

FBS VOICE



February 2026

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Interviews with the 3 Head Boy Candidates

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Games

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Protecting or Policing? The Reality of the Social Ban!

WRITTEN BY SAM BARBER
Liddell, Year 7

Currently in Parliament there are talks to ban social media for under-16s. England is not the first country to discuss banning social media; Australia recently decided to ban social media.

At the end of last year, Australia decided to ban social media for under-16s, a move that had been under discussion for some time, but when the ban was implemented, it sparked some controversy. What it means is that under-16s are not allowed to go on Facebook,

Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, YouTube, Reddit, Twitch, Kick, and Threads. However, the government has said that if children then move onto platforms such as WhatsApp and YouTube Kids, they will ban those platforms too.

As expected, it sparked controversy. The ban was popular, but as predicted, many children were not happy. In fact, two 15-year-olds, backed by the Digital Freedom Project, filed a challenge against the ban in the High Court. They said the ban robbed them of their identity and violated their rights to

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Big Movie Drops in 2026

WRITTEN BY LEO KIRK
Dickens, Year 7

Movies are looking positive for 2026, From Super Mario to the New Spider Man. Let's have a look at this year's blockbusters!

SUPER MARIO GALAXY - April 1st 2026

A sequel to the 2023 blockbuster The Super Mario Bros. Movie, Super Mario Galaxy is a collaborative production between Illuminand and Nintendo based on the iconic video game series. The film reunites the original star-studded cast, with Chris Pratt and Charlie Day returning as Mario and Luigi, alongside Anya Taylor-Joy as Princess Peach and Keegan-Michael Key as Toad. Facing off against the heroes once more

is the fan-favourite antagonist Bowser, voiced by Jack Black. There are a few new additions, with the main one being the cheerful dinosaur Yoshi. Yoshi does not have a voice actor so he communicates using high pitched sounds and chirps. He was given an easter egg at the end of the previous movie which shone some light on his arrival. Yoshi will join The Goodie-Group which consists of: Mario, Luigi, Toad, Rosalina and Bowser Junior.



If you have played the Mario Galaxy Game then you will probably have a good idea on what the plot will be like.

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What next for the Australian Test Team

WRITTEN BY EDMUND PAGE
Wilberforce, Year 12

The Australian Men's cricket summer has now well and truly finished with every ODI and T20I finished, the Big Bash League wrapped up with the Scorchers winning for a 6th time but most importantly; The Ashes finishing in a victorious 4-1 score to Australia who have

now held for just under 10 years with England last win/retention coming in 2015. While it's another success for the Aussies, who haven't lost a test series in Australia since Pat Cummins became the captain in late 2021, the team is aging more and more albeit if certain players don't show it.

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Protecting or Policing? The Reality of the Social Ban!

[Continued...]

communication. There are also some safety concerns, such as drawing children to darker and less protected “corners” of the internet and encouraging the use of VPNs and fake IDs. Do you think the ban is effective or not?

The government in England is looking to follow in Australia’s footsteps, and both major parties have put forward plans for a ban on social media. This is what Labour has said about the ban.

On 19 January, Sir Keir Starmer launched a three-month consultation period to ensure that children have a “healthy” online environment, where they will assess how to make social media more controlled for children. Starmer has said that he is watching the Australian social media ban with “interest”. More than 60 Labour MPs are on board with the social media ban. However, there have been many questions about how they would control the ban and whether it would even be possible to fully enforce it. As with the Australian social media ban, there have also been concerns about safety, because banning social media could lead children into “darker” corners of the internet.

On the other hand, the Conservatives have said that if they return to power, they will opt for a complete blanket ban on all social media. The party claims there is a strong correlation between social media and mental health issues, anxiety, and distraction because it is so addictive. They have also said that they would shift the burden onto platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat by imposing age-verification methods such as biometric analysis and passport confirmation. They have also started a petition called ‘Get Children Off Social Media’.

So, all in all, do you think Labour has the better slow approach, or do the Tories with their instant blanket ban? England is not the only country considering banning social media. France, India, Italy, Norway, Malaysia, and Denmark are also considering banning social media, with a ban already in place in Malaysia. In addition, the EU is calling for a harmonised ban for all countries in the EU.

How Endangered are Tigers?

WRITTEN BY HENRY KUZNIK
Liddell, Year 7

Tigers are dying out fast. Tiger populations have decreased by 97% since 1900. It is possible that tigers will only be found in zoos by 2030. There are now more tigers living in captivity in the United States alone than there are living in the wild globally. Tigers were originally split into nine subspecies: Bengal, Amur (Siberian), South China (extinct in the wild), Sumatran, Indochinese, Malayan, Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers. Sadly, three of these subspecies have gone extinct: the Bali, Javan, and Caspian tigers.

The global tiger population is estimated to be 5,660 individuals, showing a slight increase in some regions due to dedicated conservation efforts. The most immediate threat to tigers is illegal poaching, driven by demand for tigers’ claws, skin, and teeth. Tigers are the largest and most powerful big cat on Earth.



However, this makes them more valuable to poachers due to their size and strength. Habitat loss is another major threat to tigers, as they have already lost 93% of their natural habitat. Tigers inhabit a diverse range of climates, from Siberian forests to tropical mangrove swamps. Tigers are solitary apex predators, often preying on deer and wild boar.

Tigers are one of the few members of the big cat family that are strong swimmers. This benefits them as they live in hot climates and are able to cool off. They are also able to hunt in water, allowing them to have a wider variety of prey. As humans shrink tiger habitats, tigers are

forced into human settlements and may be killed for preying on livestock, even though they have no other prey and will starve if they do not eat. Humans are overhunting their primary food sources, decreasing the species’ health.

However, organisations dedicated to conservation are working together to establish protected areas, implement anti-poaching patrols, and create wildlife corridors to ensure the species’ survival. Conservationists are also trying to shut down commercial captive breeding facilities to reduce demand for illegal tiger-based products.

How is Climate Change Affecting Fulham

WRITTEN BY HENRY KUZNIK
Liddell, Year 7

Climate change is the result of decades of humans destroying the planet. Climate change is drastically affecting parts of the world such as Antarctica, where ice that has been there for 34 million years is melting at a rate of 150 billion tonnes annually, which, if nothing changes, could lead to polar bear extinction by 2100. However, it is not just Antarctica that is being affected by climate change. This global catastrophe is affecting Fulham in more ways than you might think.

Climate change is significantly affecting Fulham, with an increased risk of the River Thames flooding more frequently. Most of the borough sits less than five metres above sea level, making it especially vulnerable to flooding.

Furthermore, due to the high density of buildings in Fulham, it is an “urban heat island”, making it up to 10 degrees warmer than surrounding rural areas. Part of the reason Hammersmith Bridge closed to cars in 2019 was due to the impact of extreme heat on its infrastructure.



Fulham’s London Clay is highly prone to shrinking during times

when the borough is extremely dry, heightening the risk of subsidence for older buildings. During the 2022 heatwave, temperatures in the borough reached above 40 degrees, significantly endangering Fulham’s older buildings. Furthermore, less than 15% of Fulham is made up of trees. This is due to rising temperatures causing a decline in tree biodiversity.

However, Hammersmith and Fulham Council has set a target to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, to improve air quality. This is beginning to work because tests taken in South Fulham have shown carbon emissions being reduced by one tonne daily. This may not seem like much compared to the 114 million tonnes of carbon emissions produced daily worldwide, but it is a start. Another way the borough is helping the environment is by banning glyphosate pesticides and planting “Tiny Forests” across the borough to help naturally cool the area and absorb CO₂. A recent BBC News article states, “River Thames cleaner but at risk from climate change.” Ultimately, this gives hope of ridding the community of this man-made disaster.

Artemis II Rollout

WRITTEN BY JACOB JONES
Liddell, Year 7

At 6:42 pm on Saturday, 17 January, NASA's Artemis II SLS (Space Launch System) rocket and Orion spacecraft reached Launch Pad 39B after a nearly 12-hour journey from the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) at the agency's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Hours earlier, NASA's Crawler Transporter 2 began its four-mile trek with the integrated SLS and Orion stacked on top. Moving at a maximum speed of just 0.82 mph, the crawler carried the towering SLS slowly but surely toward the pad. Fun fact: the SLS is roughly the size of Big Ben, imagine Big Ben rolling slowly across London!

Luckily, the team of NASA engineers were able to pull off this feat without any incidents.



The SLS has been rolled out ahead of the launch
Credits: reuters.com

In the coming days, engineers and technicians will prepare the Artemis II rocket for the wet dress rehearsal, a test of fuelling operations and countdown procedures. Targeted for no later than 2 February, the team will load the rocket with super-cold propellants, run through the countdown, and practise safely draining the propellants from the rocket. These are all essential steps before the first crewed Artemis mission.

Earlier on rollout day, the astronauts Victor Glover (Pilot, USA, 49 years old), Reid Wiseman (Commander, USA, 50 years old), Christina Koch (Mission Specialist, USA, 47 years old), and Jeremy Hansen (Mission Specialist, Canada, 50 years old) attended a press conference with NASA Administrator Jared

Isaacman. The press in attendance were able to ask the crew and staff questions.



The flight plan is 10 days and will cover over 230,000 miles. The plan consists of five key events:

1. Launch and Initial Orbit:

The Space Launch System rocket will launch the Orion capsule into an initial Earth orbit.

2. Systems Testing and Earth Orbit (Days 1–2):

The crew will perform manual, in-orbit checkouts of Orion's systems, including life support and docking manoeuvres, to ensure readiness for deep space.

3. Translunar Injection (TLI):

Following checks, the European Service Module will ignite for the TLI burn, sending the crew towards the Moon.

4. Lunar Flyby (Days 3–4):

The mission will take the crew around the far side of the Moon, with a closest approach of 4,600 to 13,000 km. The crew will conduct three hours of lunar observations, studying geology for future landings.

5. Return and Re-entry:

Using the Moon's gravity, the spacecraft will zoom back to Earth, performing a high-speed (25,000 mph) re-entry to test the heat shield before splashing down.

The escape system for the Artemis II mission, and future Artemis missions, is called the Launch Abort System (LAS), which is mounted atop the Orion crew capsule. It is designed to protect the crew if a problem arises during launch or initial ascent by propelling Orion towards safety.

Orion will splash down in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of San Diego, with recovery operations conducted by the U.S. Navy and NASA. The agency said a recovery ship will be stationed a few miles from the target site. Navy divers will be the first to approach the capsule, NASA aims to have the crew transferred to the ship's medical bay within two hours.

What Happened in Venezuela on the 3rd January 2026?

WRITTEN BY ABRAHAM LAST
Liddell, Year 12

So, on 3 January 2026, American troops entered Venezuela and captured the President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, from their home in Caracas. This military strike started at 2 a.m. local time, and the US began by suppressing Venezuelan air defences. This operation was called Operation Absolute Resolve. The operation was successful. It took merely two hours and 20 minutes from the start for the American troops to enter and capture Maduro and his wife. The operation had been planned for a long time. Spies had been following Maduro and watching his every step for months. Even from early December, this mission had started to be planned. There was extensive planning, to the point that US troops were going through rehearsals in an exact replica of Maduro's home. After the operation, Maduro was taken to America to be put on trial, and Trump said he would run Venezuela.

from Venezuela to America. This is why he has taken Maduro and his wife to New York to face drug charges. Trump also believes that Maduro has allowed hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Venezuela to go to America. He has accused Maduro of "emptying his prisons and insane asylums" and forcing people to go to America. Maduro, however, accuses Trump of capturing him so that America can take control of Venezuela's rich oil reserves. This is due to the fact that Venezuela has the world's largest crude oil reserves. At the moment, Venezuela is exporting 900,000 barrels of oil per day. Finally, the last reason that some people believe explains why Trump went into Venezuela was to prepare for a possible war with China. Venezuela accounted for around 44 per cent of China's development finance in the region since 2005. Therefore, by Trump taking more control over Venezuela, he has caused China material loss. Beijing's patient,



Venezuela's President: Nicolás Maduro
Credits: reuters.com

So, why did this operation happen? There are many different reasons that have been suggested, and I will explain what these are. The first reason is the one Trump has said is his motive. Trump says he entered Venezuela to stop drugs that he claims are being transported

expensive cultivation of influence has been undone in one night.

Now, I do not know what the actual reason behind Trump's intervention in Venezuela is. However, these examples show some ideas that have been suggested and demonstrate how complex the situation is.

New Teacher Interview: Miss Petri

WRITTEN BY RUFUS DIXON
Wilberforce, Year 12

What inspired you to pursue a career in teaching?

"During the Covid pandemic, I did a lot of tutoring, mainly online, teaching maths and science. I think this really sparked my interest in teaching and education. I genuinely enjoyed helping students work through topics they initially found challenging, and seeing that 'lightbulb moment' when they finally understood something was incredibly rewarding. It made me realise how satisfying teaching can be as a career and how it allows you to make a genuine difference to young people's lives going forward."



Our new FBS Science/Chemistry teacher: Miss Petri

What do you enjoy most about being a Chemistry/Science teacher at FBS?

"I think it's the enthusiasm and curiosity, especially when it comes to practical work. Students get really excited and engaged in what we're doing during practicals. Those 'wow' moments happen all the way from Year 7 to Year 11, and they still get genuinely excited by it, which makes it really enjoyable. I'd also say the supportive culture we have is important, where students are not afraid to ask questions both inside and outside of lessons, and I think that's really nice."

Can you share some of your hobbies or interests outside of teaching?

"I'm quite obsessed with tennis, both playing and watching. I've been watching a lot of the Australian Open recently. I used to play every day when I was at school and university, and I've also travelled to watch different tournaments. I watched the US Open while I was working in New York, as well as the Monte Carlo Masters and the Vienna Open. So yes, I'm a big tennis fan. I also enjoy health and fitness in general. During my teacher training, I trained to become a group exercise instructor and gained a qualification in it. I haven't really had the chance to use it yet, but maybe one day."

How does the school environment support your professional growth and passion for teaching?

"I'm very lucky to be in such an amazing science department, with great support across all the sciences. We meet every week to discuss new strategies we can try, then trial them for a few

weeks before coming back together to reflect on how they've been going. As I'm in my first year, I also have a strong support network with other early career teachers and Mrs Olivier, our mentor. Again, we meet weekly, and it's fantastic to have that safe space to ask questions about anything we're finding challenging."

How would you say Science/Chemistry is going to help students in the future?

"I would say that science, and chemistry in particular, gives students a wide range of skills that are useful for almost any future career path. These include analytical skills and problem-solving skills, as well as hands-on practical skills such as teamwork, which are valuable in any career path students may choose in the future."

When you were growing up did you ever strive for a different career path, if so what changed your mind?

"Once I finished my master's, I worked in investment banking for a year at JP Morgan, which was a completely different environment. While it was an interesting experience, I realised I wanted a career where I interacted with more people and could combine my love of science, which I really missed, with helping others, particularly young people. Teaching is far more fulfilling than what I was doing before, and every day is different, which I really like. You're not stuck behind a screen all day; you're interacting with young people, it's entertaining, and you're helping to create opportunities for them."

New Teacher Interview: Mr Thorpe

WRITTEN BY JASPER CHAN
Brunel, Year 10



This half term I got the opportunity to interview a new teacher: Mr Thorpe. Here's a few questions and answers:

What classes do you teach?

"I teach maths in this school, and all years. I teach set 3 in Year 7, set 4 in Year 8, set 1 in Year 9 and 10, and set 2 in Year 11."

What is your opinion on ownwork?

"I strongly agree with giving out homeworks, the reason being that my students get deliberate practice at home."

What did you do before joining Fulham Boys and when did you join?

"I taught in a school in Brixton for 5 years, and before that, I was teaching English in France for 2 years. Then I joined the school in September 2025"

Which teacher do you look up to the most?

"The teacher I look up to the most is Mr Faulconbridge. I like his teaching style and his personality"

What 3 words would you describe yourself?

"Actually, I can't think of 3 words right now, but I can say that I think my students would describe me as strict, funny and committed. For now I can name two words to describe myself: tenacious, and curious"

What is your favourite chaplaincy song?

"How great thou hymn"

What do you want students to say when they see you?

"Maybe 'nice trim sir' would be nice"

MUN at FBS

On Thursday, 29 January 2026, Fulham Boys School welcomed both Saint Paul's School and Lady Margaret's School to take part in a Model United Nations conference. This was the first one that we, as a school, have run and was organised by Sebastian Sexton (Year 12), Rory Hunter (Year 10), and Mr Penn (History and Politics teacher).

This Model United Nations event went very well, with 63 students from the three schools in attendance. The topic discussed was the issue of private military companies being used in war. There were some impressive performances from the delegates of Algeria (Saint Paul's), Argentina (Lady Margaret's), Poland (FBS), and Israel (Saint Paul's). The delegate of Poland was Laurence Trowbridge (Liddell, Year 12), and he performed brilliantly and

therefore received a certificate, doing Fulham Boys proud. The delegates of Argentina and Israel also received certificates for their schools. Algeria then won the certificate for best delegate. This was not a hard decision, as the delegate showed excellent skill in his speeches.

The event was not just filled with brilliant performances but also included many amusing moments from delegates. To start with, there was a proposal that an organisation should be added called REALLYCORRUPT, and another called WORLDDOMINATION. Later on, there was a moment of tension when the delegate of Australia shushed another delegate for laughing while they were speaking. The amusement continued when the delegate for China made several entertaining speeches. One of these was responded to harshly by the delegate of Botswana during a discussion on countries having to give warning before declaring war.

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Winning Move



White to play.

This one is solvable in one move, sorry for the issues in past publications.

Wordsearch (Christmas)

J	T	M	X	D	B	C	U	P	C	A	K	E	H
H	K	K	D	I	X	A	G	E	C	L	A	I	R
T	U	D	I	L	O	B	K	E	Q	M	H	C	F
P	W	H	A	Y	W	R	Y	L	Q	X	N	H	V
G	D	I	U	K	B	O	I	K	A	Y	S	E	T
E	J	C	L	X	C	W	Z	F	Y	V	S	E	M
L	F	U	D	G	E	N	O	Y	C	N	A	S	A
A	T	I	R	A	M	I	S	U	J	B	G	E	R
T	U	N	R	B	O	E	C	Y	J	B	V	C	Z
O	B	X	A	M	U	C	H	U	R	R	O	A	I
M	O	C	H	I	S	N	P	U	A	K	S	K	P
N	L	Y	S	S	S	C	D	G	H	K	K	E	A
A	S	D	W	U	E	T	R	U	F	F	L	E	N
N	I	Q	Q	P	S	U	N	D	A	E	K	P	U

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| TIRAMISU | CUPCAKE | BROWNIE | CHEESECAKE |
| SUNDAE | CHURRO | GELATO | MOUSSE |
| TRUFFLE | ECLAIR | FUDGE | MARZIPAN |
| BAKLAVA | MOCHI | | |

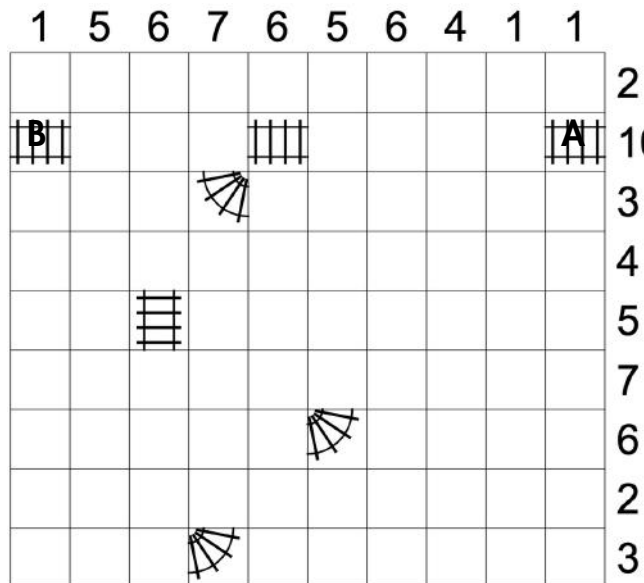
Set Square

	+		-		= 7
+		-		×	
9	+		×	7	= 70
+		+		+	
	×		-		= 14
=	=	=			
15	12	27			

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so the six sums work. We've placed 2 numbers to get you started.

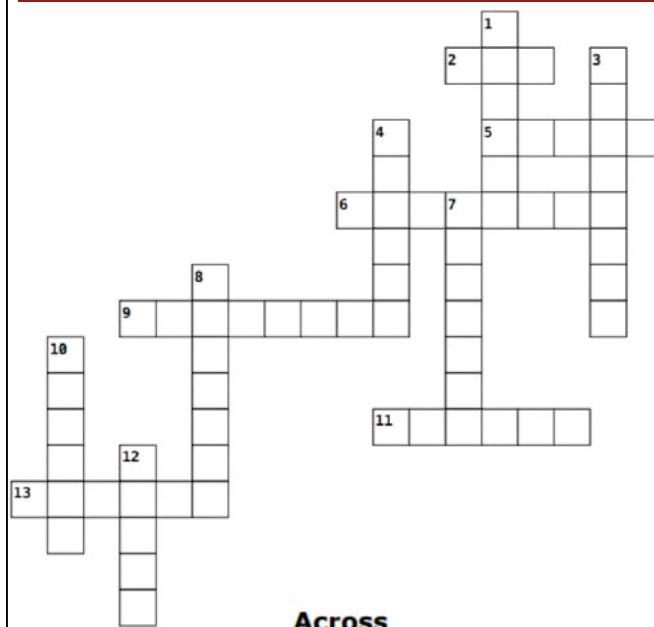
NO BIDMAS

Train Tracks



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from A to B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. The track cannot cross itself.

Crossword (Teachers)



Across

- 2. SLT member + RE teacher
- 5. headteacher of the school
- 6. head of history and politics
- 9. teacher of a subject based on how we think, feel and act

Down

- 11. sixth form admin
- 13. bonjour W5
- 1. head of RE
- 3. core subjects teacher
- 4. tall rugby coach
- 7. female biology teacher
- 8. head of sixth form
- 10. head of geography
- 12. SLT chaplain

MUN at FBS [Continued...]

To conclude, the first Model United Nations at our school was a great success. It featured many strong performances and was a great opportunity to meet students from other schools. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such events held at our school, and full credit goes to Rory and Seb for their hard work in arranging and running the conference.

Editor's Note: To partake in the next MUN please email: 22rhunter@fulhamboysschool.org.uk

Did you know that we are happy to publish your work? Including Game puzzles you have designed.

Just email the editor: 20rdixon@fulhamboysschool.org.uk

Sudoku (Easy)

2		3	4					5
8		9	1	6		7		4
		6		3			1	9
7		2			3		6	
		8	2	5				
		1	6		7			2
		7			5		2	6
9	3		7	2				
6				9		4	7	

Sudoku (Difficult)

3				4	9			
			6			5		1
7	5	2			1			
		1					7	
5			3	9	6			
		8	1	5			9	6
		3		1				6
		4					1	
				2	8			

Game Answers

Find the answers to all these games on our website:

sites.google.com/fulhamboysschool.org.uk/abs-voice



Rufus Dixon

WRITTEN BY ALEX FERGUSON
Dickens, Year 7

*Editor's Note: The following page is formed from an interview with one of the Head Boy candidate's. Voting will take place on **Thursday 12th February**. Please be aware that section titles are derived from the interview questions, and formatting / questions may vary between candidates.*

Study spaces and

Gym access:

I want to reintroduce lunchtime study spaces and access to the gym during lunchtime. A few years ago, we used to have lunch study spaces where anyone would get to go to a classroom at lunchtime and use that place for homework or for studying, instead of just the library. On top of that, anyone could use the gym facilities during lunch. Ever since the split lunch we haven't had any of that.

Often during lunch the gym is unoccupied. Additionally, there are still rooms available at lunchtime and so I'd like to bring them back because an issue I am aware of with the library at lunchtime is that sometimes it's closed for things like book club, and then also at lunchtimes you're not allowed to use Chromebooks, which is obviously quite a big issue seeing as though most of our own work is set online. Bringing back the lunch study spaces would really benefit students in that way. It would also be run by the prefect team and the student leadership team so that teachers wouldn't have to give up their free time.

Sixth Form

Academic opportunities:

Our sixth Form is great, but to raise it to a level on par with the best sixth forms in the country I want to introduce any other academic programmes like the CREST Gold award, which will help students' UCAS applications.

Your voices shaping change:

Another thing that I'd like to change is the number of meetings between the house captain and the head boy because, at least when I was vice house captain of Wilberforce two years ago, I found that we didn't meet at all with the head boy team. And it's such an underutilised system because it's such a good way to bridge the lower school and the sixth form leadership team and a way of getting a student's idea that would be really beneficial. I don't know, they may just not have the courage to go up to someone who's much older than them and tell them their idea, even though it might be a really good one. But if there's the process in place of having the House captains being able to then take their idea and bring that to the Head Boy, then I think change for the better will begin to happen quite rapidly.

Mentor Scheme:

As a mentor myself, I have seen how impactful it can be for a student to talk to someone who has been there before. I would help to continue this



Rufus Dixon, Wilberforce

programme, potentially growing it, so that all students get the support they need to thrive.

Trips:

So my sister, she goes to Lady Margaret School and she gets no abroad trips apart from one week at the end of the summer term, when they might get a trip abroad. It's such a silly system and I think the way our school does it is just much better. I've gone on the ski trip before and had a great experience on it, including the 22 hour coach journey! I've done it both times and I've had great experiences on these trips. I think it's such a good way, like at lunch times, for staff to interact and bond with students. That has always been such a big thing for us. When we were in Year seven, staff would sit with students to get more of a bond outside the classroom. I see it happening on trips as well. For example, in year 11 I went on the ski trip and on the journey there I played Mario Kart with Mr. Smith. (For the record I did win.) But it's memories like this that make this school special.

Summary:

The summary of my campaign would be to look at the work I've done with FBS Voice. I have managed to grow the paper immensely from a team of three to now a team of 21. This is what I'll be able to do in the role of Head Boy, of growing our school to what it could truly be. I will help facilitate your voices to make meaningful change around our school.

Sebastian Sexton

WRITTEN BY KRISTIAN NEPTUNE
Wilberforce, Year 12

Editor's Note: The following page is formed from an interview with one of the Head Boy candidate's. Voting will take place on Thursday 12th February. Please be aware that section titles are derived from the interview questions, and formatting / questions may vary between candidates.

About the candidate:

My name is Sebastian Sexton and I'm running for head boy. I joined in year seven, so I've been here now six years, at FBS. It's been quite the journey, because I started at the old site and now we're at this site. Obviously the change is quite big. We're now some of the last, who remember the old site. In my time here, I have had plenty of experience as a representative for others. In terms of leadership, I was house captain for Wilberforce in year 10 and that led over into the beginning of year 11. I was Wilberforce house captain when we last won Eisteddfod. Other times where I have taken a position of leadership, is that I lead the student council for the West London partnership. That's 11 schools across West London, and I am in charge of communication and collaboration between the schools. I have organised a whole load of events between schools.

What makes me stand out from the other candidates is that I am a lot more approachable. I'm happy for you to come up to me, ask me questions, suggest new policies, suggest anything really. I'm also just happy to have a

conversation. I've been at the school since year 7, so I understand the school culture. I understand what it means to be a Fulham boy. I understand the struggles we had at the old site and the joys of this site. I understand what it means to be a Fulham boy and truly live it out.

Policies:

My main focus is just continuing the mentoring programme, making sure the lower school students have that support, and that the Sixth Form students are seen as role models, who actively engage with the lower school. I also feel it is really important we collaborate more with other schools as being part of the Western partnership. I have access to a large number of contacts and opportunities. So that we have more events where we can work with other schools such as the Putney High Lecture series, Putney High Common Room Lecture series, which we held here and at Putney High, which I think was a great opportunity to engage with out of the spec learning, and just communicate with other people. In terms of winning. I'm pretty confident.

Summary:

Obviously, the other two candidates are absolutely brilliant people. Rufus is lovely, Josiah's lovely, so whoever wins, we will be in safe hands. However I do think I bring that kind of extra edge to it and, you know, I'm happy for you to come up to me, ask me questions, ask me about my ideas and suggest ideas yourself.



Sebastian Sexton, Wilberforce

A testimony from Kristian Neptune:

Sebastian 'Seb' Sexton, a boy become man through the eyes of The Fulham Boys School. Joining the school at the start of year 7. For his sixth year in the school, Sebastian labelled his Fulham Boys journey as "a big change" from learning Geography in an old mannequin factory of our old site (his year group being the last to witness it) to now being one of the top three candidates for your 2026-2027 Head boy.

Sebastian has shown early signs of strong leadership through his enterprising attitudes shown from him leading the student council for the 'West London Partnership' of 11 schools in West London, organising a lot of events between schools such as the Model United Nations conference on the 29th of January. Furthermore Sebastian as show leadership through his house (Wilberforce), as their House Captain in Year 10 and the start of year 11, but how big will the difference be from having the privilege of lifting the Eisteddfod cup and giving house commendations, to having a chance at leading and being the figurehead of students in this school.

Seb has claimed confidence and policies are one thing, but the choice is yours readers. Can you count on Sebastian to lead you in this school for the next year, and can he count on you, for your vote?

Josiah Wells

WRITTEN BY VADIM MERGUER
Wilberforce, Year 10

Editor's Note: The following page is formed from an interview with one of the Head Boy candidate's. Voting will take place on Thursday 12th February. Please be aware that section titles are derived from the interview questions, and formatting / questions may vary between candidates.

About the candidate:

Despite the fact that I haven't been in the school for very long, I believe that I can be a voice for people. This is because I have experience in listening to people, understanding their problems, and making sure those problems are addressed. Since joining, applying for Head Boy has done so much for me in such a short space of time. I have loved every second of it. Applying for Head Boy was something I was pushed to do by peers, particularly Gianluca (our previous Head Boy), and by teachers who recommended that I apply. I thought it would make sense to give back to the school in that way. If I can do more good things to add to the good things the school is already doing, that feels right. It comes from gratitude, but also from wanting to contribute.

The main thing that makes me different from the other candidates is my personality. What you might notice with some of the other applicants is that they are slightly more academic than me. I am definitely not a straight-nine student, however I am very personable. This is one quality of mine. I can talk to people at any level and put time into others, regardless of age. A Year 7 would be treated the same as anyone else. Another quality I have is communication. I value 'two-way communication' between students and leadership. One of

my flaws is that I can be too ambitious. I sometimes doubt myself, especially as someone newer to the school, and question whether I am the right person for Head Boy. That is your decision to make.

What is good about the school:

The Christian ethos is the biggest thing for me. It does a lot more than people realise. It works in the background. In writing my speech, I have been thinking about the idea of building your house on the rock, not on the sand. The Christian faith provides the rock the school is built on.

Sport is another major strength. I have always been sporty, but the school has pushed me further. Rugby is something I had never tried before, and I think that is brilliant. Sport builds far more than physical ability. It builds character and emotional intelligence.

Finally, the support from teachers is excellent. I study maths, economics, and geography, and I have no complaints. Even with my limited exposure, the support system in the school is very strong.

Changes and

policies:

I think the school is brilliant as it is. What I can do is add to the good things because I am still relatively new to the school, I have not seen everything. There may be areas that are weaker, but it would be my responsibility to identify those by speaking to the lower school and identifying issues that could be fixed.

Sports is an area of focus of mine: expanding the sports programme to develop athletes further. One of my ideas is better use of the gym. I would like to see structured strength and conditioning programmes, possibly as clubs, possibly



Josiah Wells, Liddell

integrated into sports afternoons or an additional period. Basic education around fitness is important, especially for boys.

Food comes up repeatedly when speaking to the lower school. Many boys complain about it. What has been missing in the past is clear communication back to the boys. If food has been raised before and rejected due to funding, that has not been explained. Better communication would help boys understand budgeting, opportunity cost, and decision-making.

Another one of my plans is the possible integration of CCF, the Combined Cadet Force, which could benefit both sixth form and the wider school by developing character. It is a long process. You do need funding, although government funding is available. You would need a committed staff member whose primary role would be running cadets, supported by additional staff. That is a significant commitment and might require hiring new staff.

Old New Year

WRITTEN BY ALEX FERGUSON
Dickens, Year 7

Many Macedonian families across the planet (especially in Australia, Canada and the United States), celebrate the Old New Year on the 13th January.

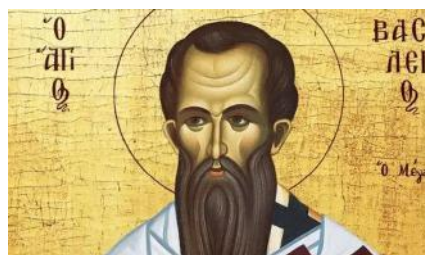
Orthodox Christians observing the Julian calendar celebrate the Old New Year which starts on Saint Basil the Great Day (Vasilica).

Late on 13 January, people gather outside their houses, in the center of their neighborhoods where they start a huge bonfire and drink and eat together. Traditional Macedonian music is sung and for those who stay at home, it is tradition for Macedonian families to have a family feast, involving bread/börek with a hidden gold coin wrapped in foil. Traditionally, the master of the house would cut the börek so that there is 1 piece for each member of the family and shuffles them around 3 times. Everyone takes the piece in front of them and whoever finds the coin is believed to have good luck in the year ahead.

On the occasion of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and the Saint Basil the Great, churches of the Macedonian Orthodox Church will hold the Holy Liturgy of Saint Basil.

Saint Basil the Great is one of the three leading Church teachers of the fourth century. Born in Cappadocia, he was educated in Athens. He was a distinguished Christian philosopher and is remembered as a bishop and a defender of Orthodox teaching. Saint Basil the Great died on January 14, 379.

In addition to the Macedonian Orthodox Church, religious holidays according to the Julian calendar are also observed by the Russian and Serbian orthodox Churches, the Jerusalem Patriarchate, and the monks of Mount Athos. In contrast, the Greek, Bulgarian, Romanian, Ukrainian, and Georgian Orthodox Churches follow the Gregorian calendar.



Courtesy of Orthodox Times



Courtesy of Turkish Porter

Big Movie Drops 2026 [Continued..]

If not, the basic idea that we have been given by the corporation is: Mario, Luigi, Toad and Yoshi cross outer space to stop Bowser Junior from causing trouble through multiple galaxies and stop him from taking over the world. They will have magical elements, unique abilities, cosmic powers (Roselina) and game-inspired Easter eggs for the fans who originally played the game. This should be a great watch for Mario fans and general movie watchers.

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY - July 31st 2026

In Spider-Man: Brand New Day, Peter Parker is truly starting from zero. Because of Doctor Strange's spell, his friends MJ and Ned have no idea who he is, and his legal identity has been completely erased. He's living in a tiny apartment, working a normal job, and trying to survive in New York without any help from the Avengers or Stark tech. Tom Holland returns to play a version of Peter who is lonelier and more grounded, focusing on neighborhood crime rather than saving the universe. The cast reflects this depressing vibe. While Zendaya and Jacob Batalon are back, Peter has to treat them like strangers to keep them safe. New additions like Sadie Sink are joining the mix, and street-level heroes like Jon Bernthal's Punisher and Charlie Cox's Daredevil are expected to show up.

Instead of fighting aliens, Peter will be dealing with classic NYC villains like Scorpion and Tombstone, making the movie feel much more like the classic, "friendly neighborhood" comics.

GOAT - 13th of February 2026

In GOAT, a small goat named Will (voiced by Caleb McLaughlin) fights to become a professional in Roarball, a high-contact sport usually reserved for massive predators. This animated underdog story from Sony Pictures Animation features the same stunning visual style as Spider-Verse and follows Will as he trains alongside a tough Rhino named Archie (David Harper) competes against the elite black panther Jett Filmore (Gabrielle Union), and shares the court with a towering giraffe sharpshooter named Lenny Williamson, voiced by NBA legend Stephen Curry. Released on February 13, 2026, to celebrate the NBA All-Star Weekend, this six-year labor of love is a must-watch family comedy that proves size doesn't define a champion!



Courtesy of Wikipedia



Courtesy of IMDb

Review of Disneyland Orlando

WRITTEN BY JACOB JONES
Liddell, Year 7

Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, is a gargantuan entertainment complex featuring four distinct theme parks, two water parks, and the Disney Springs shopping and dining area. The core experience centers around its many rides and attractions, designed for all ages and thrill levels. My favourite attractions include: the high-speed Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind in EPCOT, Tower of Terror in Hollywood Studios and Space Mountain in Magic

Kingdom. Disney's design even integrates storytelling into the queues themselves. For instance, the line for Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance acts as a fundamental part of the story, moving guests through a Resistance base before they even board the main ride vehicle.

Character encounters are a fundamental part of the Disney experience, available across all parks. Guests can find dedicated meet-and-greet locations, participate in character dining experiences that allow for interactions during a meal,

or spot characters during daily parades and live stage shows. A highly anticipated addition for summer 2026 is the new Bluey and Bingo meet-and-greet experience located at Conservation Station within Animal Kingdom, adding popular contemporary characters to the lineup. These interactions, whether spontaneous or planned, create memorable photo opportunities and magical moments for visitors of all ages.

The resort's two water parks, Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach, provide a distinct aquatic experience with unique theming: tropical shipwreck for the former and a melting ski resort for the latter. Key water attractions include the Summit Plummet near-vertical slide at Blizzard

Beach and the Crush and Gusher water coaster at Typhoon Lagoon in early 2026. These parks will continue their rotating schedule: Typhoon Lagoon is open through mid-February, after which Blizzard Beach is scheduled to reopen on February 15, 2026. A major highlight for 2026 is that both water parks will operate simultaneously during the peak summer season from May 26 to September.



What next for the Australian Test Team [Continued...]



Australian Cricket Team
Credits: Wikimedia.org

Yes, they've won The Ashes again but in the next few years they're going to have to cop some serious retirement blows with Starc, Hazlewood, Lyon, Smith and Boland now all being above 35 years old and most likely will be retired by at the most the next Ashes in Australia in 4 years time. Even apart from the oldest players there's only one player below 30 who played for Australia in the most recent Ashes, that being the out of form Cam Green. In comparison England despite losing the series have a significantly younger team with prospects such as Bethell, Brook and Jaime Smith who could all become serious beasts of the test format, provided some of them learn not to throw their wickets away but that's a whole different debate. Australia will always have at least a slight advantage when playing at home but as any fan or player would tell you, they want to win every single series and some things are going to have to change if they want that to happen. The main series that are coming up for Australia are a 3-match series Vs South Africa (away) in Sep/Oct 2026, a 5-match series Vs India (away) in early 2027 and The Ashes in England in mid 2027. The last time they won in South Africa was 2014, 2004 in India and 2001 in England so there's no doubt that a serious amount of hard work will need to be done if Australia want to show complete Test dominance once again.



Scott Boland
Credits: Wikimedia.org



Credits: DeviantArt

Here's my take on what Australia should do to ensure we are still a top test team even after big players retire. With Khawaja retired leaving at least one opening spot up for grabs, it's time to put some faith and freedom into Konstas. There's obviously no doubt the kid's got talent but after a couple of poor innings he was dropped and hasn't been seen again yet. In my opinion he needs to be either let or encouraged to play his own way even if that means play ramp shots randomly, the fact he had the courage to go out a ramp and reverse scoop the best test bowler in the world in his first ever test innings should be a testimony to his talent. If he has the confidence, ability and awareness to know when to play unorthodox shots then he should be in the test team without a shadow of a doubt as we've seen a prime example of an naturally aggressive player thrive when playing with freedom and that being Travis Head. The other young name who has been talked about a lot recently is Cam Green. It's no secret he has had a pretty poor summer but we have to keep faith in him and his potential. Whilst he hasn't reached the level we would have liked yet, slating him in the media isn't going to help the bloke who's confidence is clearly shot at the moment. We need to stop putting so much pressure on him and encourage him to focus on his test game over his limited overs game regardless of what pays more. As for the rest of the team it doesn't have to be filled with a bunch of youngsters, we've seen countless older players get their shot in their late 20s and have a great career; yes we want to have some players who have 15-20 year long careers and help the team flourish but it can be easy to forget how good some domestic players who don't get in the team when their young, I mean just look at Scott Boland!

Was Enzo Maresca Sacked for a Good Reason?

WRITTEN BY SEBASTIANO KOBRAK
Brunel, Year 7

The controversy on the sacking of Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has been two-sided but was he sacked for a good reason? Enzo Maresca was sacked on new years day in 2026 but what really happened?

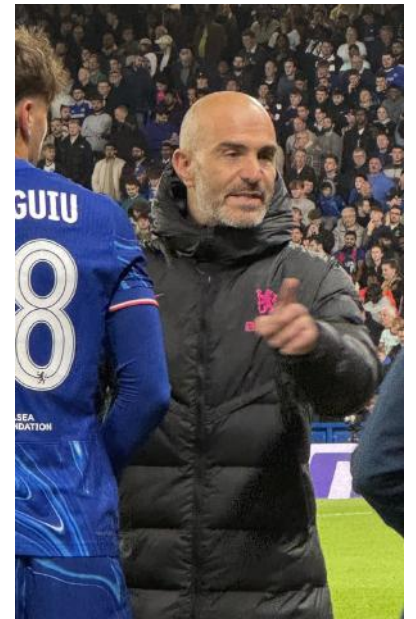
Maresca left Chelsea because of a fight with the board/owners about the team and injuries of certain players. He felt unsupported by the hierarchy and felt that he was pushed to put certain players in the starting 11. To add the reasons just said he also hadn't been performing as a good manager winning only one in seven games this clearly was not a stat that Chelsea would want to be known for.

The Chelsea fans feel that the manager was wrongly sacked some people even said that they were heart broken by this and that the board should have waited to sack him, some fans think that the owners of Chelsea want the supposedly "Yes Man" who only does what they tell him to do instead of a good strong minded manager. As a Chelsea fan I think that the board are just disgraceful and are not thinking about the future of the club but only about themselves and what they want.

Although most fans believe that it was wrong to sack Enzo, some think that it was the right decision. I'm here with Leo Kirk, a Chelsea fan. What do you think about Maresca getting sacked? I believe that he wasn't sacked fairly because Chelsea have not given good evidence for his sacking and if they have they need to advertise it better because I haven't seen anything convincing. Did Maresca have the right to disagree publicly with the board? Yes people have the right to have opinions and if Maresca can't have his say then Chelsea is doing a bad job.



Chelsea F.C badge Credits: Flickr



Enzo Maresca
Credits: Wikimedia.org

Do you think that Enzo was a good manager considering the bad streak? He had a bad streak for five games and in the long run he clearly was a great manager considering the other managers at Chelsea. Did Maresca get sacked too soon or should he never been sacked at all? I think that he shouldn't have been sacked at all because disagreeing with the board was only an opinion and not a good reason for being sacked. Some fans say that Maresca has not been putting out a decent team and they think that he could not bring the club any further than he already did. Enzo Maresca was sacked with many different opinions on it but no one can surely tell, what do you think?



Credits: Heute.at

Are The New F1 Regulations A Fix or Fumble?

WRITTEN BY LEO KIRK
Dickens, Year 7

F1 has had its biggest change for more than a decade. But is it actually good? They have massively changed the cars. The first main point and the one you will probably notice on track is that the cars are shorter. They are 300 mm shorter and have lost 30kg. The weight loss means they will lose around 3 tenths of a second!

Another noticeable change is that the front and rear wings have been simplified. Let's start with the rear wing. The structural part of it has been changed by removing the beam wing (a smaller wing located directly above the diffuser) Rear wings will be designed to fit a new, smaller and faster car. In addition, DRS (Drag Reduction System) has been removed 16 years after being introduced. They have replaced it with Active Aero. There are 2 Active Aero modes, one of which (X mode) will be used on straights to gain more speed while Z mode will be used in corners for a better grip and high downforce.



Credits: Steffen Pröbldorf



Credits: Steffen Pröbldorf

Also replacing DRS is overtake mode, it pretty much is the same as DRS but a bit different. In specific zones if drivers are within a second of the car ahead they will get a burst of power via the engine instead of opening the rear flap.

Now for the front wing, as I mentioned previously Active Aero will work on the front wing. Z-mode will be used on the rear wing but now there is X-mode, it is basically DRS but on the front wing used for low drag and high speed.

Under the car they have removed wind tunnels for a flat surface making it suit more drivers for more setup changes.

The drivers will have to play their part as new modes have been added Overtake, Boost and Recharge. I have already talked about Overtake so this will be focused on Boost and Recharge. Boost gives maximum power from the engine and can be used anywhere for attack or defence. Recharge is when you will try to get more power into the car working with their engineers to use Boost or Overtake mode.

The power unit may be the most significant change in 2026. It is still a V6 engine but the balance of power has drifted dramatically. The electric motor tripled in size while the combustion engine has been downsized. That is now a 50/50 split between fuel and electricity. The battery can recharge twice as much as it used to and can also hold twice as much as it used to. They also removed the MGU-H (A heat recovery system) to save money and lap times. Also using advanced sustainable fuel from cutting-edge sources.

What do all these changes actually mean, you might be asking. They make the sport more exciting and provide more opportunities to overtake others and faster racing like never seen before. The teams might be developing these features as you read or putting them out on track for the first time in Bahrain on the 11th of February, I guess we will wait and see which team does it the best.



Credits: Steffen Pröbldorf

West Indies Vs Afghanistan Series

WRITTEN BY JACOB JONES
Liddell, Year 7

Afghanistan recently secured a 2-1 T20I series victory over the West Indies in January 2026. All three day and night matches were held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the UAE, serving as vital preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Afghanistan's players wore their typical blue kits, while the West Indies team competed in their signature maroon kits.



Credits: creativecommons.org

West Indies were led by Brandon King as their captain. He opened the batting with three different openers. Meaning he batted with a new opener for every one of the T20Is! Afghanistan on the other hand were led by the vastly experienced spinner Rashid Khan. Furthermore they kept their openers the same throughout the series. To much success as Ibrahim Zadran, one of their openers, had a brilliant series hitting 137 runs, with 1 fifty and averaging 68.5. Their other opener however wasn't quite as good but still managed 72 runs at an average of 24. However neither of these were the player of the series. That was given to Darwish Rasooli of Afghanistan. He manager a very impressive 156 runs hitting 2 fifties. His average over the 3 games was 52 which is very impressive for a player who was out in all 3 innings.



Credit: universe.roboflow.com



Credits: Wikimedia.org

Now, the series began with two dominant wins for Afghanistan: a 38-run victory on January 19 and a 39-run win on January 21 which sealed the series. The second match was particularly notable for a match-winning hat-trick by Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Key players for Afghanistan were as mentioned before Darwish Rasooli, who was named Player of the Series for his total of 156 runs, and Ibrahim Zadran, who scored 137 runs across the series. In the final T20I on January 22, the West Indies fought back to claim a 15-run victory, their first T20I win in Dubai. The turning point of this match was a dramatic hat-trick by West Indies fast bowler Shamar Springer in the penultimate over, which destroyed Afghanistan's chase despite a solid 71 runs from Rahmanullah Gurbaz. This series was a test for both teams. UAE conditions differ significantly from those of Afghanistan due to the Gulf's sandy soils. The grounds are not that hard as seen in Dubai Cricket Stadium which offers some grass and bounce though it has dry conditions.



Credits: Wikimedia.org

FBS VOICE ARE **HIRING**

MONDAY | 3 2 7 | 16:10 - 17:00

Key Dates

- 11th February**
Head Boy Speech Assembly
- 12th February**
Head Boy Voting
Last Day of Half-Term
- 13th February**
Half-Term Holiday starts
- 23rd February**
Spring Half-Term 2 starts
Y8 Brilliant Club Graduation event
- 24th February**
Y10 Parent Consultations
- 2nd March**
FBS Voice Publication 5
- 6th March**
Friday Night Lights



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Y7 - Friday 5B	Y10 - Wednesday 5B	Thursday 5A & 5B
Y8 - Monday 5A	Y11 - Tuesday 5A	Lunch provided
Y9 - Friday 5A	6 th Form - Monday Form	Q&A chance