into it overall to ensure this consistency and other things, but yeah, it's overall quite enjoyable having full creative control over it and deciding where the design goes, and I think we're in a very good place right now, possibly, our best ever (with Canva, at least)!"

2) How did you become an editor?

"Well to start, I say we go all the way back to March two years ago! That's when I was interested in returning to the newsletter after appearing for the first time in July 2023 - my initial pieces in the newsletter were to do with things going on across the school but my passion for things like NASCAR helped drive me forward in being a regular contributor as well, I suppose! Anyways, point is, I've appeared in every edition on the newsletter from March'24 onwards, and on top of that, I also had an 'eagle eye' for mistakes the previous editors were making during their time in that spot while also helping to put the article templates for our next edition in place - if you're thinking 'That's quite some dedication!' then I see where you're coming from!"

It was due to those traits of mine that Miss Stevens and Edwin (the previous editor) thought I'd be great for the role, and that's really how I (and the newsletter as a whole) are where we are today! It was simply those tokens of kindness and detailed observations that landed me here - you just never know how exactly you're going to be paid back in the moments that you're doing those things until the time comes! From there, I've just been focused on ensuring we're putting in our best into all we do - we've had an edition every month we've stepped onto site since March last year, and while good things don't always last, I want us to keep applying ourselves at our best where we can and keep this momentum rolling for as long as possible (it's fun seeing all this being put into fruition, anyways)!"



***EDITOR'S NOTE:** It was in this edition one year ago where I officially became the editor of Best of the Beths. This started what is considered (by me, at least) the fourth era or the second segment of the third era of the newsletter - whatever way you wish to look at it, that still comes under our time with Canva. That era saw the return of the edition number after five years, a more detailed contents section, six-image collages on the front cover and a notable increase in KS3 involvement with the newsletter!

[IMAGE CREDIT: Canva]

3) If new people start Best of the Beths, just like I did a few months ago, what tips would you give them?

"First tip, I'd recommend you get involved from an early point - the earlier you put yourself forward, the more time you have to be a part of this! It also means more time for you to have your voice empowered about the things that matter to you, whether that be something in school or a success for your favourite sports team - this may perhaps be the best newsletter platform for you to make that happen! Also make sure you allow yourself to enjoy it and remember the days that you're a part of this team - I can recall being in Year 8 writing my first few articles upon returning, and here I am already after two years as the editor of it all!

Time does fly by when you're having fun, so ensure you bask in the experience as much as possible - another thing I want to ensure in my role as editor is that everyone who comes to us gets the best experience possible! While I may not necessarily be the No.1 person in terms of that (that's more Miss Stevens, in my eyes), even as 'second-in-charge', I still see it as part of my duty to serve the team well and help us do our best, as I've said!"

We're going to pause it there as our halfway point. Being honest, we're actually **nearly** halfway there, not exact. Faeq had debuted since Year 7 in Best of the Beths, which I find insane, so I'd like to congratulate him since it has marked 2 **whole years** since his permanent return in March 2024. So Faeq, if you are seeing this, well done for making it this far in Best of the Beths! Anyways, let's carry on from where we left off! So, let's hear from more of me what I want to question about Faeq!

4) As an editor, what jobs do you have to maintain on a daily or weekly basis?

"As the editor, I wouldn't say I do things daily, but at regular points in time within our production window, I will have a look and see how (/how many) people are getting on with their articles. Occasionally, I'll get to have a quick little peek at an article being produced actively - it's not often that I see that, but it definitely is quite interesting to read more about the story that's being talked about as the article evolves.

Perhaps on a more important note, as we near our deadline, I'll send a few reminders to the team about it. I do this about 3-4 times each month, but that's to make sure that the people who need that message most can acknowledge it and hopefully act upon that accordingly. We have a few writers that tend to be 'early birds', but we have historically come to life a bit in terms of article progress towards the end of the windows too - what matters most though, is that they're in when they need to be (which they are for the most part)! In short I guess, it's really just making sure we're doing our best, as I've said, in which case we've done really well over the past few months, and like I said, hopefully we can keep things going that way."

5) Have you experienced a trial exam before and what advice would you give for Year 9 for it next year? | (EDITOR'S NOTE: This question was answered on April 8th.)

"Not yet, but I am about to - it's not too long until I undergo the first set of three that you get here at Beths, but there are definitely things I'd recommend to Year 9 here! Firstly, ensure that you are revising for your subjects little and often - it's better doing that than cramming it in at the last minute! While you do, you may as well mix things up by perhaps doing some Chemistry before going to Biology and then another subject. Interleaving can be quite effective at times, so don't overwhelm yourself with one large load of one subject in a day! Also be open to new revision methods that you might not have used before - I've recently started using mind-maps for revision more, for example. In some cases, you might not necessarily be able to remember full sentences (e.g. in Biology, which there is a lot to at times), but be careful in ensuring you maintain the key bits to a concept without cutting them out while condensing the information down!

6) Like KS3, do you have a Head of Year for your Key Stage and Year Group?

"Of course we do! Miss Stevens is the Head of Year 10, Mrs Deane holds that post for Year 11, and meanwhile Mr McBeth is our Head of KS4 (and KS5, if I'm remembering correctly)!"

7) What inspired you to watch NASCAR? What made you like it?

"Hehe... good question! I'd say (and this is somewhat expectable) it came from the Disney Cars movies from a young age - I didn't actually watch the full movies, but it was just a few clips and I recall having a couple hundred toy car diecasts from the Cars franchise and other brands like Hot Wheels too! I then followed on a bit with real-world NASCAR and 7-time champion Jimmie Johnson from 2017 to 2020 (which actually meant I missed the real good bits of his career, but oh well) - once he retired from full-time competition at the end of 2020, I left NASCAR for Formula One and Lewis Hamilton (again, the 7 titles attracted me). I stayed an F1 fan for 2-and-a-half years, and I'd say 2021 (even with *that* ending) was probably the season I enjoyed most out of that. 2022 was *okay*, and '23 - yeah, that's where I hopped out.

Make of this what you will, but that year, I really didn't see the point anymore in giving up 2 hours of a Grand Prix Sunday to seeing Max Verstappen win pretty much all the time (because if you think about it, unless you're a fan of him, where's the fun in that?). After that year's Belgian Grand Prix, F1 went on their summer break, yet I (somehow) forgot about that and decided to 'skedaddle' my way back to NASCAR and its Cup Series! The racing product there was (and still is) more favourable for me - tighter pack racing, a larger variety of winners and for a while on the NASCAR app, I could actually access the cameras that let you see the cars go round the circuit live (though I'm sure as part of the sport's 2025 TV deal and so on, that unfortunately got taken away)!

Now, I'm sitting generally happy as a Hendrick Motorsports fan, especially with our 2025 championship win and my main favourite being Kyle Larson (who *is* the 2025 champion and a truly *incredible* man)! I've also got the Victory Edition of NASCAR 15 for the XBOX 360 as well as NASCAR 25's Standard Edition on the PS5 (among many other racing games), but yeah, that's how I'm the NASCAR fan you know me as today in a nutshell!"



***EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 of Kyle Larson, a two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion and my main favourite driver. But, I also support his Hendrick Motorsports teammates: Chase Elliott (the #9), William Byron (the #24) and Alex Bowman (the #48).

[IMAGE CREDIT: Getty Images]



8) Imagine you are in a Year 9 End of Year test, exam or however you say it, take at least 2 subjects and describe what may be the hardest question you can encounter. | (Note from Aaron: Yes, I included Year 9 again. Sorry.)

"This is a very 'open' question, I'd say - in some subjects, it might be obvious, in others, maybe not so much. Perhaps in terms of them all, it depends on what you personally struggle with the most, in which case we all have our own struggles but some might be similar! With some 6-markers in the Sciences, there's quite a bit you have to get down and you have to do so at a high quality of writing if you want 6/6 on those - many of them (provided you know the stuff well) can be a bit of a cake-walk, but you do at all times need to be organised with how you communicate your answer. I do tend to be an organised person myself, but it's still something to have in mind.

Why not get onto Languages for once, German in particular I suppose (because I did learn that for a bit and was really good at it before there was no GCSE course for it this year unfortunately)? I'd say with that, the hardest things might be a Speaking or Writing assessment question in the past tense. I say this because in English for example, we'd say something like "Yesterday, I have/had" whereas in German, 'have/had' happens to go before the pronoun while the verb (in its conjugated form for that tense) goes at the very end of the sentence! Plus German does have a good number of long words in it, so there's a little more to be careful about in that regard, I guess!

Maths is of course another important subject, and as a Set 1 mathematician we do get questions that are designed to push us quite a bit. Some of the longer questions demand a combination of skills, and this might sound strange (given that you're 99.9% going to find them in Science) but at one point I had a 6-marker question to answer as part of the end-of-chapter test for Chapter 3 of the GCSE course (where you basically analyse a few forms of data collection)! Sometimes, you may need to dig deep and throw what you think is best at the question if you aren't really sure how to answer what's given to you, and perhaps there is a chance that you actually find a certain trend between elements of the question that helps you obtain a final answer. Even if that's wrong, a wrong answer is still better than a guess out of thin air (for which you may get no marks without any present method, even if it happens to be correct)!

Overall, like I said, this is really subjective and based on your academic strengths as a person, but I think in all cases I've mentioned here as well as any other applicable ones, it helps if you know your stuff well and how to organise your answers to those questions! I guess in a way with the longer questions, because there are many more steps to them, there's more room to lose marks, so you just need to be careful - double/triple-check your work and do anything else you need to!"

A huge special thanks to every one of you for reading this newsletter. I do feel bad for the Year 9s in particular because uh... I did talk about them a bit too much to the fact I started talking about their EOY exam. It's also my birthday month and probably past my birthday when you see this but anyways, that's mostly it! See you in the next edition as I hand it over to Faeq!

[*EDITOR'S NOTE¹: *Thanks to Aaron for having the idea to do this! We've historically had many interviews in BotB, mostly hearing the voices of teachers while also considering those of students at times! I never thought I myself as the editor would be 'put on the mic', if you will, but here we are! It was a pleasure to do this and hopefully we keep more good interviews going in the future editions! Thank you for reading this interview with myself, Faeq of 10B - enjoy the rest of this edition!]*

[*EDITOR'S NOTE²: *This interview was last conducted on April 8th 2026. The answers to all questions are accurate and correct as of the following dates:*

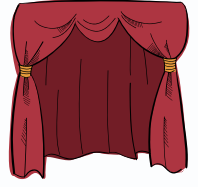
****Questions 1-3: March 23rd 2026***

****Question 4: April 7th 2026***

****Questions 5-8: April 8th 2026***

Nevertheless, hopefully you found the interview interesting!]

EXPERIENCE BEING IN THE SHREK PLAY



AYOTOLA 10H | OLLIE 10E | TIMI 10H

The Shrek Performance was a lovely experience to everybody who participated and put all the hard work in. It wasn't easy for us as it took dedication and some of our quality time to make the most of it. It took us 6 months to plan and rehearse and truly we made the most of it. Here is 3 peoples perspectives of the play and how they enjoyed it.

Ollie Maxted 10E

Last October we all went to the auditions, I was apprehensive as I have not really sung before but I thought I would give it a go. I was really nervous but enjoyed the experience of planning my audition piece and then performing in front of the panel of teachers. I was selected to play the role of Gingy. I was pleased when I found out but was intrigued to know how it would work - would I be dressed as a gingerbread man in a onesie or would it be puppetry?

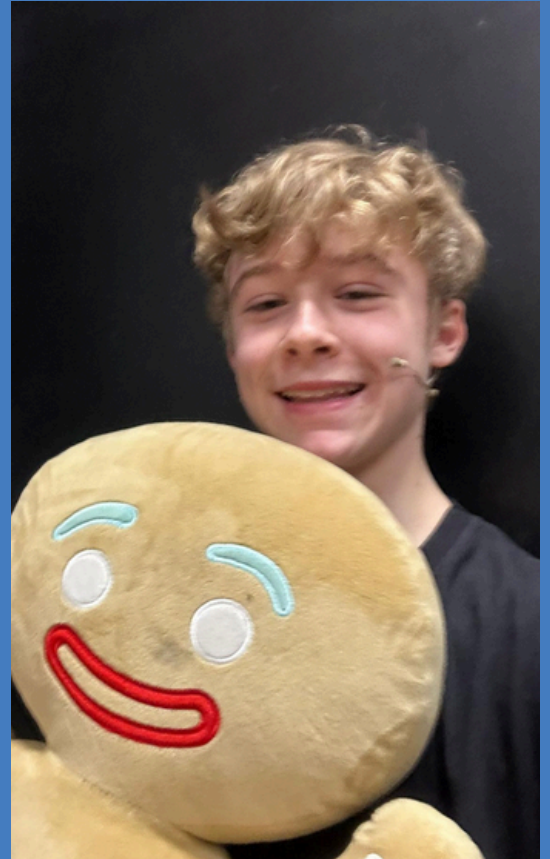
Rehearsals were twice a week starting from the end of October, they were hard work learning all the lines and the songs but it was good fun and enjoyable, during the rehearsals I was given a second role as Duloc Crowd which meant I had the challenge of learning some dance moves! I was approached again to be a knight as well which meant learning another song but thankfully the moves were just sitting on the edge of the stage.

From previous shows I already had a good relationship with the people playing other main roles like Farquard, donkey and Pinocchio. I think this really helped as our scenes on stage were more realistic and interactive and they really helped me with ideas and pointers on how to play gingy. Mrs Marriott helped me to perfect my American accent.

The shows themselves were good fun and went without a hitch (or did they!) we had good audience feedback each show.

Did I enjoy it - yes!

Would I do it again - most definitely!



Ayotola Alakija 10H

I did not go to the auditions like most people. I wanted to be a background character with my friends Timi and David. I was very scared for this because it was my first ever play and I am not a very good singer, so you already know that I was going to be anxious. However, as the months progressed I was starting to feel at ease and more confident with myself, I met some lovely people from all sides of the school and built a solid friendship with them.

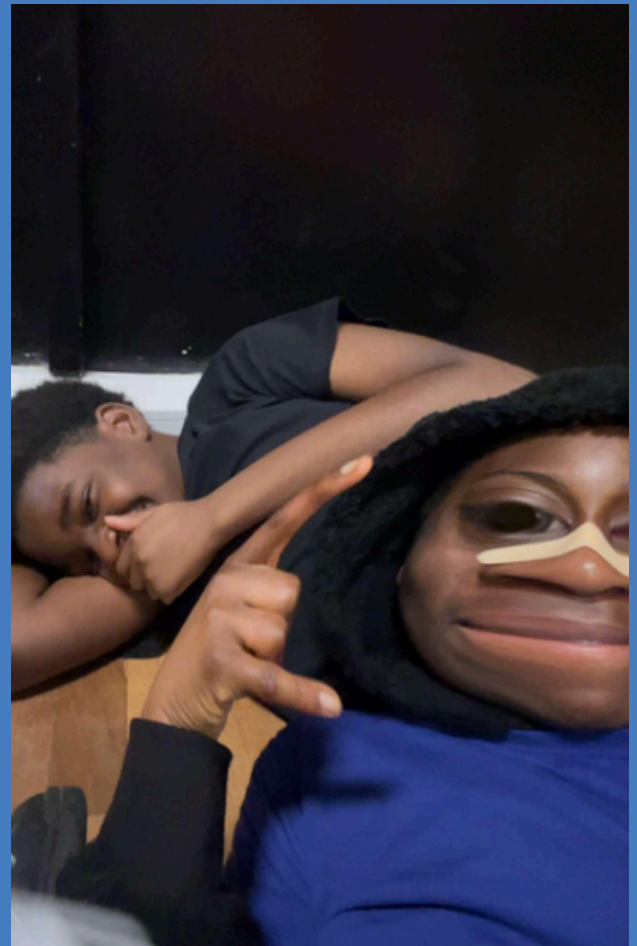
At the beginning, I turned up to some practices with Timi, not going to lie, my dedication was not at its peak. I was starting to regret doing it but sooner would I know that this was going to be one of the best experiences of my life. I started to show true commitment more into the days and enjoyed myself fully, meeting great people who wanted to achieve the same as me. The people I had met were in the older years who also took Drama GCSE, they gave me good advice Drama related, and also Shrek related, helping me improve my acting skills.

Rehearsals were very interesting, we were learning lines and singing which I have never done, even as someone who has chosen drama gcse

Honestly, this was a good experience for me and I thank Ms Grady for encouraging me to continue and allowing me to participate. I certainly will be doing the production next year.

Timi Olufawo 10H

My Drama experience was one of a kind. I got the opportunity to meet and talk to new people and to create new memories. I took apart of the drama production to get out of my comfort zone and I am glad I did that. I would encourage whoever is reading this to try and attend as it is fun and eye opening for new opportunities. A new community was created and will always live on within me.





THE IPL

DAANISH 8C



Hello everyone and welcome back to another month of The Best of the Beths newsletter. Now if you're a major Cricket fan like me (I know many people in the school who are) you would've definitely heard about the Indian Premier League, also known as the IPL. If not, you are in luck as I'm going to talk all about what it is, all the teams and who could win this year.

What is the TATA IPL?

To explain, the IPL is a cricketing franchise based in India which is held every year between March and May - Yes, it lasts around 2 Months. In this time, 10 teams compete to make it to the top 4 of the leaderboard and into the playoffs, eventually aiming to win the grand and prestigious trophy. The IPL was founded in 2008 and has since become one of the most popular and lucrative cricket leagues in the world. It combines the best international cricketers with local talent, creating an exciting and competitive atmosphere. The league is known for its thrilling matches, high profile players and jaw-dropping performances, making it a favourite for cricket fans globally.

The Teams

The IPL consists of 10 Teams which include:

- Mumbai Indians (5 Titles)
- Chennai Super Kings (Also 5 Titles)
- Delhi Capitals (No Titles)
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (1 Title) - Defending Champions
- Kolkata Knight Riders (3 Titles)
- Rajasthan Royals (1 Title)
- Punjab Kings (No Titles) - Runners up last year
- Sunrisers Hyderabad (1 Title)
- Lucknow Super Giants (No Titles)
- Gujrat Titans (1 Title)

Who could win this year?











The IPL is always filled with surprises, but looking at current form and how the Tournament has started, I would have to say, although they are the underdogs, Punjab Kings have a high chance of winning. At the time of writing - 19th April. Punjab are at the top of the leaderboard and haven't lost a single game so far. They have played all their games quite fearlessly so I'm definitely rooting for them to attain their first title, especially since they were runners up last year.

Conclusion

So, The TATA IPL continues to be one of the most, if not the most, cricketing franchises around the world. It brings local stars like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (a 15 year old boy who hit one of the fastest centuries last season and one of the fastest fifties this season) and experienced players like MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli onto the pitch.

Whichever team you are rooting for, I strongly suggest you watch a few games and experience the action first hand. After all, anyone could come out on top.

Hoped you enjoyed this article and see you next month lads.

Team	PTS	GP	W	L	NR	NRR
1  PBKS	11	6	5	0	1	+1.420
2  RCB	8	6	4	2	0	+1.171
3  RR	8	6	4	2	0	+0.599
4  SRH	6	6	3	3	0	+0.566
5  DC	6	5	3	2	0	+0.310
6  GT	6	6	3	3	0	-0.821
7  MI	4	6	2	4	0	+0.067
8  CSK	4	6	2	4	0	-0.780
9  LSG	4	6	2	4	0	-1.173
10  KKR	3	7	1	5	1	-0.879

The Points table as of 20th April 2026

F1 2026: MARCH MAYHEM (GALLERY!)



FAEQ 10B [EDITOR]

We meet once more, readers - hello! If it is your first time reading Best of the Beths, then welcome to the newsletter that's been 'produced for students, by students' since 2019! Hopefully you had a good Easter break, feeling somewhat refreshed and geared up for the final term of this academic year. I am Faeq (**pronounced:** Fi-EEK) of 10B, the editor of the newsletter since this very edition last year (April'25), and those of you that have been paying close attention to my recent pieces would recognise that I'm an avid motorsports enthusiast, mainly following NASCAR while also keeping a few tabs on Formula One!

This time in the newsletter, given that my trial exams are just around the corner, you're only getting a gallery from me to have a look at, and with how much NASCAR content I've produced in 2026 so far (25 pages, to be exact), I've decided to switch to Formula One for this edition. In this gallery, you will have an illustrated summary of the beginning of the 2026 season, one that has seen the introduction of brand-new cars! So who has tamed these nimbler, narrower and lighter machines best? If you haven't paid much attention to the first three races lately, then here are the answers in a nutshell! Enjoy!



Eyes were on Mercedes and their new W17 throughout all of the pre-season, and perhaps with good reason! George Russell stormed to pole for the season-opener in Australia, the Briton setting the pace 0.293s ahead of his teammate (Andrea) Kimi Antonelli, who helped to secure a Mercedes 1-2. Not just that, but it was quite a dominant display overall from the Silver Arrows, as the fastest man not driving a Mercedes was Red Bull's newest addition Isack Hadjar - a whopping 0.785s behind Russell.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Meanwhile, trouble hit two of last year's title contenders, beginning with a spin in Q1 for 4-time champion and last year's runner-up Max Verstappen at Turn 1, hitting the barriers, taking him out of the session and sending him to the back of the grid. The Dutchman was able to recover to P6 by the drop of the chequered flag on Sunday, though!

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Australia and McLaren's Oscar Piastri was the 2025 bronze-medalist, and he also had some more tough luck at his home race. His McLaren hit the wall by Turn 5 on the way to the grid on Sunday, which prevented him from starting before the five lights even went out to commence the new year.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



But once those lights did go out, it was Charles Leclerc [left, left image] in the Ferrari with the lead from P4, taking it ahead of Russell with Lewis Hamilton [far right, left image] also jumping up from 7th to 3rd. The Ferraris were lightning quick off the line in the practice starts in Bahrain, and that presented itself once again in the opening seconds of 2026. Russell and Leclerc would then engage in a back-and-forth battle for several laps ahead of the field, with Hamilton eventually closing in and getting a good seat to watch it unfold [right image]!

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



In the end though, it was Russell and Mercedes who emerged victorious to start 2026, with Kimi Antonelli [background] securing a 1-2 for the Silver Arrows, who took advantage of a Virtual Safety Car that allowed them to gain a strategical upper hand on the Ferrari duo of Leclerc and Hamilton, both P3 and P4.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Now we fast forward to China, where the battle between Mercedes and Ferrari would continue in the first Sprint race of 2026. Lewis Hamilton [left], the 2025 Sprint winner and George Russell [right] would engage in a tussle for the top spot early on, with Russell eventually winning out with the two Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Hamilton close behind him.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Kimi Antonelli in the other Mercedes would also get his time to shine, securing pole position for the main Grand Prix. By 0.222s over teammate George Russell, he became F1's youngest-ever polesitter, beating the previous record set by retired 4-time champion Sebastian Vettel at the 2008 Italian Grand Prix.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Pre-race trouble hit McLaren once more, not just with Piastri again [pictured], but reigning champion Lando Norris too. After they qualified P5 and P6 respectively, both cars were pushed off the grid on Sunday due to separate electrical issues. With that came a (not so) fun fact: Piastri became the first driver in F1 history to post a DNS in the opening two races of the year.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



It was a great day for Antonelli though, as he became the second-youngest driver (behind Max Verstappen) to claim their maiden Formula 1 victory. It was another dominant performance from him and the Silver Arrows too, after he led all but the opening lap of the event (thanks to Lewis Hamilton), with Russell securing another 1-2 for Mercedes 5.5 seconds adrift.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Meanwhile, following a lengthy battle with teammate Charles Leclerc, Lewis Hamilton would cross the line in P3 to finally take his first podium for Ferrari after missing out in 2025, and his first since the 2024 Las Vegas GP! What followed was a series of podium pictures like the one on the right, with the past (Hamilton, right), present (Russell, left) and possibly future (Antonelli, middle-left) of Mercedes! Peter Bonnington [middle-right] also got to cherish this moment as the current race engineer of Kimi Antonelli, and the previous engineer of Hamilton!

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



The weekend in Japan a fortnight later would see the first special liveries of 2026! Racing Bulls [left] went for a one-off scheme inspired by the new Red Bull Spring can and designed by Japanese calligrapher Bisen Aoyagi. Fellow midfielders Haas [right] would celebrate a season-long connection with Japanese entertainment company Toho Co, famous for Godzilla! They'd maintain their core colour palette of white, red and black while also incorporating 'the King of Monsters' into the design across the engine covers.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Mercedes also had a special design, albeit only on the front wing, which featured a wolf [zoom in!]. This was in collaboration with Y-3, a sportswear/fashion brand set up by Yohji Yamamoto. The 'wolf W17' would eventually sit on the pole with Kimi Antonelli setting the pace in Quali for a second race on the bounce.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



But, on the race start Antonelli suffered wheelspin and plummeted down to P6, with Oscar Piastri (who, remember, didn't start the Australian AND Chinese Grands Prix) taking advantage into Turn 1 and leading his first racing lap of 2026. Leclerc, Russell, Norris and Hamilton all took advantage of the slow-starting Antonelli for top-5 positions as well.

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



Antonelli [left] would redeem himself though, making a cheap pit stop on Lap 22 as soon as the Safety Car came out for a heavy crash by Haas' Oliver Bearman. From there, he would dominate the rest of the race and take a second consecutive win while also becoming the youngest driver to lead the F1 World Championship. Even if that came at the expense of Piastri [right] (who was leading before the Safety Car), the Australian still came home second for McLaren's first podium of 2026, also giving him (funnily enough) a 100% podium rate in the races he has started this year!

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



DRIVERS' POINTS STANDINGS AFTER Rd3 (TOP 10):

- 1) **Kimi Antonelli** of Mercedes: **72** [LEADER]
- 2) **George Russell** of Mercedes: **63** [-9]
- 3) **Charles Leclerc** of Ferrari: **49** [-23]
- 4) **Lewis Hamilton** of Ferrari: **41** [-31]
- 5) **Lando Norris*** of McLaren: **25** [-47]
- 6) **Oscar Piastri** of McLaren: **21** [-51]
- 7) **Oliver Bearman** of Haas: **17** [-55]
- 8) **Pierre Gasly** of Alpine: **15** [-57]
- 9) **Max Verstappen** of Red Bull: **12** [-60]
- 10) **Liam Lawson** of Racing Bulls: **10** [-62]

[*NOTE: Lando Norris, driver of the #1 McLaren MCL40 (pictured bottom), entered this season as the reigning Formula One World Drivers' Champion.]

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]



CONSTRUCTORS' POINTS STANDINGS AFTER Rd3:

- 1) | Mercedes: 135 [LEADER]
- 2) | Ferrari: 90 [-45]
- 3) | McLaren*: 46 [-89]
- 4) | Haas: 18 [-117]
- 5) | Alpine: 16 [-119]
- 6) | Red Bull: 16 [-119]
- 7) | Racing Bulls: 14 [-121]
- 8) | Audi: 2 [-133]
- 9) | Williams: 2 [-133]
- 10) | Cadillac: 0 [-135]
- 11) | Aston Martin: 0 [-135]

[*NOTE: McLaren (pictured bottom) entered the 2026 season as the reigning Formula One World Constructors' Champions.]

[IMAGE CREDITS: Getty Images]

That's the end of the gallery!

Thank you for taking the time to view this quick gallery based on a rather interesting start to the 2026 Formula One World Championship! Like I said at the start, this was just a nutshell of the first three rounds, meaning you only really found out about the fight at the front rather than how teams like Red Bull and Aston Martin have slipped back since the end of last season. Even so, do feel free to conduct some further research about all that in your own time. If there are any questions about this or BotB, you may contact me [@228-Ojelade-Faeq](#) on Teams, or my Outlook email, or in-person if you can find me! Alternatively (in some cases), you can get in touch with Miss Stevens, the founder and organiser of the newsletter!

The regulations reset for 2026 has shaken up the order a little bit from last year, with Mercedes re-establishing their dominance from the early stages of the turbo-hybrid era and Ferrari starting strong ahead of reigning champions McLaren. As of this gallery's last update, the sport is currently going through a length 5-week hiatus due to the cancellation of the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix, which owed to the conflict in the Middle East. That break may well serve to be a needed one for teams like Red Bull though, who have star driver Max Verstappen sitting only ninth in points right now.

But, we are still at an early stage, leaving massive room for key questions. Will Mercedes continue their dominant rampage? Can Ferrari and McLaren find that little bit extra to challenge them? And how will teams such as Red Bull and Aston Martin respond to a tough opening to 2026? We shall have the answers to those questions pretty soon, but for now, thanks for viewing my content this month! Expect the usual, larger load from me from next month onwards, though! Until next time, it's goodbye!

[*PRODUCER'S NOTE: This gallery was last updated on April 20th 2026. All facts and statistics within it are correct as of that date, with some being subject to change in the future. Nevertheless, I hope you found this interesting! See you next month!]



THE POWER OF PATIENCE



FARIS 10W

In a world built off instant results – whether that be same day delivery, instant messages, the ability to wait has become rare. People today are often hit by instant rewards, with patience being minimal. But to advance and achieve great things, the art of patience might be one of the most important characteristics to have. In this article, I will explain the science behind why we procrastinate on things, causes and how to gradually shift from this mindset of seeking instant pleasure.

Instant pleasure – why does it happen?

Let's face it – we have all had a goal in which we wanted to achieve but failed in doing so due to distractions. I was certainly a victim of this mindset – social media like TikTok was often holding me back from achieving success like good grades. But why do we often look for momentary satisfaction? Surely our brains should be wired to delay pleasure, right?

Unfortunately, our brains aren't wired to enjoy long term success. A big reason of this is because of our brains reward system. When you do something enjoyable, like eating a sweet, your brain releases a chemical called 'dopamine'. Dopamine is to blame for this short-term pleasure mindset, because it essentially tells our brain 'Hey, eat this sweet again!' The faster that this reward comes, the stronger the learning loop becomes. Another thing to blame is our evolutionary background. Back in the Stone Age, early humans lived in uncertain environments where food and safety were not guaranteed.

Therefore, the brain evolved to prioritize instant rewards, instead of an uncertain future. This idea is explained and further reinforced through 'temporal discounting'. Humans naturally value things less the further they are in time, like deciding to use £50 instead of saving it to have £100.

Finally, our environment compliments this reward system. Through the invention of distractions like TikTok (one of the biggest culprits), humans have begun to look for instant pleasure more than ever. We have essentially been trained to look for instant gratification, rather than carrying out the task of waiting. Furthermore, tasks like studying, reading or just sitting in silence have become less appealing, which has harmed our society. We have avoided discomfort at all costs, which is the biggest factor to grow in any aspect.



How can we overcome this mindset?

Understanding our brains reward system is only half of the battle, but overcoming it is the hard part. When we are so used to craving and receiving fast rewards, the idea of rewiring the brain to overcome it sounds impossible. I was asking myself the same question, but with enough effort and knowing how our brain works, I tackled this issue. One of the most important steps I took was deleting all distractions. Personally, TikTok had often disturbed my goals. However, after deleting it and any social media for that matter, I had begun to achieve more than ever. Now, you might be asking 'How can I delete something that I've used for so many years?'. The key to stopping these cravings is to try new things. Talking to family, watching a new TV show, starting a new hobby like drawing, taking walks, playing with the dog, journaling etc. are some of the countless things that you can do which involve patience. The longer you go without distractions, the more steps you are to achieving your goals.

Another action which helps with overcoming instant gratification is to get comfortable with discomfort. Social media and unhealthy food are specifically designed to help you constantly feel a sense of comfort, as they don't require any sort of effort to commit to them. Learning to tolerate discomfort is a big factor to long-term success, because no journey is smooth. Getting adjusted to do hard things, like going to the gym, reading for 10 minutes a day with no distractions, or rejecting craving for unhealthy food might feel tough at first, but feel extremely rewarding. Ultimately, the act of resisting will often beat the feeling of regret.

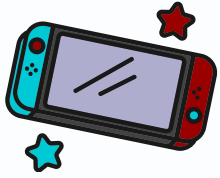
Another point is to train your attention span. Millions of social media users around the world face the same problem; after constantly experiencing constant fast stimulating content, your brain finds simple acts like reading way harder than they are. Rebuilding focus takes practice, so start with small habits. If your goal is to read 2 hours per day, with a background of constant TikTok, you won't be able to stay consistent. However, if you begin with reading 5 minutes a day, and gradually increase that time, the journey to achieving that goal won't feel as exhausting as it seems to be.

Final Message to Take Away

In the end, craving instant gratification is something that everyone you know faces, because it's how we are wired. But none of the most successful people in the world drove their life off it; they learnt how important being patient with happiness is, and how quickly their goals could be achieved without distractions. So, remember, the next time you reach for your phone or controller, ask yourself; "Will this help me with achieving my future goals?", because there's only one obvious answer.



MARIO SPORTS SERIES: GAME REVIEW



FINLEY 9B

Hello there. You may remember me from the January 2026 newsletter, but now I'm back for April with a review of the newest game in the Mario sports series: Mario Tennis Fever. I will be comparing it to 2 other games: Mario Tennis and Mario Golf: Super Rush.

1) ROSTER

The roster for this game is the biggest yet, with 38 different characters, some with skins as well. It's a truly interesting mix, from fan favourite Baby Waluigi to why couldn't he just have been a skin, Dry Bowser. Now, Mario Golf: Super Rush has 22 and Mario tennis has 25, a lot of these are just humans. On that note, Mii characters are not in the game, which is very sad for people who wanted to see if Peter Griffin could beat Sans in tennis.

2) STORY MODE

One of the most famous things about Mario Sports games is their story modes. And Mario Tennis Fever, of course, follows suite. In this one, the main cast (except DK) are turned into babies and must battle Bowser and a new foe become normal again. Now, the problem is, though it takes place in the OG tennis academy, it is very short. It takes about 3 and a half hours to complete.

And how many of you know about the enemy called the Scuttlebug? Thought not. This weird spider enemy from NSMB now has a king. And the boss fight is really easy. The only hard part is keeping the will to keep playing. The 2 hour long tutorial is incredibly slow, and you have to play a tennis match after each minigame. Mario Golf: Super Rush is much more fun, giving you a reason to keep playing after you beat the final boss. And Wario, Waluigi and Bowser are actually allies in this game. Mario tennis is about the same as Mario Tennis Fever but more fun.

3) PLAYING WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY

Now, I don't know about you, but learning new things can be hard. Mario Tennis Fever is no different. All the gimmicks are really complicated if you want to do a sky piercer and some of the score challenges are really difficult (Piranha Plant Challenge advanced difficulty). So really, when playing with someone in the same room, you end up spamming slices and Fever Shots. You can't play multiplayer on the GBA but Mario Golf: Super Rush was hard enough to be a challenge but easy enough to pick up quickly.



4) SINGLE PLAYER

For single player, all options are open. Mix it up is very fun, Trial Towers are a good challenge, and tournaments are really fun, if not challenging to do. The range of challenges are actually fun. No two matches are the same. Probably the best part of the game. It's also fun to unlock everything. This means clearing all Tournaments, trial towers, score challenges and, sadly, story mode. Mario Golf: Super Rush had something similar but it was only accessible in story mode. Mario tennis didn't really have this at all.

5) RANKING

And now what you've all been waiting for. The ranking.

In third place: Mario Tennis. OK, but there were a lot of filler characters and you had to buy the worst console to play it. And for some reason, Nintendo is bringing it to the Nintendo Switch Two.



In second place: Mario Tennis Fever. It's mid, but the bad outweighs the good. It's good for a while, but then you'll just go back to Mario Kart World.



And in first place: Mario Golf: Super Rush. It's great to play, fun for single and multiplayer and interesting.



That's all from me. Goodbye.

EXPERIENCES AT THE SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION



HAMZA 8C



Good morning or afternoon (depends on when you are reading this). I am Hamza, and I am proud to write my first article in my time of the Best of the Beths.

In this article, I am going to be talking about my experiences in a Shakespeare competition, a competition me and Mohammad competed in since the spring term.



After me and Mohammad won a speech competition in school, we were told to prepare for a second round. And when the day came, we went to Eltham Hill to partake in the second round of this competition.

At first, we felt confident in ourselves, as we were performing a speech in front of an audience with different schools. When all participants came, I noticed we were the only boys in the whole competition.

After waiting for the competitors to arrive, and the evening prayer (keep in mind, this was during Ramadan), the competition kicked off with Mohammad's speech known as "All the World's a Stage" from the play As You Like It. After his performance, many other people soon began to perform.

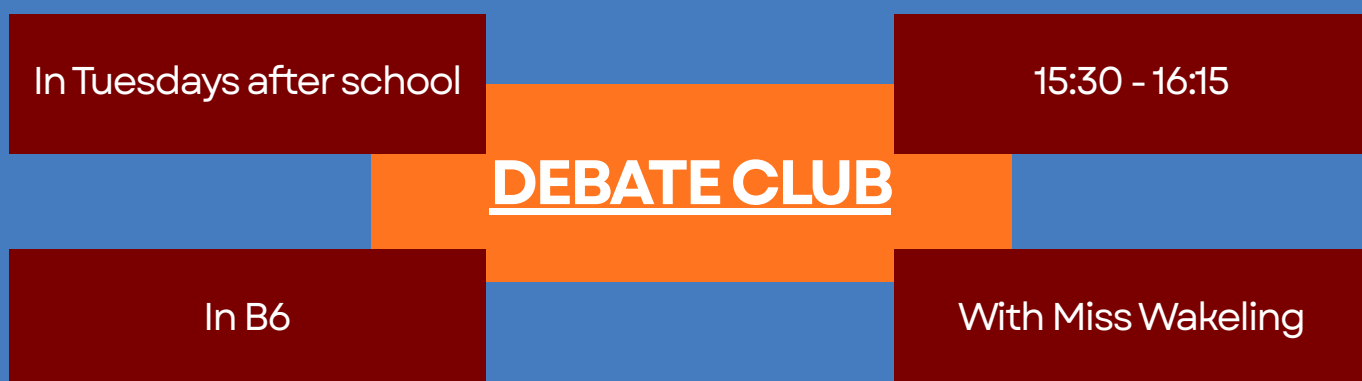
It was now I realised my competition, many of these performers, including Mohammad were really great, and when it was my turn, I knew what to do to be better

My performance was from Julius Caesar, and the speech is known as "Friends, Romans, Countrymen". The judges took note of my performance we watched a bit more performers, until all competitors has competed. It was here where we took a break while the judges come to a conclusion as to who won.



This was a perfect opportunity for me, as since the evening prayer had now happened, I could pray, as well as have my first meal of the day. But soon the judges results were final. **8 people had won Round 2, and will go to Round 3.** And those 8 people included me.

This type of competitions where you have to perform a speech from one of Shakespeare plays, are generally fun and you can learn a lot about performance. It is a great experience, just like Round 2 of my competition. I hope many more people can partake in Debate Club, to have a grand opportunity, like this. Have a great day, or night (also depends when you are reading this), and I hope to see some new faces in Debate Club.



BOOK REVIEW: HOMEGOING

JOSHUA 10W

I recently read Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi, and I actually found it very interesting and eye opening.

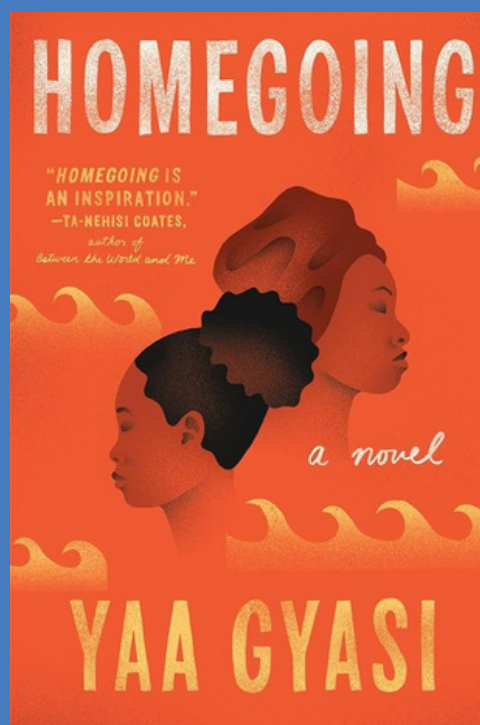
Before reading it, looking back, I misunderstood the transatlantic slave trade. I thought it was people being kidnapped randomly, but this book showed me something different: that in some cases, African chiefs were involved in handing people over. That really shocked me and made me see that part of history in a new light.

What I liked most about the book was how it follows different generations of the same family. Each chapter switches to a new character, which I really liked. It shows how what happens to your ancestors can still affect people many years later.

I also liked how it made me think about my identity and family history. It made me realise how important your background is, even if you don't always know the full story.

The ending was really good as well, especially when the story returned to the ancestral home. It felt like everything connected in the end.

Overall, I think Homegoing is a really good book because it teaches you history in a way that doesn't feel boring. It's emotional, it's interesting, and it really ignites questions in your mind.



WHY OXBRIDGE?



KAVIN 9H



What is Oxbridge?

Oxbridge is a term used to describe two universities situated in England. They consist of Oxford university and Cambridge university. These universities have been seen in the top rankings of the world consistently due to their extensive research on real life problems and their prestige. People often choose to attend these universities as they provide an incredible quality of life alongside world class education. Their teaching styles also vary among other institutes as they prioritize not just academic but personal growth leading them to teach in smaller groups to achieve that. Furthermore, they receive a competitive edge in the job market making them more likely sought after by employers.

How do you apply?

To apply for Oxbridge you must first send your UCAS applications before 14 January for most undergraduate courses, keeping in mind that you cannot choose to apply for Oxford and Cambridge in the same year. Oxbridge usually expects A level grades ranging from A*AA or higher depending on the course. They also have pre-admission exams such as the TSA, MAT, LNAT, BMAT for Oxford and some pre-interview or at-interview assessments for Cambridge. Another step is to prepare your personal statement , focus on:

- . Academic interest in the subject
- . Reading beyond syllabus
- . Projects, competitions, or research

Then you should get referrals from your secondary school as it is required to submit on UCAS. Some courses such as Geography or History might require you to submit school marked written essays. Next if you are shortlisted you will get invited for interviews where they will test your ability to answer problem-solving questions. Finally they will send out offers and if you meet it you get accepted.

Courses

The most competitive courses given in Oxbridge such as Law , Medicine, PPE and Computer Science. These courses are not competitive not just because of demand but because of individuals getting top grades. However there are some specific courses which fewer people take and it is less competitive to join. These include courses such as Classics, Theology and Religion, Archaeology, Modern Languages and Human Sciences.

How to choose your Oxbridge colleges

Choosing an Oxbridge is a crucial part in the application process as it determines how you study and how it can psychologically impact you. It can also help you bond with other people and grow your community. Oxford usually arranges classes with 2 or 3 people after the course for further understanding. Colleges also offer pastoral care which can boost your wellbeing. Each Oxbridge college also have their own traditions. Colleges have libraries, dining halls, sports teams, and clubs. Students use these daily, so the college plays a big role in their education and social life.



What's next?

If you were lucky enough to get admitted into Oxbridge you can now start thinking about what career paths you might want to take or if you want to do a Phd to get a doctorate title and a further understanding in your subject. Most people often choose computing , engineering, law or medicine but there are more niche subjects you can go into. If you choose to go into medical the next steps for you if you are staying in Britain would be to apply for Graduate Entry Medicine (GME) then you would study medicine for 4 years before applying for foundation for another 2 years. Later on if you want to specialize in fields.

That's all for this month!

WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST



EAST



MOAHAMMAD 8B

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Newsletter's April edition! Firstly, you may have read Hamza's article about the Shakespeare competition, and if you did you will have noticed that I was also there! Nevertheless, today, we are (once again) criticizing talking about everyone's least favorite US president, Donald Trump. Frankly, if you haven't heard about the current Iran/US tensions, then you've been living under a rock, and that's what I'm going to discuss today. Keep in mind that the situation is rapidly changing and that this article is true as of the 4th of April, 2026. So now, let's start!

What even is happening and how did it start?

Currently (as of 4/4/26), it is day 36 of the war, meaning that Trump and Netanyahu started bombing Tehran (the capital) and other Iranian cities on on the 28th of February. The reason for this was quite clear: Trump had accused Iran of building nuclear weapons that could threaten the US, its allies and the infamous *Board of Peace*. This claim was founded on 440 kg of highly enriched uranium hidden in Iran's Isfahan nuclear site (which they would not have had if the US had undertaken negotiations with Iran after the Iraq invasion in 2003). Nevertheless, shortly after this rumors surfaced of Iran's leader being surprisingly killed in the US/Israeli, which Iran confirmed on the 1st of March. The very next day, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, angering the US and Israel and Trump and leading to him urging EU countries to go and "take" the oil. In addition Iran has also attacked the US embassies in countries such as the UAE. [UPDATE as of 16/4: One week ago, Trump threatened to use nuclear force on Iran (and he didn't delay it for ("two to three weeks"). However, just ONE HOUR before the supposed 'deadline', Pakistan stepped in and stopped the nuking, along with bridging peace talks 🤔🤔.]

What even is the Strait of Hormuz and why is it important?

The Strait of Hormuz is a very critical waterway in between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and about 20% of the world's oil passes through it. It is between Oman and Iran, and recently, as said above, Iran has strictly 'closed' it for USA/Israel and their allied countries, which refers to most of the western world. In fact, only about 10 countries (India, Pakistan, China, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Iraq, Thailand, Greece, Egypt and South Africa) have received official permission to use the strait from Iran and Iranian embassies. Predictably, 20% of the world's oil being restricted has caused the fuel prices to skyrocket (again), with Cambodia having the biggest price increase of about 67.8% (please don't say it).



The Strait of Hormuz

What will happen next?

Currently, the war is at a crossroads, with America not wanting to do a full-on ground invasion, and the same for Iran. However, just a few days ago, Iran reportedly shot down a US F-15 jet, the first confirmed time since 2018 in the Syrian war. One pilot has been said to have been found by US troops, while the other remains unknown with a \$60,000 bounty on his capture. Also, Trump has offered Iran a ceasefire, which they refused due to terms such as ending their nuclear program and never making missiles again. Furthermore, lots of countries have declared a national holiday one day a week and extended holidays in order to save the limited amounts of fuel that they have.

That's the end of my article this month! I hope that this war ends soon (on fair terms) and that the Strait of Hormuz opens again, yet as of 4/4/26 it seems unlikely. Thanks for reading!

NEW CLASH ROYALE UPDATE



OSCAR 8A

Hi everyone! Welcome to my article, in which I'll be talking about the newest Clash Royale update. I'm sure many of you have played, do play or want to get Clash Royale. In which case, this is a good article to read if you need a little help.

So, what is Clash Royale about?

Clash Royale is a high paced, multiplayer, fun game to play. It is currently ranked #1 on Google Play Store. I have played the game before, so I have firsthand experience on how to play properly.

How do you play Clash Royale?

In Clash Royale, the rules are simple; you play 3 – minute matches, drawn against random opponents on your skill level from around the world. Once you start a match, the key to victory is something called elixir. Elixir builds up under your hotbar, and you can spend elixir to spawn in a troop. Each player has a deck of eight cards, that when placed on the arena, summon the troop drawn on the card. Different troops cost different amounts of elixir, costing froot at enemy troops, with different towers to unlock. Troops can also destroyme

And finally, the point of this article; the newest update! As many of you may know, Clash Royale recently celebrated its 10th birthday, meaning that an event was sure to come! Shortly before their birthday, Clash Royale released a new tier of troop; heroes. The heroes are the second of their type, with evolutions coming first. They basically give ordinary troops special abilities. So Also, I thinkave added evolution minion horde, which, upon taking damage, gives them a short moment of invincibility, and hero balloon, which upon use of the ability, spawns a paratrooper that flies down and attacks. Overall, I like the new Clash Royale update, but many may disagree with me. Anyway, that's it for today's article! Thanks for reading!



BLUELOCK: THE RISE OF JAPAN



SHUVAM 7A

Hello my friends and I will be writing about Blue Lock. If you guys have read the latest panel; Chapter 340 P2. We can see that Barou had a chance on goal, where Hugo blocks it. Then a counter happens where a defender takes a shot and then Kunigami stops it then the next chapter comes next Tuesday.

Anyway sorry for all you guys who didn't read this chapter, lets start from the beginning.

We start with our main character Isagi, where he was playing the game for nationals. He has a chance where he squares it to his teammate, where he misses and hit the bar. That bum bro. Anyway, he gets into the Blue Lock project and he develops ego where he learns that he has to evolve. He gets into the international stage facing the U-20 of Japan, the real test.

The game starts with Isagi having a counter with Nagi and Rin. Those are two players who also passed the U-20 Japan team. They learned that the real test is Oliver Aiku, a defender who used to be a striker. The game continues where red the first goal, an amazing touch by Nagi Seishiro, and a finish by him. I'll give you some things. Nagi Seishiro has the best touch in Blue Lock. He's like him. I can't explain, he has that power to control a ball. It doesn't matter how fast. Rin has a brother who left him for Real Madrid Academy and never came back the same.

One night, Rin was practicing outside his home. Then Sae Itoshi, his brother, came back. Then Sae Itoshi, his brother, came back. One on one, and Sidelang, thank the sideline captain. Rin built that anger in the middle of the game, his destructive impulses came up.

Let me tell you something. Blue Lock isn't your normal football. It's a more creative sport. So if you're thinking ahead, what the hell is he doing? How is he bringing demons out of him? It's more of a manga they made into a show. So then he, and then Sae Itoshi at the end comes up, the scores 3-2. Is it? No, it's 2-2. Then 3-1, Rin tries not making him win. Doesn't work. Goes up in the air. He's saying, you know what, chief. Oh man. Falls to him. Shoots a direct shot and scores, ending the game. Blue Lock changes ego in Japan's rise. Then a new season begins, the NEL season. But I'll be writing about that in my next one. But that's it.





RED VS BLUE

TIANYU 12B2

What had happened in Beths?

We had a school assembly detailing the potentially dangerous TikTok trend that was being spread around London by school children in various schools. We had an instance of this happening to Beths where the school was in a TikTok made by an unknown person by the alias "6741master3" who had us against Bexleyheath academy as shown in the image here:

Luckily, there was no date or time, and it was just an AI image most likely to be a parody of the other situations that occurred in other areas of London and potentially in the UK in general.

What had happened outside of Beths?

The earliest instance of this that I was able to find was the "Bristol war" that the BBC reported on which included different schools into "red and blue" categories for pupils in Year 7, 8 9 and 10. This article was made on the 26th of February 2026 and the police were to have said to carried out reassurance patrols and it was monitoring the situation extremely closely. Other situations had also happened since then including and not limited to: "Northampton War," "Hackney War" and another instance in Essex that was reported by the BBC. Overall, there were a substantial number of other posts that had included many other schools in the UK and was extremely worrying to parents and schools that were included in the area. Despite all the posts being made, the metropolitan police had reported to have seen no actual violent incidents related to the posters were seen.

So, was it all a joke?

Since there were no actual fights or "wars" that had actually occurred or even attempted to occur which had been reported, we all wonder if it was a genuine joke or if it was bound to become something more serious if police and schools were not to have stepped in. The most that has happened would be the fact that the metropolitan police arrested a 15-year-old and a man in his twenties in east London in connection with the trend but were not able to confirm if they were linked to the original posters at all. Along with this, a 13-year-old boy from Sheffield has also been arrested in connection with the social media posts encouraging violence among school children. The arrest was made after South Yorkshire Police had been monitoring social media posts on the 10th of March. Overall, not much had happened during this period, however, there may have been other incidents that were not reported by the BBC and other trustable news organisations.



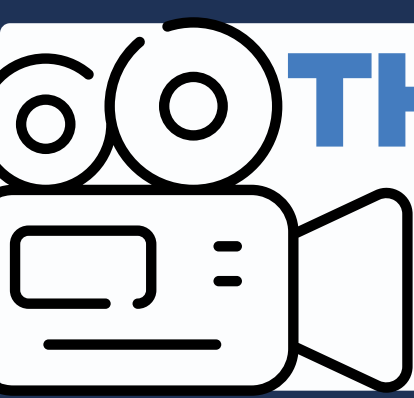
What could we do differently?

After all the unrest and worry from parents teachers and students alike, we see that we could improve on the way that the whole situation could have been handled. First of all, if posts were seen they should not be shared and must be reported immediately. Next, do not take action on what is seen online as it may be exaggerated and may not have actual reason behind it. In addition, there should be greater awareness on how social media can influence behaviour. Education behind social media will be really important for students to not get into these situations again.

In conclusion...

While the “red vs blue” trend caused widespread concern, it highlighted the social media influences on young adults and the impact of how we respond to it. However, by staying informed, we can avoid harmful things from happening and help each other from ever having another situation where students are feeling like they are in danger just because of a social media trend. Therefore, we should take this as a unique learning experience to stay safe in the future even if it was all just a phantom trend.





THE OSCARS'26



ZAYAN 8A

The Oscars

Hello everyone! and i'm back with an article about THE OSCARS that happened in the 15th of march.

The 98th academy awards (the oscars) took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood and Conan O'Brien was the host.

"One Battle After Another" won with 6 oscars. But additionally, "Sinners" was nominated 16 times which marked history.

Durald Arkapaw became the first women to win the best cinematography oscar.

The History

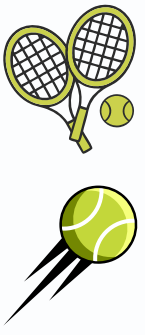
Now, let's talk about the history of the oscars. The very first ceremony was all they way back in 1929 on May 16th. That ceremony only had around 270 people watching and it only lasted for around 15 minutes. Because of the metals shortage during World War II, Oscars® were made of painted plaster for three years. Following the war, all of the awarded plaster figures were exchanged for gold-plated metal ones. The Oscar statuette is the most recognized award in the world. Its success as a symbol of achievement in filmmaking would doubtless amaze those who attended that dinner more than 80 years ago, as well as its designer, Cedric Gibbons. It stands today, as it has since 1929, without peer, on the mantels of the greatest filmmakers in history.



The Winner!



TENNIS: SUNSHINE SWING



ZUBAYR 7W

The Sunshine Swing in tennis occurs once a year (technically twice depending on your point of view) in none other than the USA. The reason why it is so “special” is because it is when two Masters 1000 tournaments - the 2nd biggest type of tennis tournament - are played back-to-back from each other. The tournaments are the Indian Wells Open and the Miami Open. The act of winning the title of both these tournaments is rare and has only been done by 8 people prior to the 2026 Sunshine Swing but after Miami, there was a 9th.

Indian Wells Open

Heading into Indian Wells, it would be the third tournament of the year for Alcaraz as World No.1. Last year, he was defending champion after having won it twice in 2023 and 2024, defeating Daniil Medvedev both times in the final but he lost to Britain’s own Jack Draper, the eventual champion in the semis. How would Alcaraz fare in 2026?

The top two seeds were of course Alcaraz and Sinner and both headed into the tournament strong with Sinner starting a bit of a perfect set streak. All seemed well and good and was about to lead into another SinCaraz final up until the semi-finals. Daniil Medvedev who Alcaraz easily surpassed previously to win the title had beaten Jack Draper in the quarter-finals and somehow beat Alcaraz in straight sets to get himself a place in the final. In the other semi-final, Sinner faced a very familiar foe, Zverev, who Sinner beat quite easily in straight sets booking his spot in the final.

Since Alcaraz had finished his Indian Wells journey at the semi-finals exactly like last year, he would keep the same number of points but Sinner on the other hand, missed out last year as he had to skip 3 Masters 1000 in a row starting from Indian Wells after a doping suspension. This would mean that if he won, he would win all 1000 points, closing the gap between him and Alcaraz from 3150 to 2150. And he did just that, beating Medvedev in straight sets 7-6 (8-6) 7-6 (7-4). This was a huge blow to Alcaraz’s hopes of staying at No.1. Previously, he lost in the first round in Miami so as long as he makes it further, he still has a big fighting chance.

Miami Open

Miami would be a crucial turning point in the battle for No.1 between Alcaraz and Sinner. Coming into the tournament, the gap between the two was 2150. However, Alcaraz lost in the first round in 2025, so making it further would keep him alive in the race. Sinner was dominating though, as he had a 12 consecutive set streak and seemed unbeatable. Both faced quite easy first matches but each of their halves came with their own troubles. After beating rising star Joao Fonseca, Alcaraz faced Sebastian Korda while Sinner only had to beat Damir Dzumhur and was soon to face left-handed Corentin Moutet.

You might think Alcaraz was fine and Sinner had a bit of a struggle, but you were wrong. Alcaraz lost to Korda in a brutal third set after losing 1 crucial break point. Sinner on the other hand, breezed past Moutet and didn't stop exerting his overwhelming dominance on the court.

His next 2 matches were both against two Americans, Alex Michelsen and Frances Tiafoe, but they were both dispatched easily and Sinner faced Zverev in the semi-finals. Both had played each other again and again yet they never seemed to stop meeting in the latter stages of a tournament (usually quarter-finals to the final). But as always, Sinner proved to be more dominant and Zverev was out.

Now this was an important match. If Sinner won, he would join a short list of greats who achieved an incredible feat, winning the Sunshine Double. All Jannik had to do was beat Jiri Lehecka from Czechia and he would join that prestigious list.

The match started as you would have expected. Sinner pushed Lehecka to the limit but the Czech somehow managed to fight back, allowing Sinner to only win 1 break point in the first set to let the Italian win 6-4. But at this point, Sinner was at his greatest playing on his favourite surface. He seemed unstoppable but still only won 1 break point in the second set to win 6-4, ending the match 6-4 6-4.

Sinner had become historic. He had won the Sunshine Double, the first to do it since Roger Federer in 2017 but he didn't do just that. He won both Indian Wells and Miami without dropping a single set, finishing Miami with a 24 consecutive set streak since the last time he dropped a set which was in Qatar in February against Jakub Mensik in the quarter-finals and he eventually lost that match.

What happens next?

After winning the Sunshine Double, Sinner drastically shortened the gap between him and World No.1 by 2000, leaving the difference at 1150 from 3150 before Indian Wells with only Alcaraz standing in his way. The next tournament in the calendar is Monte-Carlo in Monaco where Alcaraz was a first-time winner there last year so losing early would help Sinner by a lot. But after playing 2 Masters 1000 in a row is tiring so playing another straight after would be exhausting so it would be no surprise if Sinner does not participate.

But the change to Clay Season from Hard would be crucial as Alcaraz will need to defend quite a lot of points - 1000 from Monte-Carlo, 330 from Barcelona, 1000 from Rome, and 2000 in Roland Garros with 1330 in total to defend in just April - with 4330 to defend whereas Sinner only has to defend 1950 in total as he served a three month suspension from suspected doping so he has none to defend in total. To keep No.1, Alcaraz will need to perform at his very best and play in every tournament he played in last year and more; he will have to make it further than Sinner in every tournament they play together.

That's it this month, see you in May (hopefully)!

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #43



A Note of Thanks



Thank you for reading the 43rd edition of Best of the Beths!

It has been an incredibly long time since I have last pieced together an edition of Best of the Beths. However, with the Year 10 Trial Exams in the horizons for Faeq, I was more than happy to pick up the newsletter this month. In editing this month's newsletter, albeit still receiving the odd bit of support from Faeq, it reminded me of the sheer effort it takes to piece this newsletter together. Best of the Beths is not a simple patchwork quilt in which everyone leaves their final contributions to the final product and washes their hands of it. Editing is a meticulous process in which you are reading, editing, rearranging and finessing until it reaches the final vision of what you see before you. It is no mean feat. And so, it could certainly be argued, that editing the newsletter has been a rather humbling but altogether enjoyable experience.

I am therefore incredibly grateful to Faeq for undertaking this gargantuan task on a monthly basis. I am also incredibly grateful to the school community who regularly contribute to the Best of the Beths newsletter. Ultimately, this newsletter stands for sharing your views and interests and that is what I will continue to support you in doing! It has been particularly refreshing to see the younger generation amongst KS3 mastering the art of newsletter writing and formatting on Canva. Skills that I am sure will equip them well for the future.

As always, I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter edition as much as I have in piecing it together. Your voices and your stories are to be shared. Will you join us in the next edition?

Note written by Miss Stevens, Founder and Organiser of Best of the Beths

with

Regards from the Best of the Beths Newsletter Team! See you again soon!

[Click here to find our past publications, old and new; enjoy them and see you next month!](#)