BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47

7th Anniversary
2019 - 2026

Produced **for** students, **by** students since 2019.
Celebrating 7 years of history!

THE BEST OF SEPTEMBER 2026

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47



THE BEST OF SEPTEMBER 2026

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47



Contents Page!

1) History & Evolution of *'Best of the Beths'* [2026 Update]
Written by: Faeq 11B[1] | Page(s): 5-9

2) Survival Tips for the New Year 7s
Written by: Aaron 8A[1] | Page(s): 10-11

3) An Interview with the Headteacher, Mrs O'Donnell
Written by: Neel 12A1 | Page(s): 12-15

4) VAR in Football: Fairness or Fuel for Chaos?
Written by: Mawunukunu 7C | Page(s): 16

5) A Summer in Vietnam
Written by: Stanley 11E | Page(s): 17-19

6) UCL Matchday 1/Premier League Transfers
Written by: Divine 8W | Page(s): 20-21

7) Four Year Strong: Rise or Die Trying - Review
Written by: Hadi 12A1 | Page(s): 22-23

8) My Time in Nepal
Written by: Shuvam 8A | Page(s): 24-25

9) Business in Bexley
Written by: Joseph 8A | Page(s): 26-27

10) NASCAR Cup Series 2026: Kyle Larson Returns
Gallery by: Faeq 11B[2] | Page(s): 28-32

(continues on next page →)

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47



Contents (continued)!

11) Nigerian Economy: 2000-2024
Written by: Pavarshan 9E | Page(s): 33-34
12) Why Do We Care So Much About What Others Think?
Written by: Kaiser 8B | Page(s): 35
13) The History of Bus Transport
Written by: Aaron 8A² | Page(s): 36-38
14) Chelsea's Start to the 2026/27 Premier League
Written by: Ehimen 11W | Page(s): 39-43
15) United Kingdom Divided Up?
Written by: Mohammad 9B | Page(s): 44
16) Tennis: U.S Open 2026
Written by: Zubayr 8W | Page(s): 45-46
17) 3D Printing
Written by: Daanish 9C | Page(s): 47
18) DfE's New Phone Policy
Written by: Nathan B. 11H | Page(s): 48
19) Geopolitics and Global Trade in 2026
Written by: Fahmi 10H | Page(s): 49
20) Top Reads This Summer
Written by: Percy 8C | Page(s): 50

Edited by Faeq Ojelade of 11B

HISTORY & EVOLUTION OF 'BEST OF THE BETHS' [2026 UPDATE]

FAEQ 11B[1] [EDITOR]

Greetings, readers! To those of you that have read Best of the Beths before, welcome back; if it is your first time, then welcome to the newsletter that is produced '**for** students, **by** students', and has been since this time in 2019! Before we begin with this year's coverage, let me quickly introduce myself! I am Faeq [**pronounced:** Fi-eek] of 11B, the editor of BotB, and in the coming months, do expect some predominantly motorsport coverage from me, particularly NASCAR and Formula 1! Otherwise, it might be based on something more school-centred instead, like what I have lined up for you here.

To begin the academic year, and given that it is now the 7th anniversary of BotB's debut across school, I have decided to update my September 2025 article based on the history of it, from its humble beginnings up to the historic run of last year. Seven years is definitely a lot of time, and such a large amount of time has seen such a large amount of change for BotB. In fact, we are able to distinguish this change into four separate eras, so without further ado, let's break this down accordingly and start the brand new year with a quick trip through time!

1) Context and Humble Beginnings (September '19 - January '20)

Every story has to start somewhere, and this one starts sometime during 2017, when Mrs Dawson (previously/alternatively known as Miss Stevens) was being interviewed for the position of an English teacher. During this, she noted that (at the time) there wasn't a platform for students within the school to voice what they were passionate about despite newsletters like the Beths VIP (which focused on the school's weekly affairs) being present. And so, she felt as though this was something that had to be rectified, and after gaining confidence in her departmental position, it became her goal in 2019 to organise a student-written newsletter club.

This came to fruition by the start of the 2019/20 academic year, with the debut edition of BotB being released on September 30th. In this first era, Microsoft Publisher was used for the editing (which wasn't student-friendly but rather clunky) - this was a challenge for Mrs Dawson, who actually balanced her teaching load with this! She also had Word documents emailed to her every month, making it more time-consuming. The pocket-editions here did have their quirks though, including a Quizzing corner and a couple word-searches on top of the variety of topics. But then came COVID by early 2020, and this is where things came to a rather abrupt halt...



Best of the Beths

ISSUE ONE 30/09/2019

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH:

1. A WARM WELCOME
2. YEAR 7 THOUGHTS
3. ADVICE TO THE NEW YEAR 7
4. GUEST WRITER: MS EASTON
5. SPORT HIGHLIGHTS
6. THOMAS COOK
7. IPHONE 11
8. WELCOME MS PELLS
9. FIRST BASKETBALL MATCH
10. FIFA 20
11. QUIZZING

A Warm Welcome to the Debut Newsletter

Welcome to the Best of the Beths newsletter. The newsletter allows students to voice their opinions on current affairs, keep up to date with the local news in Bexley, get involved in school activities as well as carrying out a number of interviews. The newsletter club hope that you enjoy reading the first issue of the Best of the Beths and look forward to sharing their future publications with you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the news reporters on their hard work and resilience shown this month, particularly in pushing this first issue to be published in the first month of school. Well done!

Ms Stevens

Here is the very first page and introduction to BotB [***click on this bold text if you want to read it***], back when Miss Stevens was the editor of a Microsoft Publisher-made newsletter! These pocket-editions were no longer than 11 pages in size, with text being arranged in small columns, and KS3 students a large part of the reporting audience, something that would change once the newsletter eventually recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[IMAGE FROM: September'19 Edition]

2) Post-COVID Revival (February '22 - October '23)

As many of you may have experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic sent many places into shutdown across the UK and the globe, while also steering BotB towards a two-year hiatus. But once things returned to a form of normality, Mrs Dawson knew changes had to be made. She subsequently enlisted her first student editor (called Levi) who 'conquered' Microsoft Publisher and gave the newsletter a 'new lease of life' design-wise. With this era, we had far longer editions (including September 2022, the longest-ever in BotB history for almost three years) and our first Sports Day newsletters dedicated to the month of June (2022 and 2023).

And then one day, following some feedback from a student based on the newsletter's visual presentation, a massive change would be made...



Sure, COVID knocked the newsletter down but upon returning for February of 2022, it got back up far stronger! The immediate months of this era would see some of the longest editions ever in BotB history, a few of which have still stood the test of time impressively. On another note, we had a varying design palette between editions, many more staff interviews and Notes of Thanks, among other things!

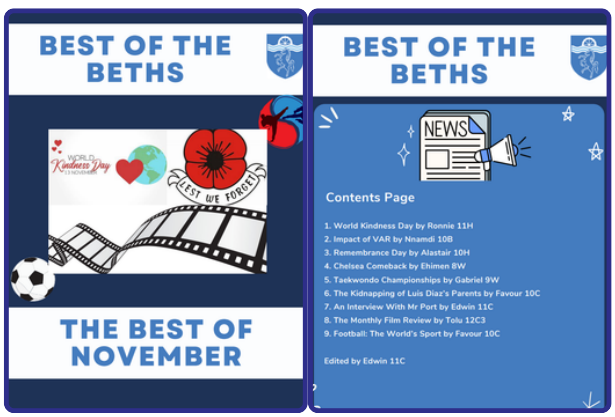
If you want to read the revival edition of BotB, ***click here***!

[IMAGE FROM: February'22 Edition]

3) Canva 1 (November '23 - March '25)

Between the October and November editions of 2023, BotB made the transition from Publisher to Canva, which is still what we use now to produce our newsletters. Scholars within the team would find it easier to upload their articles independently while also adding images and clip-arts, to name a few things. Plus, with the auto-save feature being present, things were running far more smoothly than before! Mrs Dawson worked alongside her second student editor called Edwin (a Y13 student last academic year) to create a more consistent design palette that was 'the best it had ever been', with the newsletter retaining many aspects content-wise from its revival.

Before we transition over to the current era, in the middle of *this* period, I returned to BotB for the March 2024 newsletter after making my debut in the July 2023 edition. From there, not only did I appear in all subsequent editions, but I also helped out a bit with the monthly running of the team (e.g. by putting a few article templates into the next edition's folder). It was those subtle and simple voluntary acts of kindness that caught the eye of Mrs Dawson and Edwin, who offered me the position of editor from the April 2025 edition onwards, possibly (at least, to date) the greatest offer ever made in BotB history...



The positives of this era included the fact that BotB transitioned to a more simple and creative platform in Canva and we had a more consistent design that closer embodied the school colours. But, this era didn't have as much of a statistical edge as the one before it, with editions more commonly under 20 pages and no newsletters that were at least 30 pages in size.

[IMAGES FROM: November '23 Edition]

4.1) Canva X: Getting Things Started (April '25 - July '25)

That offer from Mrs Dawson and Edwin was one I took to kickstart an era I have renamed as Canva X, and after (just about) managing to get an April 2025 newsletter secured, I subsequently became the first KS3 student ever to edit BotB! May 2025 was where this new era would really get started though, as it would be the joint-second edition longest the newsletter had ever seen, with June's edition becoming the longest Sports Day newsletter at the time. And to end the year, July 2025 was a mammoth 39 pages, making it the longest-ever in BotB history and giving the team much-needed and rejuvenated momentum heading into (what is now) last year...



Here are the first two pages of the current era of BotB, and perhaps it is evident that the design had undergone a major revamp! It features more creative clip-arts, a six-pack of images on the front cover and the edition number for the first time in 5 years, among other things! Not just that, but the edition-wide consistency in the newsletter had also been revamped, a theme present throughout much of current-day BotB.

[IMAGES FROM: April '25 Edition]

4.2) Canva X: 2025/26, Our Best Year Ever in a Nutshell

Now readers, I'll just say this - you may want to prepare yourselves, as this may be the most fascinating (and possibly even mind-blowing) part of BotB history ever. And as a side-note, this is basically why I have **renamed** this era to from 'Canva Pt2' to **Canva X**.

After a strong finish to 2024/25, we would start off the 2025/26 academic year by celebrating BotB's 6th anniversary. And what a massive celebration it was, featuring 23 different individuals and coming in at a giant 49 pages, already blitzing the July '25 record and becoming the longest edition in newsletter history. October was the second straight newsletter over 40 pages long, followed by November at 33. December was another strong run with 36 pages total, and upon celebrating the newsletter's 40th publication at the same time as the New Year in January, we would return to a strength of 43 pages.



As well as our primary paint scheme, we would occasionally bring out a throwback livery for the newsletter upon reaching certain milestones. This special paint palette (which was first introduced last September) adapts the 2019 colours into the modern format, featuring a darker blue, more white and a greyish-lavender (which has received a little more love from myself the more we have used this).

[IMAGES FROM: January '26 Edition]

We would remain consistent from February through to April (which was partially edited by Mrs Dawson as I was undertaking my first set of mock GCSE exams). In May we would celebrate the successes of the past calendar year under my time as editor and post a third 43-page run, with editions from this era *only* then being among the top-5 longest ever for BotB. And things wouldn't stop there; by managing 36 and 35-page runs respectively in June and July, we would finish the academic year having broken many previous records - which I will take you through right now. And do brace yourselves - what I am about to say might seem crazy, but it *did* all happen.

There are many key numbers to take note of here, starting with an astounding **425 pages** across all editions for last year, a record that was almost double the previous figure (255 in 2022/23). Not just this, but the fact we managed eleven newsletters meant we had one for each and every month of the academic year, marking only the first time in BotB history this had happened! Before 2025/26, the newsletter never had an edition over 40 pages long - last year we managed **four**, notably including all editions with this colour scheme surrounding you here. Furthermore, eight of those newsletters feature in the current top-10 longest editions in terms of a page count, with all but two editions from this era in the top-15.



Top 10 Longest Editions in Best of the Beths		
	End of 2024/25	End of 2025/26
1	**July 2025**: 39 pages	**September 2025**: 49 pages
2	**September 2022**: 37 pages	**October 2025**: 43 pages
3	**March 2022**: 34 pages	**January 2026**: 43 pages
4	**May 2025**: 34 pages	**May 2026**: 43 pages
5	**May 2022**: 31 pages	**July 2025**: 39 pages
6	**December 2022**: 31 pages	**September 2022**: 37 pages
7	**October 2022**: 30 pages	**March 2026**: 37 pages
8	**June 2025**: 30 pages	**December 2025**: 36 pages
9	**May 2024**: 29 pages	**April 2026**: 36 pages
10	**October 2024**: 29 pages	**July 2026**: 36 pages
• = *editions under the current era (Canva X) of Best of the Beths*		



But how have we suddenly managed to attain such statistical dominance, may you ask?

Well for starters, it comes from a refined enthusiasm and commitment, perhaps initially started by my rise to power as the editor. As soon as that happened, the team has seen a large influx of KS3 scholars joining the fray - I'll tell you this, Mrs Dawson was reluctant about this, but it has served us well. Once they learned the basics, many of them showcased great consistency and a knack for the newsletter - in fact, all of our writers last year contributed to 268 of the 425 pages produced, and that alone would have been a new record. While they had a knack, so did I, with yours truly being responsible for the other 157 sheets (which included my monthly editing admin, 94 pages of my own content and 5 pages for my April '26 interview).

Not just that, but the gains we have made as a group have also come down to our improved execution behind the scenes. In past years, BotB definitely had its successes, but there were also instances where our performance in getting the job done was rather sloppy, costing us at least another edition - in fact, this happened **four** times back in 2023/24, which saw just seven newsletters and 166 pages across them. But nowadays, factors like regular deadline reminders, better management of Microsoft Teams and improved promotion have allowed us to break through and maximise the monthly excellence and results.

So seeing as this is now pretty much the prime of BotB, perhaps there's still no better time than the present to join in and talk about what matters most to you! The door is open; are you going to take the chance, walk inside and contribute to BotB history?

That will be the end of this article!

And that is the seven-year history of BotB in a nutshell! Thank you for taking the time to read this, especially those of you that have just joined Beths Grammar! Hopefully, you have been inspired by not only the unbelievable events of last academic year, but also the determination from Mrs Stevens to put this newsletter together in the first place all those years ago - we hope you're willing to join us very soon! If there are any questions, please do contact either myself (@22B-Ojelade-Faeq on Microsoft Teams / via my Outlook email / in-person) or Mrs Dawson (again, priorly Miss Stevens due to her recent marriage), who I will take a moment to thank for giving me the notes needed to quickly story-tell the first three segments of BotB's history!

In fact, we should **all** be thankful for Mrs Dawson, who has given the students of this school a platform to voice what matters most to them! Since that interview over nine years ago now, she's put in quite a lot of effort, passion and dedication through the ups and downs into making this newsletter as strong as you see it today! BotB has not only grown massively (which hopefully it continues to do), but it has also paved the way for more student-driven platforms across the school site, including the Beths Science newsletter and the Book Podcast, among many others! So please do ensure you are reading this and looking at the other platforms in the coming months, as there might just be something tailored for you!

Anyways, thanks for having a read of the first of what will hopefully be many articles from us this year! Watch out for my next piece, which could well be based on motorsports (maybe NASCAR, maybe Formula 1 - we shall see)! In the meantime, **1)** enjoy the rest of September '26's content and **2)** because the May, June and July newsletters of 2025 aren't on the school website for some reason, I've attached buttons for them here if you wish to have a look at those! Bye for now - perhaps we'll bump into each other again very soon... 👋

May 2025 Edition | **June 2025 Edition** | **July 2025 Edition**



[**PRODUCER's NOTE:** This article was last updated on September 25th 2026. Facts and statistics within the article are correct as of that date unless stated otherwise, though many shall remain accurate due to this being a historical account anyway. Nevertheless, I hope you have enjoyed the story of the Best of the Beths newsletter!]

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR 7s

AARON 8A[1]

Hello to all the new Year 7s reading this newspaper!
I'm Aaron (***@25a-gurung@beths.bexley.sch.uk***) In this article, I'm giving you all the survival tips you need for this year. So without further ado, let's jump right into my first tip for you!

Tip 1: Have your stationary ready and complete homework

Completing homework to your highest standards is usually your main goal in this school because if you don't bring in your homework, it may often be a demerit (or behaviour point, depending on which teacher you have). Also do make sure to have your stationary ready, even if you may not use it, have it ready inside you pencilcase for you to take out and use. That basically marks my summary of tip number 1! Let's get into tip number 2...



Tip 2: Complete classwork to highest standards

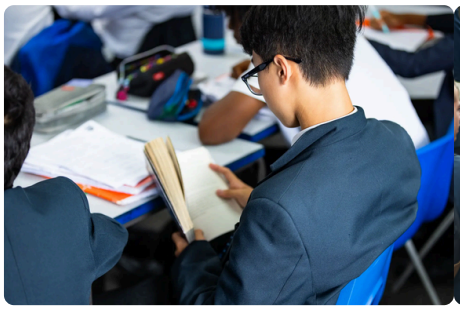
Complete your work to the highest standards and make sure you engage in lesson. Why you may ask? Sometimes, the teacher you have (let's say maths for example) may take your books in. One of the things that they will **most definitely** check is the **quality** of your classwork in lesson. If the expectations are not met, may this be a warning to you... **(not in a creepy or mean way).**

You also want to engage in lesson for scholar points, also called commendations, to show that you've caught up with all the tasks. And you can even volunteer to hand out worksheets (if the teacher asks) unless if the teacher tells 2 people automatically.

That's a wrap for tip number 2 then! Now, for the most important tip I would give to you Year 7s. Yes, you! The person wearing a pyjama set right now staring at your computer looking at this article! Anyways, the final tip is...

Tip 3: Make friends and make the most at this school!
Making friends! Who wouldn't tell you to make friends in a list of tips for Year 7? Not us, that's for sure! But anyways, school isn't just a place for you to study. It's a place for you to meet new people, hang out with them and meet your new teachers! To make the most at this school, you've got to put an effort at this subject you maybe like. Example: Get the school Colours badge! (Given to those who participate in extra-curricular activities such as **Best of the Beths** or **Super-Curricular for Languages** (or a particular subject as well, not just languages)).

And of course, get some juicy commendations! You want to be the form with the most scholar points, almost like a competition, but you don't have to take it that literally. In addition, don't even try to get demerits as it can make your form feel like one of the worst.





Outro
That marks my 3 most important tips for the new Year 7s! Don't forget to like, share and subscribe! **Oh wait, sorry!** I went off-script a little bit there didn't I... Anyways, thank you very much for reading this article and see you eager readers in the October edition!

Additional info:
My Teams if you want to give me a message: @**25a-gurung@beths.bexley.sch.uk**

Saying it once again, but thank you for reading! See you all in the October edition!

Aaron

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEADTEACHER, MRS O'DONNELL



NEEL 12A1

Recently, I had the wonderful chance of interviewing our new headteacher Mrs O'Donnell, as I unpicked the mind of our next great at the school. From nearly joining the army, doing headsprings, being a foodie and travelling across Europe, our new Headteacher is an all-round asset. I hope you throughly enjoy a read of this interview, hopefully getting a better sense of who Ms O'Donnell is, and all the wonderful things she will add to our school community.



Why did you pursue a career in teaching?

I did not intend on going into teaching, as my original plan was to go into the army as an officer. However, my parents said that I was too young to make that decision, so they ushered me to go to university, achieve a degree, so that I would always have a plan B. Hence, I attended University training to become a teacher, thoroughly enjoyed and thus stuck with teaching!

How has your teaching career been thus far?

I began my teaching career as a PE teacher, as sport has always played a big role of my life, for the first 6 months of my career. Following this, I became Head of Girl's PE at a mixed school and a year later, I became a Head of Year. I was Head of Year 11 for two years, which felt like quite a big job for a relatively new teacher. Then, I moved to a new school as Head of PE, as I knew I wanted to indulge in the curriculum development aspect of teaching. In addition, I also then became a Head of Faculty, which included dance, drama, music and sport. Shortly after that, I became an assistant head, which entailed of looking after all the new staff and behaviour. Following this I became a deputy head at my third school and then 3 years later, I became a head teacher. I then became Head of Cleeve Park and Cleeve Meadow. Now, I am in this very exciting post as Headteacher at Beths.

Why did you choose to become a Headteacher?

I was always mindful that whilst being a PE teacher, I always did everything that I asked the child to do in terms of playing sport, attending school trips and even demonstrating gymnastic headsprings! Thus it was this strong belief of always having a role model, particularly for girls by having a female Head of PE, that encouraged me to become a Headteacher. Furthermore, I liked to make change within school environments, and going up the leadership ladder was one of the ways I could initiate this change, that would enable all students to have a wonderful school experience.

What do you think you would be if you were not a headteacher?

As all of my family came from banking, I probably would have been steered in that direction, but most definitely would not have enjoyed it as much! I have had a brilliant career of teaching that I have thoroughly enjoyed, which is quite ironic as I never planned on becoming a teacher.

What made you want to come to Beths?
Funnily enough, Beths has always been in my periphery as whenever you drive up the A2, you always see it on the left side. Over the years, I have heard a lot of how fabulous Beths was and the reputation it had, which intrigued me to want to one day, be a part of the Beths community. Then, when Mr Blyghton announced his retirement, a very close friend of mine, who previously had a job at the school, assured me I'd love my time at the school, which I most definitely have.

What do you believe you did to stand out amongst other candidates?
Obviously, I never knew what the other candidates where doing, but personally I always ensured the fact that we had to be centred around children and ensuring that the experience young people have is always positive. I illustrated that I wanted to create a society, within the school, that is resilient and caring about other people. As well, my thought process when making choices, has and will always be, what would I want for my own son, which I am sure was a characteristic that helped my application.

What do you think the school's biggest strength and biggest flaw are?
The biggest strength that we have is our community and the pride that we have as Beths. I have heard from so many people, saying what it means to be a Beths scholar, which is important. Our biggest challenge is ensuring that absolutely everyone achieves their potential, and more.
Sir Dave Brailsford is an Olympic coach that I am very fond of, and he adopted a 1% effect. His motto was not about changing everything drastically, but rather plussing little bits here and adding small percentages there, which is exactly what I want to introduce here at Beths.

What does being Beths mean to you?
To me, being Beths means being proud of who you are, and not hiding any skills or talents you have, being proud of your academic excellence and the idea of being a future leader.

What are some of your dreams and ambitions for the school?
I always work based on this sport analogy, which goes "you leave the shirt in a better position then when you picked it up." What this means to me is about leaving a legacy, and being able to acknowledge that I made a notable difference.

In around 5 years time, where do you see yourself and the school?
In around 5 years time, I would want Beths to be *the* place where everyone wants their son to go to and *the* place where everyone wants their sons and daughters to go to post-16. This ambition links back to academic excellence, but also creating caring individuals that can listen and respect the views of others, whist collaborating with others.





As a PE teacher, how do you believe you can implement sport related activities into the wider school community?
Ensuring there are many sports retaliated trips, such as the remarkably successful Ski trips, that will undoubtedly open a lifetime of enjoyment for all students. As well, looking at sporting visits to different countries, seeing how they engage in sport. Looking at a wider breadth of sport, that encapsulates all sports and not just the "main"ones, such as table tennis, karting, koorfball and many more. Sport has bought something that has completely changed my life and even introduced me to my husband, who is also a PE teacher! Sport is not the be all or end all, but it is imperative students find the thing that lights up their eyes.

How will you introduce yourself to the wider school community?
I have assemblies planned which will give me the opportunity to see everyone, but I have also been present at the gate, which has allowed me to see more faces at the start and end of the school day. Whenever I can, I enjoy being able to greet scholars as they enter the school and wishing them a good day. In addition, I have been into a lot of academic lessons, which is something I wish to do so more often.

What 3 words best describe you?
Competitive, friendly, and active. Friendly in a way which means I am always open to having conversations with others and active as I am not particularly good at sitting behind a desk. I enjoy being out and about, going into lessons, being at the gate and partaking in a wide variety of sport.

What are some of your favourite hobbies?
Obviously, I like playing sport, and was a hockey player by nature, right up until covid. As well, I have always been a runner and a skier and have recently picked up open water swimming. Usually, I run twice a week, covering 7-10k on one run and 5k on the other, whilst only swimming outdoors in the summer! Sport always ensures I am in the right headspace, and I do not believe I have ever not exercised!

Furthermore, I like to travel as my family live overseas, meaning we have spent time in Luxembourg & Switzerland, and hopefully China soon, as my son has just moved there. My husband is an exceptional chef which makes a wonderful pair: he loves cooking and I love eating!



What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?
Have a plan B. The best way I can describe this, is by alluding to my niece who played for England Football and was set for a professional career in America. Unfortunately, she tore her ACL, but by having a plan B (which was Harvard!) she had something exceptional to fall on. Plan B does not always need to be second best.

What is one misconception that students may have about Headteachers?
I believe at times, a common misconception about teachers in general is that they are not human. There always is this fascination, about what their first name is and queries as to if they just hide away in a cupboard at the end of the day, shutting the door on them until the next school day. Personally, I always try to be as open about my family as possible, to play onto the fact that teachers are humans too and do have families, friends, interests and their own sense of humour!

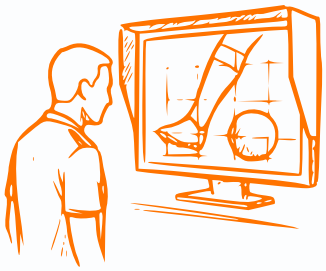
How do you want students to remember their time at Beths when they leave?

I want them to remember their time with pride.

I look back at my own education and feel extremely lucky for all the experiences I was given, such as having the confidence to speak out, the ability to engage with others I have never met before and to easily tackle unfamiliar situations. I want people to be proud of coming from Beths and filled with enormous pride because of this!

[***EDITOR's NOTE**: And that will do it for an interview with our new Headteacher: Mrs O'Donnell! We thank her for taking time to sit down and conduct this very insightful interview with Neel, where we crucially got to know about her vision for this school going forward, among many other interesting things! With that, we warmly welcome her into our community and we all (and should) wish her well for the immediate and long-term future of Beths Grammar; it'll indeed be intriguing to see how she adds those little percentages to aspects of the building, one bit at a time!

Thank you for reading this interview and the introductory content so far - now enjoy some of your favourite topics, coming right up next!]



VAR IN FOOTBALL: FAIRNESS OR FUEL FOR CHAOS?



MAWUNUKUNU 7C

When Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology was introduced to football (globally at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and in the English Premier League at the start of the 2019/2020 season), it promised to bring greater fairness and accuracy to the game. Supporters believed it would eliminate glaring refereeing errors ensuring that crucial decisions such as goals, penalties and red cards were judged correctly. In its early stages, VAR appeared to deliver on that promise, offering a sense of justice in high stakes matches where a single mistake could change the outcome.

However, as seasons progressed the technology became a lightning rod for criticism. Inconsistencies in decision-making, long delays in play and controversial interpretations of the rules have frustrated players, managers and fans alike. High profile incidents, such as Liverpool's disallowed goal against Tottenham Hotspur in October 2023 due to a VAR communication error - intensified the debate with many questioning whether the system is truly improving the sport or simply replacing one set of problems. Similarly, in the recent 2026 FIFA World Cup 4-time World Champions Germany shockingly crashed out in the Round of 32 after a defeat to Paraguay on penalties after an extra time header by Jonathan Tah which could have won Germany that match was disallowed after a VAR review penalised a foul on Paraguay's goalkeeper.







Another example of VAR's horrific decisions occurred just this past Sunday, 13 September, at the Manchester Derby. Erling Haaland scored Manchester City's winner against Manchester United after the goal was initially ruled offside. However, VAR overturned the decision as Haaland was technically played onside by Dorgu's boot. Nevertheless, City teammate Enzo Fernandez was in an offside position and attempted to reach the cross. After the match, the Pro Referee admitted the VAR team made an 'error of judgement'. This proves again how much one mistake can spark controversy and have an impact on the other team.

Ultimately, all this evidence underscores the profound significance of this issue. In light of these considerations, a balanced and thoughtful approach to VAR use is essential. Although challenges may always remain, hopefully these type of controversies are stopped.



A SUMMER IN VIETNAM



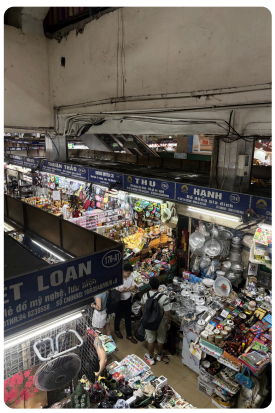
STANLEY 11E

This August, I embarked on a trip to Vietnam, a country relatively similar in size to the United Kingdom, but with a larger population of around 100 million people. Although I had been to the region previously, I wasn't sure what to expect, so as you would tend to, I felt a rather large sense of anticipation.

Anyways, moving on, I took off from London Heathrow to Hanoi Noi Bai airport unaware of how the next 2 weeks would change my view on life. And when I landed into the airport I was instantly met by the largest smiles I've ever seen, shocking me as someone from South-East London where people tend to be miserable (although by the end of my trip this was very normal to me) and people seemed so eager to assist us, making the airport feel like a breeze. I took a grab (Indochina's equivalent of Uber) into the Old Quarter of Hanoi and I was met with such havoc, yet over the course of 2 weeks it became rather harmonious and resonated deeply with me.

Rather jet lagged, me and my family headed out for what we were assuming would be a nice relaxed meal. But boy were we wrong, for we encountered flashing lights, grandmothers kicking a jianzi (already familiar to me from the China trip), people singing karaoke in the streets, and a rather patriotic crowd , but not in the "in-your-face way", cheering on their nation in a semi finals against Malaysia for the South East Asian Cup. This, although very overwhelming on 0 sleep in the past day and a half, was about as amazing as a welcome as I could've wished for, and by the end of the night, I felt proud of Vietnam with my only connection to the nation being my 8 hours previously spent there.

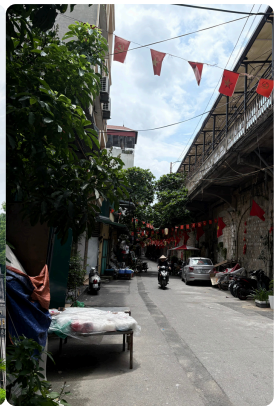
Me and my family finished the night with a calm walk around hoan kiem lake, which it would be wrong to say was anything other than gobsmacking, for how could one country be both so chaotic, and yet so charming! Anyways, we hit the hay for the night, but didn't succumb to our desire to lie in and got to seeing around this peculiar city. First, we went to Dong Xuan market, the largest of its kind in the city, where I learnt my first valuable life lesson, for I saw a proud people who although were not on very high income grafted, and did it all with a smile on their face.



And to further this, those on their phones with headphones on just scrolling TikTok had a cigarette in their mouth (no, not the life lesson although I did find it rather amusing the deep affection many had to cigarettes) whilst socialising with fellow vendors via board games like chess and backgammon, it made me realise that you should always take pride in your work, and try your best to do it with a smile on your face, for they understood that, although their conditions may not be the best in the world, it is a privilege to be able to work, and that people are worse off than them, which I will hope to carry deeply with me when I start my working life. A couple of days flew by, and I had gained a rather large affection for their communist revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh (not due to ideological reasons, for I feel like I don't belong to any) after trips to war museums like Hoa Lo Prison and learnt about what he did for his people, and his fight against both French colonialism and US imperialism.

Whilst writing this I realise, I do not have as much space left as I thought so I will write a summary of the rest of what I did in Hanoi, I saw train street which was one of the most frightening things I can say I have ever witnessed with my own 2 eyes, A train being at arms length from hitting me whilst I am drinking my fresh local juice!! I much enjoyed sampling Banh Mi and Pho, and other less well known Vietnamese dishes, which btw have absolutely no right to be as healthy as they actually are, and to finish on the topic of Hanoi, I met some of the kindest people I have, and probably ever will meet.

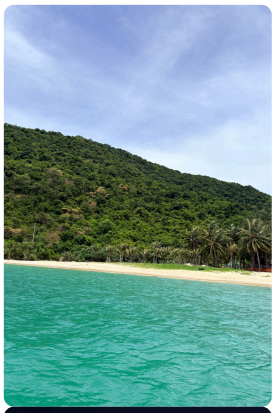




Anyways, very similar to at the time, there is no time to waste, as I headed on a overnight sleeper bus to Sapa, which although it sounds uncomfortable, surprisingly was an idea that I don't think would go down badly in a nation like our own. Although in Sapa there isn,t lots to say about it, I can say that I felt a sense of belonging, as my driver took us to his family's home after a long day of touring rice fields, local red dao (one of many ethnic tribes in Vietnam) villages, and a glass bridge over the forests, this was one of my favourite experiences as it taught me to embrace the word family, as him and his 7(!!!) siblings had a relationship that in simple terms, epitomised family itself.

Anyways, the next day, we hiked for hours in the rain up to the top of the peak of mount Fansipan, the tallest in the region, which was utterly surreal, however I don't have enough space to keep talking about this luscious little village, so I would like to move on the topic of Da Nang/Hoi An, 2 important cities around 15 minutes apart, we drove back to Hanoi and flew to here, as time wasn't on our side, and wow, Da Nang beach was crazy, I was in Vietnam?? It felt identical to when I was in Miami, although the large Lady Buddha statue that was very clear across the horizon probably was a good symbol that I was indeed not in Miami. Da Nang was beautiful, however though it wasn't very representative of Vietnamese culture like the previous 2 places I had been, and the one I was next to attend.

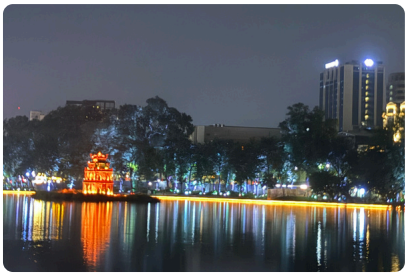
So I am not going to talk about skyscrapers and calamitous beaches for any longer, and will move onto Hoi An, constantly ranked by travel blogs as one of the most fascinating places in SE Asia, this is also where I saw Vietnam win their first International trophy since 2008, which by this time, I was cheering with them. Carrying on, however, to my favourite part of the trip, me and my family rode on boats with the funniest people who had such love for both their nation and ours, into the local river, where I got to see locals fish, locals sell, I got to see trees shadowing narrow streams, and finally, I got to get out of my boat and gently climb into a coconut boat, which would aggressively spin me around in circles(health and safety?!), although it was very eventful, I feel like that is perfect to stimulate the brain of someone like me who some may argue is distracted very easily.





In Hoi An, I witnessed people come together at night at the river to lay lanterns in what looked like something straight out of a Disney movie. I tried food that I could hunt for, for millions of years in the UK and never find; I also rode a rusty bike on the motorway, which if you know Vietnam, feels like a near death experience, but it was worth it, as I saw by far the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen, with the most fluorescent pink, and the darkest orange contouring each other perfectly in the sky above.





To finish my trip off, I was on a day cruise through Ha Long bay and Lan Ha Bay, 2 bays that are surrounded by natural limestone cliffs, with it looking a lot more impressive than it sounds. Ha Long Bay being one of the natural wonders of the world, I got to swim in the bay, and kayak through the beautiful natural landscapes, being with a Korean girl whom I had a language barrier with, but we shared the same affection for Tottenham Hotspur and South Korean legend, Heung Min Son.

To conclude, I'd like to say, that although I appreciate it isn't just any regular opportunity, if anyone gets the chance they should definitely take it to visit Vietnam for the crazy, yet wholehearted people will humble you, and make you question how good you are as a person, and the cheap prices make you feel like you have unlimited money to spend on the most delicious cuisine. And your view on life will forever be more positive.





UCL MATCHDAY 1 & PREMIER LEAGUE TRANSFERS

DIVINE 8W

Greetings scholars! I am pleased to announce today that it is finally the time of the year when Champions League has officially come back! But I'd also like to make a quick run through of the major Premier League transfers (on Page 2).

The league phase (as you can see on the right hand side) starts with a major hit of 69 goals with each match averaging 3.833 goals! One of the most popular fixtures that I would like to mention are:

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
2026-27 SEASON

#	CLUB	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	PSG	1	1	0	0	6	1	+5	3
2	Bayern	1	1	0	0	5	0	+5	3
3	Barcelona	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	3
4	Man Utd	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3
5	Como	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
6	SCP	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
6	VfB Stuttgart	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
8	Man City	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
9	Aston Villa	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
9	Betis	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
9	Lens	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
12	Dortmund	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
13	Liverpool	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
13	Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
15	Arsenal	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
16	AEK	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
17	Shakhtar Donetsk	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
17	Roma	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
19	Fenerbahçe	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
19	PSV	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
21	Villarreal	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
22	Club Brugge	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
22	LOSC	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
22	Slavia Praha	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
25	Inter	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
25	Atlético Madrid	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
27	Napoli	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
27	LASK	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
29	Viking	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
29	Galatasaray	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
31	Porto	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
32	RB Leipzig	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0
33	Feyenoord	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0
34	Sabah	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
35	Slovan Bratislava	1	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0
36	Bodø/Glimt	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0

UEFA Champions League Table as of the conclusion of MatchDay 1 / September 19, 2026

Paris Saint-Germain 6-1 Slovan Bratislava

Dembélé begins almost immediately with a 5 minute brace as Ferran Torres adds up to the tally with a stunning hat-trick, two of the goals also being assisted by Ousmane as Fabián Ruiz finishes it off with a left-footed shot from a previous defensive mistake from Yaya Toure's men.

Slavia Praha 2-3 RC Lens

An implausible comeback from the visitors as they bounced back from 2 late-minute goals; F.Thauvin 90+1' (a perfectly placed header from an earlier cross from Mezian Mesloub) and R. Aguilar 90+3 (the ball flew towards the bottom-left corner from a powerful strike by Aguilar's right foot.

Bayern München 5-0 Bodø/Glimt

For me it's rather ironic seeing this team getting absolutely demolished like this because as far as I can remember, last season it was Bodø/Glimt that would usually destroy some of the big teams like Atlético de Madrid, Internazionale Milano (Inter Milan) etc. In summary, Ballon d'or favourite Harry Kane scored his 55th Champions League goal and Michael Olise struck twice as Bayern Munich began their campaign by comfortably beating the Norwegian side.

FC Barcelona 5-1 Feyenoord

The dynamic duo (Raphinha & Lamine Yamal) drops yet another display of goals and assists with Karim Adeyemi's first UCL goal for the catalan side and Super Sub Gabriel Jesus's first goal for Barcelona to top of a truly remarkable showcasing of 5 goals, not to mention Sam Steijn's consolation goal in the eighty-second minute which was only 3 minutes prior to Gabriel's.

Now here's the list of all 20 of the most expensive Premier League transfers, starting from most expensive:



Most Expensive EPL Transfers for 2026/27 (Top 20, as of 19/09/2026)			
	Player	Price (€M)	Club Transfer
1	Enzo Fernández	145	Chelsea → Man City
2	Morgan Rogers	138	Aston Villa → Chelsea
3	Elliot Anderson	135	Nottingham Forest → Man City
4	Bradley Barcola	125	PSG → Liverpool
5	Sandro Tonali	108	Newcastle → Tottenham
6	Matheus Fernandes	99	West Ham → Tottenham
7	Ayyoub Bouaddi	95	LOSC Lille → Man City
8	Sávinho	87.7	Man City → Tottenham
9	Bruno Guimarães	87.5	Newcastle → Arsenal
10	Anthony Gordon	80	Newcastle → FC Barcelona
11	Carlos Baleba	75.9	Brighton → Man United
12	Iliman Ndiaye	70	Everton → Man City
13	Gabriel Martinelli	70	Arsenal → Al Hilal
14	Jermey Jacquet	63.6	Rennes → Liverpool
15	Tijjani Reijnders	61	Man City → Al-Qadisah
16	Maxcence Lacroix	60.7	Crystal Palace → Chelsea
17	Rodri	60	Man City → FC Barcelona
18	Jan Paul van Hecke	60	Brighton → Tottenham
19	Johan Manzambi	60	SC Freiburg → Aston Villa
20	Matias Fernandez-Pardo	60	LOSC Lille → Newcastle

Thank you for reading this newsletter, I will ensure to create another version of this Champions League series but until then, goodbye!

FOUR YEAR STRONG: 'RISE OR DIE TRYING' REVIEW

HADI 12A1

Album Background



Rise Or Die Trying is the 2nd album by Massachusetts pop punk band Four Year Strong, boasting one of the most unique sounds I've ever heard. Imagine a band (in which every member sports a beard) that combines emo lyrics and pop punk harmonies with hardcore punk breakdowns and synthesizers, and you've got Four Year Strong! All jokes aside, most tracks on the album are surprisingly technical and definitely do deserve some praise for being more than your standard 3 chord songs for the genre, especially considering that all 3 vocalists in the band play an instrument too. Rise Or Die Trying differs mainly to the band's debut as it eschews their original moody post-hardcore sound in place of something happier (although still somewhat post-hardcore). Furthermore, Four Year Strong is a must for fans of bands like A Day To Remember, Fall Out Boy, New Found Glory, etc.



Old Merch! ↑

Track Listing

1. **The Take Over**
2. **Prepare to Be Digitally Manipulated**
3. **Abandon Ship or Abandon All Hope**
4. **Heroes Get Remembered, Legends Never Die**
5. **Wrecked 'Em? Damn Near Killed 'Em**
6. **Catastrophe**
7. **Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Hell**
8. **Bada Bing! Wit' a Pipe!**
9. **Beatdown in the Key of Happy**
10. **If He's Here, Who's Runnin' Hell?**
11. **Maniac (R.O.D.)**
12. **Beep Beep**
13. **Gotta Get Out**

The Band

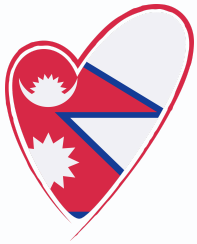
1. **Alan Day** - vocals, guitar
2. **Dan O' Connor** - vocals, guitar
3. **Jake Massucco** - drums
4. **Joe Weiss** - bass, backing vocals
5. **Josh Lyford** - synth, unclean vocals

My Review

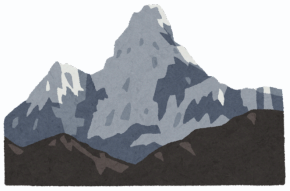
1) The Take Over: 7/10 | The album starts with a short, cheery intro song that shows off the band's easycore (mix of hardcore and pop punk) style and fades perfectly into the next track.
2) Prepare to Be Digitally Manipulated: 9/10 | The first of two tracks to feature Bury Your Dead Vocalist Mat Bruso, and thus ups the ante in terms of harsh vocals and heavier riffs. This is of course accompanied by the band's standard (at least for their early releases) of heavy synthesiser use.

3) Abandon Ship or Abandon All Hope: 10/10 | Probably one of my favourite bridges in any song ever! This song is evidence that Four Year Strong could easily write a pop rock album and it would still be good.
4) Heroes Get Remembered, Legends Never Die: 10/10 | The first single from the album, released December 1st 2007. The video's just a live performance from the band, but the song itself deserves credit for being one of the most prominent easycore songs out there. Awesome breakdown!
5) Wrecked 'Em? Damn Near Killed 'Em: 7/10 | As with all songs on this album, the title has absolutely nothing to do with the song itself. This exemplifies a literary device named 'non sequitur', translating to 'does not follow'. I speculate that bands of this genre use titles like this to bring some light to the often dark and depressing themes of the songs they make. Your favourite band has probably been guilty of this at some point.
6) Catastrophe: 7/10 | Short and catchy, so it serves it's purpose, but also feels a bit like filler (at least for Four Year Strong standards).
7) Men Are From Mars, Women Are from Hell: 9/10 | Another masterclass in making a singable chorus in a heavy song (something that surprisingly cannot be said for a lot of bands in this genre). This track had a video released in 2017 for some reason, and I'm honestly not entirely sure what it was about.
8) Bada Bing! Wit' a Pipe!: 11/10 | The first Four Year Strong song I heard, and most certainly my favourite. It was released as a single on November 23rd 2008 and the video was parodied against the band by A Day To Remember in a... diss track? (Song is 2nd Sucks by ADTR)
9) Beatdown in the Key of Happy: 9/10 | I read an article about easycore prior to making the review, and this song featured within it. Not my first pick, but definitely fits the expectation (with a lot more synth than most other bands at this time).
10) If He's Here, Who's Runnin' Hell?: 6/10 | Probably the only track that would benefit from having its more hardcore-influenced elements removed. Here, it feels more like the screams were shoehorned in.
11) Maniac (R.O.D.): 10/10 | A more traditional hardcore punk song in terms of instrumentation marking the return of Mat Bruso from track 2 and borrowing a motif from 'Heroes Get Remembered, Legends Never Die' to close the original album.
12) Beep Beep: 11/10 | I'm lucky to own the UK CD edition of the album, so I get this track and 'Gotta Get Out' as bonuses! These were likely recorded in 2008 instead of 2007, so sound a lot more polished in comparison to the rest of the record. For this song, the vocal harmonies here are better than they have any right to be!
13) Gotta Get Out: 6/10 | In comparison to 'Beep Beep', this one isn't terrible, but it hasn't exactly grown on me.

I'd only really recommend Rise Or Die Trying if you're a fan of pop punk, hardcore punk, post-hardcore, or anything that would be considered scene/emo. If you're new to the genres, the short runtime of the album means that the novelty doesn't wear away.



MY TIME IN NEPAL



SHUVAM 8A

As you know it is I Shuvam Paudel and over the summer holidays I went to Nepal. Starting from 17th of July to 24th of August. Not many of you might know that Nepal is 5 hours and 15 minutes ahead of GMT time (Greenwich Meridian Time) which you will learn in Geography.

The first 3 days we all stayed in my aunties house with my cousin brother. We had so much fun but the mosquito bites kind of made it an average 3 days. Living in Nepal is so different than England due to the amount of motorbikes and basically no traffic lights. I think (I'm not sure) on the 2nd day we went to a restaurant called Dhura Thakali which even I take some time to pronounce. What I ate is the kids' non-veg meal which included 3 cheese-balls and 3 steamed momo (basically dumplings but better) and a drink of your choice; Coke. I really didn't like the Coke and can't wait to try it in England (but I don't have money): [sad face].

Anyways just a quick news, if you didn't know Nepal has been affected by some serious floods leaving many people dead and missing. I feel very lucky that I am alive because I left maybe 5-6 hours before that. I am really sad because who knows that could have been me losing my life, losing my whole family. So I just wrote this to remind you guys that you will always have a better life than someone. Thank you for reading this because you never know even £1 could get a family some water but yeah that made me nearly tear up and थन्क्य यौ ऑल फोर रेअदिङ्ग थिस. translating to Thank you guys for reading this, Beths. Rest in Peace for all the family missing.

Anyway our 3 days in Kathmandu were nearly up leading us to go to Pokhara on a 7 hour bus trip which left me soooooooo bored at times. Anyway Pokhara was the best because it isn't cold and isn't too hot - perfect for some people like me. Pokhara was the best time of my life because we lived in an amazing house which had 4 floors, crazy isn't it? We went to many places, frankly staying at some of them, especially this 3 star hotel which was my grandfather's brother's place so we basically got like a 30% discount.

Anyways we stayed at Chitwan where my Mum grew up, leaving me in a place with almost too much mosquitos. Nothing else special for my Nepal trip because if i wrote everything I have done I would of been going on and on for ever. Anyways I am writing this 2 days after a sleepovers with my 2 out of school best friends, Bivhaan Ojha who frankly is in 7B this year (so if you read this HI BIVHU) and my other friend who I don't think will like me mentioning his name, so I won't. But we had an amazing sleepover, playing Carandboard and Brawl Stars but the only thing that let me down was the network leaving us devastated cause we were getting suspended in Brawl Stars left and right. Well I would go through it but it would take too long, so thanks for reading and my first story/rant in Year 8 - I'm proud of myself for getting all the way here.

If any Year 7s need help or guidance, I'm not your guidance counsellor or form tutor, but I'm a trusty guy so I think you'll find me in the hard-courts or in the canteen.

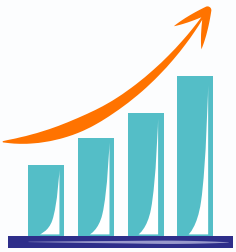
And of course I kinda of have to go into detail of our sleepover. I came on a Saturday morning where it was only me and my other friend - let's say his name is Chivan. Me and him were just accepting that Bivhaan wouldn't be able to come, which indeed we were sad about.

I know some of you might be like 'No way, its only you and Chivan, right? Wrong. When my friend finished swimming his mom was on a call with Bivhaan's mom. We and my friend asked "Is he coming? relentlessly but we didn't know that he was begging for his mom to come, so the day after he came from Nepal he was going to a sleepover. DANG he's lucky.

Anyway we had loads (and I mean **loads**) of fun which I will never forget, I'm leaving the story short because I didn't know we had to hand it our articles *2 days from now**. But we finished the end of my story and once again I PRAY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE IN NEPAL.

Thank you Faeq and Ms Dawson. See ya!

[***EDITOR's NOTE:** This article was last updated on September 28th 2026.**]**



BUSINESS IN BEXLEY



JOSEPH 8A

Bexley's business scene has changed a lot over the past few years, and you can see it just by walking through the area. One of the clearest examples is the fish and chip shop near the station. People who've lived in Bexley for a while remember when a portion of chips was under two pounds and a piece of cod was barely over three. Now the same order costs noticeably more, with chips closer to £2.80 and cod often around £5. These changes aren't random. They come from higher costs for ingredients, fuel, and deliveries. When the price of potatoes, cooking oil, or fish goes up, the shop has to raise its own prices to stay afloat. It's a simple, everyday example of how inflation shows up in places people use all the time.

Walking through Bexleyheath Broadway, you can see similar changes. Drinks, snacks, and small meals cost more than they did a few years ago. A drink that used to be £2.50 might now be over £3, and pastries that were once cheap treats have slowly climbed in price. Businesses aren't trying to be difficult; they're reacting to higher bills, more expensive supplies, and the pressure to keep their doors open. When costs rise for them, prices rise for everyone else. It's the same pattern happening across the country, but in Bexley you can see it clearly because the shops are small, local, and familiar.

Beths Grammar School also plays a part in the local economy, even though most people don't think of a school as a business. The school has to manage money for teachers, equipment, building repairs, and new projects. When Beths decides to upgrade computers or renovate a block, it often works with local companies. That means money flows straight back into Bexley instead of going somewhere else. These decisions show how organisations have to think about budgeting and long-term planning, choosing what to spend on now and what to save for later.

The school's choices also affect the wider area. When Beths invests in new facilities, it can increase demand for local services. A building project might mean more work for contractors. A new sports programme might mean more business for equipment suppliers. Even events like open evenings or performances bring more people into Bexleyheath, which helps nearby cafés and shops. It's a reminder that schools aren't just places for learning; they're part of the financial heartbeat of the community.

Local businesses also adjust to the rhythm of the school year. During exam season, quieter cafés sometimes see more older students revising, which changes how those businesses plan their staffing and stock. When holidays start, families spend more time in Bexleyheath, and shops prepare for different types of customers. These patterns show how businesses pay attention to what's happening around them and adapt to keep things running smoothly. It's a simple example of how market demand changes depending on the time of year.







The fish and chip shop near the station remains one of the strongest examples of how global issues affect local life. Rising fuel prices make deliveries more expensive. Changes in fishing rules affect how much fish is available. International trade problems can make certain ingredients harder to get. All of these things eventually show up in the price of a portion of chips. People might not see the whole chain of events, but they feel the result when their usual order costs more. It's a clear reminder that even small businesses in Bexley are connected to bigger economic forces.

Overall, the way prices have changed in Bexley and the way Beths Grammar School manages its resources show how economics is part of everyday life. Whether it's a shop adjusting its menu, a school planning its budget, or businesses reacting to seasonal changes, the area is full of examples of how money moves and decisions are made. These changes help people understand why things cost what they do, how businesses survive tough times, and how communities adapt when the world around them shifts. Bexley continues to grow and change, and the choices made today will shape how the borough looks in the future.

NASCAR CUP SERIES 2026: KYLE LARSON RETURNS



FAEQ 11B² [EDITOR]

Hello - it's me again! Just thought I'd give you readers a bit of time to explore more of our content before you come back to me for my first bit of (what'll likely be) quite some motorsports coverage in the 2026/27 academic year! If you have read some our previous and recent newsletters then you may have recognised that regularly, I not only write up an article, but also collate some of the best images from a certain topic/event into a bonus gallery! And as you might have also caught onto from my article, I'm quite knowledgeable in the motorsports sector of the news, particularly when it comes to the sport of NASCAR, which I'll explore with you here!

The run to the championship has recently commenced in all three of the sport's series, but for the first time in 51 races, reigning Cup Series champion Kyle Larson of Hendrick Motorsports (who also happens to be my favourite driver 😉) has made a return to Victory Lane as well as (perhaps briefly by the time you're viewing this) the top of the NASCAR Cup Series standings! For what felt like ages, his recent victory at WWT Raceway was a moment that I had eagerly been waiting for, and now that it has finally come, I'm quickly going to illustrate the many ups and downs between May 11th last year at Kansas Speedway and his latest breakthrough! So now, without further ado, let's get into all that happened in between (and by that, I mean **a lot**)!





But first, some quick context! It is spring of 2025, and after an embarrassing performance at Darlington Raceway, Kyle Larson immediately takes the NASCAR Cup Series by storm as if nothing happened the round before. Larson would decimate the field at Bristol by leading 411 of the 500 laps en route to win #2 of 2025 [left] and followed that up with a runner-up at Talladega as well as fourth in Texas, before setting the track on fire again on May 11th at Kansas Speedway for maximum points and victory #3 [right]. With the blazing form, the #5 catapulted himself from sixth to the lead in the points standings, establishing himself as the title favourite at the ⅓ mark. But, with great expectations would come great disappointment, as things would start going a little downhill from here...

[IMAGES FROM: Getty Images]



You see, Larson is one of those drivers that's so talented, he can drive almost anything - including IndyCars. In 2025, like he did in '24, he would again attempt the Indianapolis 500 with McLaren as well as NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 in the same day (coined 'The Double'), but the less said about that, the better as (in short) he failed to finish both events. Many look to this as the catalyst for the 51-race losing streak...

[IMAGE FROM: Arrow McLaren Indycar Team, X]



Basically immediately, the knock-on effects of the great disappointment were on show for Kyle Larson, who scored just 3 top-5s in the 14 ensuing races despite having just set the sport on fire. While he would still be in contention for the 2025 Regular Season Championship, that honour was snapped up by teammate William Byron [front] in the #24 with a race to spare instead.

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]



The rough momentum would continue briefly into the Playoffs' Round of 16, but from the Round of 12 onwards, #5 managed to post 5 top-7 results in a 6-race span (including runner-up finishes at Charlotte and Las Vegas). He may not have visited victory lane, but with the consistency, he would easily advance to the Playoffs final (the last in NASCAR history) at Phoenix Raceway.

[IMAGE FROM: Icon Sportswire via Getty Images]



In order for Larson to claim his second title (after his historic 2021 campaign), he would have to beat three drivers to the finish line. Those were teammate and Regular Season winner William Byron [R], 6-time 2025 race-winner Denny Hamlin [C-R], and Joe Gibbs Racing's newest addition in Chase Briscoe [L]. And in fact, the duel between all four of them essentially went down to the wire...

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]





But in the end, despite **1)** encountering a flat tyre with around 100 laps to go, **2)** falling behind in the final long run and **3)** spending the remaining 24 races of 2025 winless, Kyle Larson (by virtue of beating his fellow finalists) would snatch the championship in NASCAR Overtime. A late flat tyre for Byron led to a sequence of events which also saw a failed pit gamble by Denny Hamlin and the #11 crew, who led 208 of the 319 laps - for comparison, Larson led 0, but was ahead when it counted the most. As a result it was a 15th Drivers' title for Hendrick Motorsports, as Larson claimed title #2 to become just the third driver to win multiple championships for HMS (after Jeff Gordon with an impressive 4, and Jimmie Johnson with an illustrious 7 crowns).

[IMAGES FROM: NASCAR on Threads and Imagn Images]



Now roll on 2026, where Chevrolet would introduce an updated Camaro ZL1 body, featuring a larger hood power dome, a revised front grille and more pronounced rocker panels on the sides of the car [like with the #5 and #24]. Sounds fast, right? Well, at times it was but Hendrick's set-up history would unfortunately (/annoyingly) be nullified, forcing them to build data notebooks from scratch... 😟

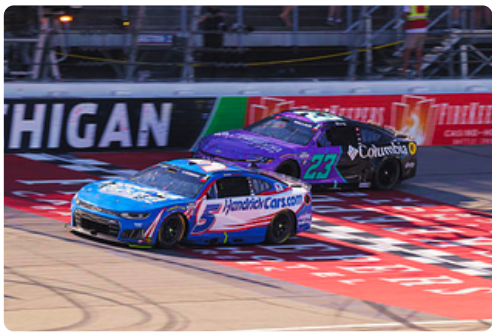
[IMAGES FROM: Getty Images]





Larson didn't have the best start to his title defense anyways, finishing 16th in the chaotic season-opening Daytona 500 before accidentally wrecking himself at Atlanta a week later [left]. Despite the new Chevy generally lagging behind Ford and Toyota on most occasions, he would soon find a way to battle up front at places like Las Vegas (where he finished seventh) and Bristol (where he led 284 of the 500 laps, only to slip to third). But Kansas [right] might have been the most annoying missed opportunity yet. In Overtime, Larson would snatch the lead and started the final lap around 0.25s in the lead. But because he understeered heavily in turns 3 and 4, he effectively gave up the win for Tyler Reddick to take his fifth in nine races and would have to settle for second instead.

[IMAGES FROM: Getty Images]



Over the next few weeks, the #5 would rarely be able to escape some form of trouble, whether that be an accident or generally lacklustre pace (which all of HMS experienced at Watkins Glen, Larson being their best finisher in P23). But, Larson would get back on track with fifth in the Coca-Cola 600, re-establishing himself as a threat for the win over the next few weeks, but not quite pulling it off just yet...

[IMAGE FROM: Icon Sportswire via Getty Images]



And now, we have Chicagoland. This was a venue that had returned to the NASCAR calendar for the first time since 2019, but more importantly had been one of Larson's 'playgrounds' in the past. I'll tell you, he had a very good chance to win it, but he would rather go on to 'bin' it into the damp infield grass and get stuck, before being towed out and carrying on to finish only in 34th, two laps off the pace.

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]



The disappointment of Chicagoland would start another chain reaction of poor runs for the #5 car, comprising of incidents at places like Indianapolis and Iowa [📸]. By that point, Larson had fallen all the way down to 10th in the points standings, but the good efforts would start coming in from Richmond onwards for a generally good finish to the regular season.

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]



For 2026, NASCAR would get rid of the Playoff format in favour of a revival of 'The Chase', the method used to determine the champion from 2004-2013. By virtue of finishing the regular season 7th in the points table, Larson entered the Chase as the 7th seed, one place ahead of teammate Chase Elliott, who was the only Hendrick driver to win during the first 26 rounds (and he did so twice).

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]



Darlington would be the venue to kick off the first Chase in 13 years, and it (again) almost yielded a victory for Kyle Larson. The #5 led a race-high 99 of the 367 laps, but because of a late pit strategy that saw him suffer from a tyre disadvantage, he would ultimately fade to 5th place behind the likes of the prominent and dominant Toyotas (e.g. Christopher Bell, the winner) and Ryan Blaney's Ford.

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]





By now, the winless streak for the #5 squad had more than doubled since the end of 2025 and now reached a mammoth 51 races. But as it turns out, the win wouldn't have to wait any longer. The Chase headed to World Wide Technology Raceway, where Larson qualified on the front row. Sunday's event was rather chaotic, featuring 18 incidents, but he would steer clear of all the carnage. After making use of a late tyre-advantage from the final pit stop, leading 80 laps on the day and receiving crucial pushes from teammate Alex Bowman in the closing laps, the drought would be broken at last. For the first time in 51 races, and for the first time since May 11th in 2025, the chequered flag finally beckoned the reigning Cup Series champion Kyle Larson, and it happened at Gateway.

[IMAGES FROM: Getty Images]



Never before did Kyle Larson break a winless streak of 50+ races since joining Hendrick Motorsports back in 2021, but it was perhaps just a matter of time before his 33rd visit to Victory Lane in the premier class. 70 weeks had separated the dominant final win of '25 at Kansas and this one; as a little fun fact, that was basically equivalent to how long I'd been editing this very newsletter for! 😂

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]



Here's some of the interesting numerology behind the win as well, pay attention: driving the #**5** car, Kyle Larson won a race that featured **18** cautions for **87** laps to break his **51**-race winless streak at the same venue where the late Kyle Busch secured his last Cup Series victory in the #**8** car. All of those were key numbers Busch drove to Victory Lane - not just in Cup, but the O'Reilly and Trucks Series as well.

[IMAGE FROM: NASCAR Digital Media]



For much of the regular season, Larson's title chances had been rapidly dwindling, at times dropping as low as ~2% (going by Neil Paine's 2026 Driver Rankings). But the payoff from the Gateway victory may have reinstated the #5 into the championship conversation, as he exited only nine points out of the lead in the standings, while his title hopes skyrocketed from **2.9%** after Chase race #1 to **21.5%**.

[IMAGE FROM: Getty Images]





Despite the fact that Hendrick Motorsports have only won thrice this deep into 2026, the recent form of the #5 may have just spelt some bad news for the competition. He started this Chase 55 points back as the seventh seed, and as of this gallery's last update Larson has finished top-5 in each of the opening three events, newly including a runner-up result at Bristol, which came with a bonus point for the fastest lap of the race that just allowed Larson to squeeze his way **to the top of the standings**. With many more of his best tracks ahead, it'll be interesting to see how the title chase develops against the prominent and dominant Toyotas as well as the likes of Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano. Nothing in terms of the future is certain, but one thing currently is - Kyle Larson is back in business.

[IMAGES FROM: Getty Images]

That will be the end of this gallery!

This was a lengthy extra, but thank you for having a look around my bonus gallery based on the metaphorical return of Kyle Larson! I must say, this bounce-back is something I've definitely been waiting for after almost 500 days, or in other words, very nearly my entire time of editing BotB! You're likely able to tell that from a fan perspective this means quite a lot to me, and after all the pain and frustration of this 2026 season, it certainly feels amazing to seeing the dominant #5 I've come to know over the last two-three years making a return to form! Again, if there are any questions you have for me, please feel free to get in touch on Teams, Outlook, or in-person!

Understandably, Larson may generally be the vice-championship favourite to Denny Hamlin at this point, but with the #5 back in business, there's still a chance the Toyotas don't walk away with things as easily as many (including myself) initially thought! As of this last update, Larson walks into some of his best tracks with a nose in front, but those are great places for the Toyotas as well, so there is plenty of room for questions to be asked. Can Kyle Larson stick it to the dominant forces of 2026? Has he used up most (or maybe even all) of his 'mistake tokens' before this opportunity? And despite the new Chevrolet body, will the charge for championship #3 be enough?

We'll have to wait and see, as a lot of racing still remains, but for now I am hoping the #5 team can do some very good things from this position to give themselves as good a chance as they possibly can! For now though, that's all of my September content; thanks for giving it all a read, and I'll hopefully see you next time with more motorsports coverage! Until then, it's goodbye! 👋

[**PRODUCER's NOTE**: This gallery was last updated on September 25th 2026. All facts & statistics within the article are correct as of that date, with some being subject to change in the future. Nevertheless, I hope you found this and my article interesting; see you next time! 🙂]

2026 NASCAR Cup: Chase Standings After Rd3/10 (Top 5)

P)	#	Driver	Make	Points	Behind
1	5	Kyle Larson	Chevrolet	2206	LEADER
2	11	Denny Hamlin	Toyota	2205	-1
3	22	Joey Logano	Ford	2190	-16
4	20	Christopher Bell	Toyota	2189	-17
5	54	Ty Gibbs	Toyota	2164	-42

NIGERIAN ECONOMY: 2000-2024





PAVARSHAN 9E

Nigeria stands out as an essential country in Africa's economy. From 2000 to 2024, the nation experienced swift growth, faced several economic challenges, and implemented reforms. Even though Nigeria possesses abundant resources, a large population, and a booming services sector, it also grapples with significant issues like reliance on oil, inflation, unemployment, poverty, and insufficient infrastructure. Clearly, while the economy grew considerably over these years, many Nigerians still do not feel the benefits in their daily lives.

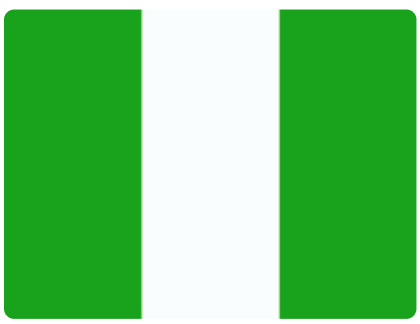
In the early 2000s, Nigeria's economy was heavily reliant on oil. The revenue from oil exports accounted for a major portion of the country's foreign exchange earnings and government budget. In 2000, the country's GDP was approximately $69 billion. However, during the 2000s, Nigeria experienced rapid economic growth triggered by soaring global oil prices and various economic reforms. Changes in the banking and telecommunications sectors, alongside rising oil prices, propelled expansion.

The 2000s marked a significant turning point for Nigeria. The services sector of the country started to thrive, providing more Nigerians with access to communication services, which in turn fostered business creation and job opportunities. Agriculture continued to play a vital role, but services began to take center stage in the economy. Despite this progress, Nigeria's dependency on oil remained a major vulnerability, as fluctuations in global oil prices could significantly impact government revenue and overall economic growth.
The global financial crisis in 2008-2009 brought fresh challenges. Falling oil prices squeezed government revenues, yet, in the early 2010s, Nigeria maintained strong economic growth. From 2000 to 2014, real GDP growth averaged about 7% per year.

A well-known event occurred in 2014 when Nigeria revised its GDP figures. This adjustment updated the way the economy was assessed by incorporating new industries and businesses. This re-evaluation led to Nigeria being recognized as Africa's largest economy at the time.

However, growth began to slow after 2014. The primary issue was the drastic drop in global oil prices from 2014 to 2016. Given Nigeria's great dependence on oil exports, this decline affected government finances and foreign exchange earnings. The country's oil production also dipped. In 2015, real GDP growth fell to 2.7%, and the economy entered a recession in 2016, with GDP contracting by about 1.6%.





This recession highlighted the risks of relying too heavily on a single export. With falling oil prices and reduced production, the government found itself with less to spend, and businesses struggled to access foreign currency. Inflation rose as well, which diminished households' purchasing power. Nigeria eventually returned to growth, with GDP increasing by approximately 0.8% in 2017, 1.9% in 2018, and around 2% in 2019.

Despite significant economic growth, the gains have not been equally shared. Many Nigerians remained in low-paying jobs in agriculture or informal sectors. The economy's expansion did not translate into sufficient secure, well-paying jobs, so while GDP grew, many people's standard of living did not improve as much. Things took a turn for the worse in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the global economy hard. Businesses were forced to close or scale down, international trade suffered, and demand for oil increased. This was especially damaging for Nigeria due to its reliance on petroleum exports. Consequently, the economy contracted by roughly 6.4% in 2020.

Fortunately, the economy showed signs of recovery in 2021 and 2022, with growth rates around 1.1% and 4.3% respectively. However, the recovery was ceased by ongoing issues like challenges in oil production, security concerns, rising inflation, and foreign currency shortages. The growing population put additional pressure on job creation and public services.

During 2023-2024, Nigeria entered another critical phase of economic reform. In May 2023, the government rolled out significant changes, including removing fuel subsidies and revamping the foreign exchange system. While these reforms aimed to create a more stable economy, they also led to short-term hardships for many households, with rising fuel prices making transport costlier and inflating the prices of everyday goods. By 2024, inflation had become one of Nigeria's most pressing economic issues. Many people found that their incomes weren't keeping pace with rising prices, making it increasingly difficult for families to afford basic necessities. The World Bank estimated that an additional 14 million Nigerians were pushed into poverty in 2024, with about 47% living below the international poverty line as defined in its analysis.

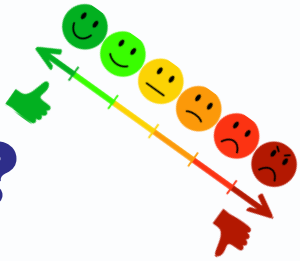
Despite these challenges, Nigeria has substantial economic opportunities. The services sector, which includes telecommunications, finance, technology, entertainment, and trade, has become increasingly important. Agriculture also holds promise for growth. With a large domestic market and a youthful population, Nigeria could support significant economic development if it focuses on creating more jobs and attracting investment. Furthermore, its natural resources and expanding technology sector could assist in moving away from an oil-dependent economy.

In summary, Nigeria's economy between 2000 and 2024 has gone through notable changes. Nominal GDP has risen from about $69 billion in 2000 to around $252 billion in 2024, although inflation and exchange rate fluctuations affect these figures. The rapid growth in the early 2000s was followed by a slowdown in the subsequent years, during which inflation and poverty remained significant challenges. By 2024, the government is striving to implement reforms aimed at establishing a more stable and sustainable economy. Nigeria has considerable potential, but its future hinges on diversifying away from oil, enhancing infrastructure, creating jobs, managing inflation, and ensuring that the economic progress benefits a larger segment of the population.





WHY DO WE CARE SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHERS THINK?



KAISER 8B

Imagine walking into school wearing something you really like, but the second you notice someone looking at you, you suddenly regret wearing it. You start wondering: "Do I look weird? Are they judging me? Should I have just worn something else?" Even though nobody has actually said anything, your mind has already created a hundred different possibilities. So why do we care so much about what other people think?

One reason is that humans naturally want to feel accepted. We are social creatures, which means having friends and feeling like we belong is important to us. When we think people might judge us, it can make us feel nervous or embarrassed. This is especially common when you are growing up because friendships and fitting in can seem extremely important.

Social media has also made this problem bigger. We can constantly see what other people are doing, wearing and saying. When someone gets lots of likes or positive comments, it can seem like everyone is living a perfect life. This can make us compare ourselves to others and worry about how we look to them. However, social media only shows a small part of someone's life. A picture might look perfect, even if the person behind it had a completely normal or difficult day.

Another reason we care about people's opinions is because we don't want to make mistakes. Imagine putting your hand up in class and giving an answer, only to find out that you were wrong. It can feel embarrassing, even though making mistakes is actually one of the best ways to learn. Sometimes we are so worried about looking silly that we would rather stay quiet than take a chance.

But the truth is, other people probably aren't thinking about us as much as we think they are. Everyone has their own problems, worries and things going on in their lives. Something that feels like a huge embarrassment to us might be something that another person forgets about five minutes later.

This doesn't mean that we should completely ignore what everyone thinks. Other people's opinions can sometimes help us understand when we have done something wrong or when we could improve. The important thing is knowing whose opinions actually matter. We shouldn't change everything about ourselves just because we are scared someone might judge us.

At the end of the day, caring about what others think is a normal part of being human. However, it shouldn't stop us from being ourselves. If we spend our whole lives trying to please everyone, we might forget what makes us happy in the first place. Maybe instead of constantly asking, "What will everyone else think?", we should sometimes ask ourselves, "What do I think?"

THE HISTORY OF BUS TRANSPORT

AARON 8A²

You've all seen buses before (surprised if you haven't) roaming about areas like Woolwich, Greenwich and Bexleyheath. However, buses have quite a history, from 19th century buses, or as they said back in the day **'omnibuses'** to modern-day buses!

Hello everyone reading Best of the Beths! It's Aaron again (***@25a-gurung@beths.bexley.sch.uk***) but now we're heading into something different. As you can tell by the title of the article above me, it's called **'The History of Bus Transport'** so without further ado, let's begin, shall we?

Chapter 1: The Horse Bus in 1829...

All the way back in 1829, a person with the name '**George Shillibeer**' had began a bus service from 'Paddington to Bank'. This service was called '**omnibus**', meaning '**for all**' in Latin. He was also the same person to abbreviate this word into the common word today aka '**bus**'.

By 1832, around 400 of these horse buses had been sweeping about London and maybe even more! This may have looked like the bus we could've have today (which is unlikely anyway) but then came a '**horseless bus**'... This horseless bus was particularly kind of similar to the horse buses' model, but instead had been attached to factory-built chassis with motors. And what a big difference between those two, huh... You may think that this sounds kind of cool - which no one is probably saying - but trust me, it only gets better and better **and better** from this point on...

Anyways, I'll leave you with these two photos for now. (Credit: London Transport Museum)





Chapter 2: Retro Routemasters

Some people already know this, but did you know that **Routemasters** worked after the horse buses / horseless buses? I mean, young me probably may have thought it was just used for events, which is sort of true, but they actually served during the 1950s. However, there were some other buses that also tried to replace this nostalgic bus too. The Routemasters are sleek (obviously) buses and some are even in operation today! Well, a few, but that technically is the same phrasing anyway...

Although, this may have probably been one of the greatest buses until the buses we know today arrived, there were actually some buses that were to 'replace' the Routemasters.

Good news though! These new buses weren't that much more successful than the Routemaster, so that meant that this same bus ruled and outlived these buses until the 1980s, where the one-person-operating buses start ruling after the Routemasters. This still isn't the end for Routemasters though, as you can always look at them in the website here:

https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/collections/stories/transport/short-history-londons-buses

Chapter 3: Modern-Day Buses

Now this is where we visit today! What a journey this has been together. From 2000 to 2026 we had a variety of different buses, from a Gemini 1 B7TL to Enviro 400 EVs (2nd Generation) or Electroliners. (All pictures of the buses we had from 2001 - 2025 will be shown at the end of this chapter.)

The journey we have all been through since the evolution of buses can be new and different to the normal bus type you can have. I've been trying to adjust to electrics since my local bus route got electrified, but do not worry, because what may seem like a disgrace to you inside, the more you ride, the better and the less thoughts you will have. As for me, I'm still stuck with the me that absolutely loves diesel buses! I'm probably one of the few that still hasn't moved on from the diesel side of buses. I can't believe it's ending still. Those Gemini 2s and Enviro 400s meant a lot to my childhood, but now it's just... gone.

Anyways, enough of that, here are all the pictures of some bus types I mentioned earlier:



The Gemini 2 bus model (Go-Ahead London) doing the Superloop Bus Route SL7.

[IMAGE CREDIT: Bus Routes in London Wiki - Fandom]

The Enviro 400 bus model (Stagecoach London) doing the bus route 238.

[IMAGE CREDIT: Wikipedia]





The modern-day Electroliner buses (Transport UK, formally abellio), one doing 306 (to Acton Vale) and a Not in Service one (I assume).

[IMAGE CREDIT: Bus and Coach Buyer]

The Enviro 400 EV 2nd Generation bus model (Stagecoach London, I assume) picture of what it looks like. It is on some routes like SL3 (Stagecoach) and 196 (Arriva) today.

[IMAGE CREDIT: Sustainable Bus]



Anyways, thank you for reading this article, see you in future articles everyone who's reading this!

***[ARTICLE LAST UPDATED 28/09/2026 - Once again, thank you for reading this article. It means a lot for me and the people of BotB. See you in October's edition!]**

CHELSEA'S START TO THE 2026/27 PREMIER LEAGUE

EHIMEN 11W

92 days later, and after both an eventful and entertaining World Cup, Chelsea Football Club are finally back playing in the Premier League! Since Chelsea's final Premier League game of the 25/26 season, the World Champions have made numerous recruits whilst seeing several players leave, including the arrival of the new most expensive British player in history, Morgan Rogers for £117 million and the departure of Enzo Fernández for the joint record British transfer fee, £125 million. I was never quite fond of Enzo Fernández due to both his on - pitch antics and his behaviour off the pitch, therefore I do believe this is great business from the club.

Chelsea also acquired Maxence Lacroix from Crystal Palace, Marco Palestra (voted Serie A best defender of the 25/26 season) from Cagliari, Geovanny Quenda from Sporting Lisbon CP, Valentín Barco and Emmanuel Emegha both from Strasbourg, Pep Chavarría from Rayo Vellacano, Emiliano Martinez from Aston Villa, Danny Welbeck from Brighton Hove and Albion, Satpayev from Kairat Almaty and lastly, Jordan Henderson from Brentford. The signings this summer totalled up to €406.07 million and saw the club take a different approach in the transfer window, signing more experience in the likes of Welbeck and Henderson and more 'Premier League Proven' talent in Morgan Rogers, rather than the previous transfer model which involved the buying of several U-21 players and then trying to sell them on later for profit.

One reason behind this new transfer strategy, could be due to their being a new manager at the helm of Chelsea Football Club: Xabi Alonso. A former player for Liverpool, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, Alonso won 16 Major Trophies as a player, including the World Cup, two European championships and two UEFA Champions Leagues. As a manager, Alonso has 3 Major trophies and famously coached the record breaking, invincible Bayer Leverkusen side to their first ever league title in the 23/24 season. Following his 7 month stint previously at Real Madrid, where he was sacked on January 12th 2026, he is a man ready to prove to the world that he can be as good of a manager as he was a footballer.

Fulham Vs Chelsea (A) Craven Cottage - Monday 24th August 2026





For the first game of the new Premier League Season, the World Champions took a 15 minute drive down the road to face their neighbours & rivals, Fulham at Craven Cottage. Chelsea started off this game in quick succession, with a nice pass from Cole Palmer sending Joao Pedro through on goal, who despite whispers amongst the fan base, that the infamous number 9 curse would strike yet another Chelsea striker, put any sort of curse to bed with a nice chip over the keeper to make it 1-0 to Chelsea after only 31 seconds! which was the quickest Matchweek 1 goal in Premier League History!

However, this joy would be cut short in the 23rd minute, where Josh King caught Morgan Rogers and Levi Colwill sleeping, and made a run into space behind the Chelsea defence and thanks to a timely pass from Castagne, King was able to fire a shot at Robert Sanchez' near post, who failed to make a save that he really should have made, making it 1-1. Yet, just before halftime, Cole Palmer made an excellent drop of the shoulder, leaving one defender for dust before picking out a run from Lacroix - yes Lacroix, the centre back! who with the fluidity of an ambulance, sent the defender leaving him facing the fans before playing a driven pass for the newly acquired Chelsea midfielder, Morgan Rogers who calmly tapped it in, to make it 2-1 just before the break.

In less than 5 minutes of the second half commencing, Sanchez played a long ball helped on by the head of Rogers into the path Joao Pedro, running with a defender and slowly decelerating, holding up the ball and making an angle as if he was about to shoot, just to play a pass to the left of him where Cole Jermaine Palmer, who from the far left of the 6 yard box passed it through the legs of the Fulham keeper to make it 3-1. What an ice cold finish from the coldest man in London who was having a stellar game at Craven Cottage.

Chelsea fans were happy as it looked to be a comfortable second half but 5 minutes later, in the 54th minute, after Sanchez saved a shot on goal from a Fulham player, he was unable to catch the ball and Gonzalo Garcia headed the ball into the net, making it 3-2 and causing many Chelsea fans like me to be completely fed up with Robert Sanchez, whom once again had failed to deal with danger from the opposition's attack. This goal, made the second half a very edgy and nail biting affair but thankfully, Chelsea were able to pick up the 3 points away from home, in a game where Cole Palmer stole the show, playing a key role in all 3 of Chelsea's goals, getting 1 Goal and 1 Assist, completing 5 successful dribbles and having 9 touches in the opposition box, the joint most. It seemed that Cole Palmer was back to his best, after an underwhelming 2025/26 season plagued by fitness issues.

On the other side of the scale, many were not happy with Sanchez's performance , who had a very bad game and was the main cause of how tense the second half was made. This would result in that being his last appearance for the club before he was sent out on loan to Como. The Blues replaced him with 2 times FIFA the Best Goalkeeper, Emiliano Martinez, who was set to make his debut in Chelsea's next Premier League match. This game, also provided us the first glimpse of Chelsea's new attack comprised of Pedro, Rogers and Palmer who all found the back of the net in this game, leading many to give this attacking trio a nickname: JP Morgan.

Chelsea Vs Brighton Hove Albion (H) - Stamford Bridge - Sunday 30th August 2026



Chelsea's first Premier League Home game of the season, was against Brighton, who had just put 4 goals past Aston Villa, highlighting that they were not a team to be underestimated.

Once again, Chelsea went up a gear right from the off with Romeo Lavia getting his first goal for the Blues in the 4th minute from a corner. Helped by a mistake from goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen, the stadium lifted in uproar and the satisfying and electric gate smacking sound was lovely to hear after such a long Summer break. Not long after, in the 14th minute, Morgan Rogers used some silky footwork to evade his marker before sending a low ball into the six yard area. Pedro Neto arrived late at the back post and tapped it in for a second Chelsea goal. This goal was all about the individual brilliance of Morgan Rogers, who did so well to get away from his man and use his pace and power to create a big chance for Chelsea which was successfully converted by the Portuguese winger.

As Chelsea fans' calmed down after the Neto goal, they were again given reason for celebrate as Hato demonstrated his scary acceleration, driving down the left side of the pitch before showing good vision to pick out a smart pass to Joao Pedro, which was executed perfectly and gave Joao Pedro the time and space to slot it into the bottom corner to make it 3-0 in only 32 minutes against his former club.!

Chelsea were on fire, and it seemed like this was going to be a comfortable victory at the bridge. But in the 35th minute, a slight bit of hope for Brighton was restored when the ball from an Emiliano Martinez save, looped towards Yalcouye who absolutely hit it like a rocket, with the volley hitting the post and then going in to make it 3-1 just before the break. In the first 15 minutes of the 2nd half, Brighton and Chelsea both had their chances but there would eventually be a breakthrough for Brighton. It occurred from a short corner routine that allowed Pascal Groß to get a shot away from the right side of the 16-yard box. The shot deflected off Joao Pedro, who tried to block it but instead helped his former team by diverting it beyond the hands of Martinez to make it 3-2. And just like the Fulham game, the second half had now become tense, and no one watching knew if Chelsea could handle Brighton's pressure.

That was until Malo Gusto threw the ball to Joao Pedro from a throw-in, who held the ball up before laying it off to no one else but Cole Palmer. Palmer drove past Boscagli into the left side of the pitch, ignoring the run of Morgan Rogers, with 4 Brighton players all trying to close him down. He proceeded to carry on driving at the heart of the Seagull's defence, and then from outside of the box he shot. And with his left foot he picked out the left corner so effortlessly for a Golazo that Verbruggen was never going to save, cushioning Chelsea's lead to 4 goals to 2. Chelsea fans thought that was the end of all the goals in the game but after being unable to clear the ball successfully from a long throw, Pascal Gross powerfully headed the ball past Martinez to make it 4-3 in the 96th minute.

Questions arose about Chelsea's style of football. The football was so entertaining to watch but was very frustrating to see Chelsea concede so many goals and struggle to control a game. People thought that the football may not be sustainable and we wouldn't be able to continue out scoring teams. But most believed that the absence of Moisés Caicedo, arguably the Blues' best player, and that we were only 2 games into the new season, were the reasons for these defensive performances, therefore it would be very irrational to make a judgement on Alonso's style of play.

Arsenal Vs Chelsea (A) - Emirates Stadium - Sunday 6th September 2026



The day before we returned to school, Chelsea had one of their biggest games of the season against Arsenal. It was the fixture that would let football fans all around the world know whether Chelsea could now hang with the elite clubs in English football, especially with their rejuvenated attack having set the league alight in their first few games together for Chelsea.

For the third consecutive game, Chelsea came flying out of the blocks in this one, with Reece James launching a long ball up the field, causing confusion in Arsenal's defence as they failed to deal with the ball before it fell onto the right foot of Morgan Rogers who volleyed the ball into the bottom left corner. Outstanding. Morgan Rogers with the utmost precision fired the Blues into a 1-0 lead within 2 minutes. The goal made Chelsea the first team in Premier League history to score within the opening five minutes of their first three matches of a season. Amazing.

Chelsea fans went into a surge of excitement as they were about to go on to win their first game at the Emirates since 2021. Sadly, goals from a former Chelsea player in Kai Havertz and Arsenal Captain, Martin Ødegaard sealed the victory for the Gunners and handed the Bluejs' first loss of the season. I was furious with this result and it did take me a few days to be a bit more optimistic about the season ahead…

Chelsea Vs Hull City (H) - Stamford Bridge - Saturday 12th September 2026



Fortunately, I was able to go to Stamford Bridge to watch this game live which was a fantastic experience, where I got to chant with the fans of all different ages, genders and backgrounds in Matthew Harding Lower. A goal came early in this game in the 7th minute, which was of course for the Blues, where Rogers' fantastic skill move put us up 1-0. However, 2 quick goals from Mohamed Belloumi stunned the Blues and made the scoreline 2-1 to Hull. The second half was very frustrating, but the fans did not stop cheering on the players and in the 66th minute a nice bit of skill from
Cole Palmer enabled him to get past his man before playing a good pass to the Premier League's August Player Of The Month - Joao Pedro, who smacked it into the net with his weak foot, leaving the goalkeeper stunned.
The final scoreline was 2-2, which means Chelsea had 2 wins 1 draw and 1 loss after 4 games, which wasn't good enough in my opinion at all.

Brentford Vs Chelsea (A) - Gtech Community Stadium - Friday 18th September 2026

And now we reach Chelsea's most recent match against Brentford and in short, the defence was absolutely shocking and Chelsea capitulated in the second half conceding 3 goals. Chelsea were unfortunately stung by the Bees in this game and serious questions had to be asked about the style of play. If your answer is counter attacking, well that's clearly not effective in all phases of the game. Chelsea had no meaningful passages of build up play this season and our goals have mostly come from individual brilliance and errors in hindsight.

This could be due to the absence of Caicedo like I've said before, but ultimately, having no control in any of our first 5 Premier League games has landed us back where we finished last season in 10th place with a goal difference of -2. This left me disappointed and a bit disgusted considering expectations of us to finish in the top 4. However, it is only September and we are only 2 points away from the top 4 so anything can happen.

Premier League Table as of the conclusion of MatchDay 5 / September 26, 2026

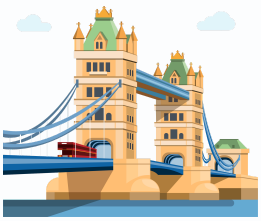
Season 2026-27

	Club	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Last 5
1	Man City	5	5	0	0	13	5	8	15	W W W W W
2	Arsenal	5	4	0	1	8	4	4	12	W W W W L
3	Brighton	5	3	1	1	16	5	11	10	W L D W W
4	Brentford	5	2	3	0	10	4	6	9	W D D D W
5	Leeds	5	2	3	0	7	3	4	9	W D D W D
6	Liverpool	5	2	3	0	7	4	3	9	D D W D W
7	Everton	5	2	3	0	6	3	3	9	W D D D W
8	Hull	5	2	2	1	6	4	2	8	W W D D L
9	Newcastle	5	2	2	1	9	9	0	8	D W D L W
10	Chelsea	5	2	1	2	10	12	-2	7	W W L D L

Let's just hope that Chelsea can be successful in achieving its targets this season and not have another season of underwhelming performances under an ownership that I remain irate with due to their recruitment and constant briefings in the media about having "internal solutions" for positions where we are clearly lacking in and their tendency to leave managers without the players needed to implement their style of football. As the months go by, I hope that by May of next year, we get back to Champions league football, a mandatory objective for me & that we finish with a domestic trophy - preferably both.



UNITED KINGDOM DIVIDED UP?





MOHAMMAD 9B

Hello everyone, and welcome to another year of Best of The Beths! Today's article is about something that will/might affect us all, especially during the near future. So without further ado, let's start the article!

What even happened?

A few days ago on September 14th (or weeks by the time you're reading this), John Swinney, Rhun ap Iorwerth, Michelle O'Neill and Mary Lou McDonald - the First Minsters of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (and the Opposition Leader of Ireland) met up in Cardiff, Wales, declaring that *"Westminster's time is coming to an end"* . The objective of the meeting was to discuss a possible future separation, and they signed an agreement that stated that they had a "*right to self-determination*" and that they "*call on the UK government to prepare for and facilitate constitutional change, including referendums*". This is significant as now, for possibly the first time in history, all of the First Ministers (except for England) support and actively take steps towards achieving the idea of a divided UK. One consequence of this is likely future referendums, which are votes to see if the public of an area/region wants to be independent / separate from the rest of the UK.







Leaders in referrendum meeting in Cardiff

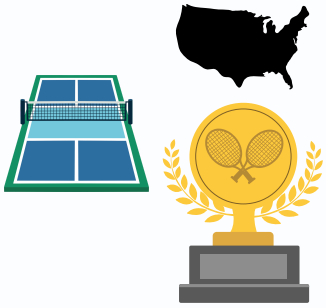
What does this mean for the UK and how did people react?

One of the main points for the agreement was, as mentioned, referendums. This means that, in the near future, votes would likely take place in different parts of the UK, either for independence or, for Northern Ireland, reunification with Ireland (which is why the Irish opposition leader was present). Furthermore, this means increased political pressure as all three nations are now commonly united against a centralised, London-based government. Many people are now thinking why the Prime Minister (Andy Burnham) is staying relatively quiet, when the only comment about it was that the Prime Minister is more focused on tackling the cost-of-living crisis than "*constitutional debates*". Many people are also calling the whole meeting a publicity stunt, most notably far-north MSP David Green.

That's the end of the article, and once again, hope you have a wonderful year of school, thank you for reading and see you later!



TENNIS: U.S OPEN 2026



ZUBAYR 8W

Hello everyone! It's me Zubayr. I'm back in Year 8 now to keep you updated with the latest tennis news. But what am I going to do this month? Well, if you read the title, it's of course the US Open.

Quick note for some of my previous readers: I won't be doing the WTA side of tournaments now as most of the hype is usually around the ATP side. Apologies in advance.

Now, if you're part of some of the new readers that don't know a lot about tennis then read on. For the rest of you, you can just skip this paragraph. So, the US Open is the final Grand Slam of the year and as you can tell by its name, it is held in the USA. Now, these Grand Slams are really important as they can give the winner 2000 crucial points for the rankings. Other tournaments give less points but at the end of the year, the player with the most points is crowned Year End No.1. That's all you really need to know so let's get straight into the action.

ATP Draw

Now, the 2026 US Open was set to be a whirlwind of emotions. But prior to the tournament, we saw Jannik Sinner, the Italian at the top of the world, drop out due to injury right when his biggest rival, Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, was just coming back after a hiatus of just over 4 months from a brutal wrist injury in Barcelona. But the man from Germany, Alexander Zverev, was coming in hot after winning his first Grand Slam in Paris to take No.2 in the rankings.

But the draw was set for Zverev and Alcaraz at opposing halves of the draw to hopefully meet each other in the final. But the first few rounds were kinder to the latter as the Spaniard breezing through in mostly straight set wins while dropping the first set 4-6 in the 2nd round against Jaime Faria.

However, Zverev faced difficulty after barely scraping thorugh in the 1st and 2nd rounds against Lorenzo Sonego and Quentin Halys in 2 very close 5 set matches. But after those matches, Zverev would find his next few matches to be quite swift, winning easily in straight sets.

But little did the two know that while most of the other big-hitters had already gotten knocked out, home-hope Ben Shelton was right on their heels. He had to play grueling 4 set long matches in 3 consecutive rounds before having to face the one and only Carlos Alcaraz in the quarter finals. Now, if this was last year or earlier this year, I would have fully backed Alcaraz to easily win and defend his title but an out of form Spaniard was pushed to the limit in a 5 set thriller that ended 10-7 in the super tiebreak to the American.

Zverev on the other hand, was gifted an easier draw which practically guaranteed him a spot in the final, overcoming Karen Khachanov in the semis to reach New York. But who would he face?

The other semi-final was between Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton so it guaranteed an American to be playing in the US Open final but their battle was fierce with the two heavy-hitters battling it out until the end where Shelton reached his first Grand Slam final.

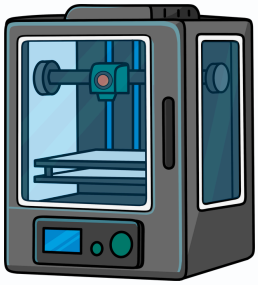
But would this be Shelton's first title or Zverev's second?

At first, tensions were high. Both desperately wanted to win. But Zverev had an even bigger reason to win. Sinner was unlikely. to be playing in Beijing which meant that if Zverev won in New York and China, he would become World No.1.

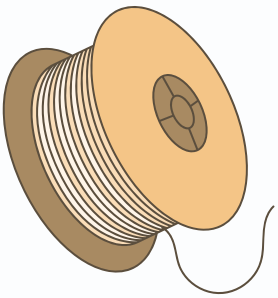
The match started with Zverev blasting past Shelton to win the first set 6-3. But Shelton drove Zverev all the way in the next set for Zverev to win 7-2 in the tiebreak. But Shelton wasn't done yet as he managed to hang on and win the third set but was immediately overpowered by the German's prowess and lost the fourth and final set 6-2.

Zverev had won his second ever Grand Slam title and his first in New York.





3D PRINTING



DAANISH 9C

Recently, on my Birthday, I received a 3D printer as a gift from my parents - specifically a Bambu Lab A1 Mini Combo for those that know a bit about 3D printing already. Since then, I've learned so much about how they can be used and how creative you can be when designing your own products. Anyways, let's move onto the real reason that I'm writing this article, to share with you my experience in 3D design so far and how you can also someday maybe work on a 3D model.

So what even is 3D printing in the first place? Unlike normal printers that use ink and print on a sheet of paper, a 3D printer creates a physical object layer by layer. You start with a 3D model, which you can make on websites such as Tinkercad (You might have used this in DT) and the printer turns that design into a real object. The process can take from just half an hour for a simple boat - the first thing that I printed - to even 6 hours for a toothbrush holder, yes, I made that too.

The material that's used is PLA, which branches off into many different types such as Matte and Basic. It's a type of plastic which gets heated up in the nozzle and once each layer cools down and hardens, the object takes shape and can be used. When searching the internet for designs that I could build, I realised that one of the most interesting things about 3D printing is that there are genuinely endless items that can be made. For example, I found designs ranging from phone stands, storage boxes and fidgets (lots and lots of fidgets).

Of course, 3D printing isn't completely automatic. You have to choose the correct settings, make sure the print is positioned correctly and that the printer has enough filament in it. One thing that I learnt the hard way is that you need to make sure you add supports to overhangs so that they don't collapse. Supports are essentially branching structures which hold up parts and can be removed later. As long as they're added, you are good to go.

I know that I've talked a lot about the positive aspects of printing however sometimes a print doesn't work out, but don't worry as I can assure you that it is worth it and part of the learning process (the excess filament is also surprising satisfying to play with).

I think that's basically what makes 3D printing particularly interesting for students. It combines creativity with technology, design, problem solving and even a little bit of engineering. You can have an idea, design it on a computer and potentially hold the finished product in your hands a few hours later. I'm so grateful for having the opportunity to use one, let alone own one and I hope you all can have a go at it in the future too.

Even though I'm still quite a beginner, I still find each build so interesting to watch which I guess is really the whole idea behind it. Anyways, that's it for now and thank you to everyone for reading my article. Hope to see you next month,

Daanish 9C.



DfE'S NEW PHONE POLICY - HOW DOES IT AFFECT STUDENTS?

Department for Education

NATHAN B. 11H

Why have the government introduced these rules?

In the UK, there have been new policies from the government introduced for schools regulating phone use. The government expects phones to be restricted throughout the school day, including lessons, between lessons, break and lunchtime. The government did this because of concerns about:

- loss of focus in lessons
- classroom distruption
- bullying

There have been many opinions from different people, good and bad, but how does this affect us students?

Controlling phone addiction

With phones becoming such a big part of our everyday lives, the new policy suggests, "Can separating our phones from school help us build healthier phone habits?". Students may be used to checking their phones throughout the day , keeping phones away during school could give us a chance to spend time without checking our notifications constantly. This can help us with our focus in classrooms and around school making students more inclined to socialise and engage in physical activity.

The benefits of technology

A disadvantage of strict phone policies is that students lose out on effective educational tools on their phones. Phones can be used to set reminders, check online resources and learn in a new diverse way. In our school, apps such as Blooket or Kahoot were often used to make lessons more engaging and gave students instant feedback on their answers. This effective form of learning which allows students to have fun competing whilst learning makes for fewer choices and a less flexible learning system.

Reduced cheating

One more advantage of the phone policy would be reduced cheating.. In England's 2025 GCSE, AS and A-Level exams, 2225 cases of student malpractice involved mobile phones or other communication devices. This represents 44.3% of all student malpractice cases. With exams approaching fast, it is easy for students to feel overwhelmed and look to cheating to enhance their scores. With the phone ban this leaves less room for error and encourages students not to rely on technology as a way out but to take ownership and responsability of their own education.

Overall, there are many pros and cons about the ban of mobile phones in school. While restricting phones may reduce distractions, improve concentration and make cheating more difficult, it could also limit useful technology and online resources. The success of the policy will depend on whether schools can find balance between control and sustainability.

NAVIGATING THE NEW ECONOMIC MAP: GEOPOLITICS AND GLOBAL TRADE IN 2026





FAHMI 10H

For a long time, the prevailing approach to global commerce prioritized efficiency, minimal friction, and open borders. Companies built supply chains that stretched across oceans, typically opting for the lowest cost and fastest delivery times. In recent years, however, that landscape has changed. Geopolitical considerations now play a central role in shaping international trade strategy.

This has prompted a shift from pure economic optimization toward greater supply chain resilience. Influenced by recent logistical disruptions—such as maritime shipping delays stemming from security challenges in the Red Sea—governments and multinational corporations are reevaluating their operational models.



Rather than relying solely on the lowest-cost source, many firms are exploring friend-shoring and near-shoring, with North American companies increasingly moving production closer to home in markets like Mexico to mitigate supply chain interruptions. Concurrently, governments are enacting active industrial policies, utilizing targeted government funding like the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act to support domestic manufacturing in strategic sectors such as semiconductors and green energy. Additionally, technology and data flows are encountering tighter oversight, as differing regulatory standards between regions like the European Union and the United States require businesses to navigate more complex compliance requirements.

TThis structural evolution impacts consumers as well. As production patterns shift toward domestic or allied markets, supply chains prioritize security and reliability, which can influence the cost and availability of everyday goods like electronics.



At the same time, developing nations face distinct diplomatic and economic considerations. Many emerging economies across regions like Southeast Asia trade relationships with multiple major powers, requiring a careful balance to avoid trade restrictions/reduced investment from shifting political alignments.
While national security and economic sovereignty remain key priorities, international markets stay deeply interconnected. Businesses continue to balance operational costs against the need to reduce systemic risk.
Ultimately, global trade is entering a more guarded phase. Long-term success will depend on an organization's ability to balance economic efficiency with an awareness of shifting geopolitical conditions.



TOP READS THIS SUMMER



PERCY 8C

Summer is made for reading. Whether you were lying by the pool, relaxing in the garden or stuck in the car on a long journey, the hot weather offered the perfect opportunity to relax with a good book. With so many great reads to choose from, which ones stood out? Here are my three favourite books of the summer.

1. Small Wonder – Ross Montgomery



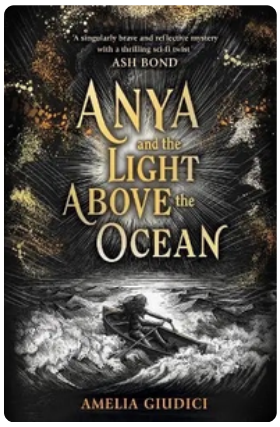
Small Wonder follows two brothers, Tick and Leaf, who are forced to leave their home when they discover that they are in serious danger. They set off on a difficult journey across their kingdom, knowing that they must reach the ruler and warn him before it is too late. Along the way, they face battles, secrets, dangerous enemies and unexpected challenges. What I enjoyed most was the relationship between the two brothers. Tick has to grow up quickly and take more responsibility, while the brothers have to rely on each other to survive. There are plenty of twists that keep you wondering what will happen next. If you enjoy adventure, horses, danger and a touch of mystery, this is a book worth picking up.

2. The Impossible Gladiator – M. G. Leonard



If you like history, action and time travel, The Impossible Gladiator is an exciting read. Sim, Jeopardy and Nelson find themselves travelling back in time to Ancient Rome after a magician mysteriously disappears. What starts as an unusual adventure soon becomes much more dangerous when they are caught up in the brutal world of the Colosseum. The three friends have to work out how to survive in a world that is very different from their own, while also trying to uncover what has happened to the missing magician. The story combines real history with an exciting time-travel adventure, making Ancient Rome feel much more than something you learn about in a textbook.

3. Anya and the Light Above the Ocean – Amelia Giudici



Anya and the Light Above the Ocean was probably the most mysterious of my three choices. Anya is searching for her missing mum when a powerful storm hits. During the storm, she notices a strange light above the ocean. When she reaches out and touches it, her life begins to change in ways she could never have expected. As Anya tries to understand the strange events around her, she uncovers secrets about her mum, the mysterious light and even her own identity. The further she gets into the mystery, the more questions she has to answer. I liked the way the story combines adventure and mystery with bigger ideas about family, identity and discovering who you really are. It is the kind of book that keeps you guessing until the end.

Now that summer is over, that doesn't mean it's time to put your books away. Whether you're looking for an adventure, a journey through history or a mysterious story that will keep you guessing, these three books are great choices to keep you reading into the autumn.

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47



A Note of Thanks



Thank you for reading the 47th edition of Best of the Beths!

We've had a long summer off from school, and we've had a few weeks back in it, but Best of the Beths is back in superb style! You may well have been able to recognise that from the very front cover, this edition was going to be special, and it is in many ways, which I (**Faeq of 11B**) will begin to take you through now.

First and foremost, this edition marks the 7th anniversary of BotB's premier release, and to celebrate the milestone, I decided to bring back the 2019-throwback colours for this month's publication. In fact, its release date was September 30th, which was also the birthday of our founder, Mrs Dawson! It is her we must thank for the dedication, commitment and care she's shown for the student voice in giving it a platform to shine ever since that interview back in 2017, and for BotB to be as strong as it is today. She's the main reason why it exists in the first place, so we at the team and everyone else should all be grateful for her amazing service!

But secondly, like last year, the turnout for this edition was superb, featuring 18 individual article writers **all from Years 7-12**! Our efforts have brought numerous stats into existence, starting with that fact that this marks the first time a September edition has come to fruition in back-to back years. Furthermore, last September, we set a new record for our longest ever publication at 49 pages. It was high, but we are now going higher, because for the first time in BotB history, we've not only matched but also **eclipsed** a half-century of pages (50) with a newsletter **as long as 52**!

And it is on that (almost) unbelievable note that I would like to thank our writing team for making this celebration as massive as it has become! Despite the tight production window of just over two weeks, we've pulled a massive rabbit out of the hat to kick off our new 2026/27 journey, and despite our recent (and sometimes record-breaking) excellence, not even I saw this coming. But even then, this is still a testament to how well we're doing as well as how much this platform has grown since its debut seven years ago! This success isn't a given; this success is well and truly earned, so we must almost give them their flowers - none of these newsletters over the years would be possible without writers to help make them happen!

BEST OF THE BETHS

EDITION #47

Quite a bit of celebration there, wasn't it? 😅 Don't worry, let's quickly get into our monthly recap! Of course we had to kick things off with the newsletter's super seven-year evolution, before welcoming our new Year 7 cohort as well as our new Headteacher in Mrs O'Donnell! From there, the newsletter featured some of your favorite topics! From sports like football, tennis and NASCAR to economic implications, from UK-wide news to numerous reviews, and from summer excursions to summer reads, we again had a lot to discuss upon our return from the holiday!

And we'll have even more soon, but that will do it for the time being! If you haven't had your fill of BotB yet (even after this bumper edition), then don't worry, as near the bottom of this page I have my trademark red button that will take you to the Newsletters section of the school website once you give it a click! From there, just scroll down to our drop-down menu for newsletters of old and our most recent editions; we hope you enjoy those before we (hopefully) return to you next month!

Hopefully you enjoyed this one though, and hopefully more of you can join in and be a part of this soon! Looking at the statistical signs, this is pretty much 'prime' BotB, and I'll tell you this - it's an amazing thing to experience, so perhaps there's no better time than the present to join in and talk about what matters to you! For now though, thanks for reading the 7th anniversary edition of Best of the Beths, the newsletter that's produced '**for** students, **by** students' and has been ever since 2019! Until the next one, it's goodbye from us! 👋

Looking for more? Then don't worry - simply click this button for most of our newsletters from before, old and new! For the 2025 May, June and July editions, check out the buttons on page 9! Whatever you read, we hope you enjoy them - take care for now!



Note written by Faeq Ojelade of 11B, Editor of Best of the Beths

with

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