

# The Sixth Form Review



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Issue 01

## Don't cry for me Bede's!

“Mr Dickson said he chose the musical because, “having seen the talent of the students when I saw ‘Grease’, I thought we could challenge them with something epic.”

Writer Gray Corbett gets a behind-the-scenes look at the latest school production ‘Evita’, featuring exclusive interviews with cast members and the director, Mr Dickson.

Saint or sinner? The historical figure of Eva Perón, actress turned Argentina's First Lady, continues to divide opinions. Something of the ambiguity of her life is captured in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical classic ‘Evita’. And this January, our Bedians rose to the challenge to tackle this enigmatic personality. Recipient of the Tony Award for Best Musical, ‘Evita’ was performed in the Academic Hall on January 18th for four consecutive performances.

Featuring famous songs such as ‘Buenos Aires’ and ‘High, Flying, Adored’, the mid-twentieth century masterpiece follows



the life of Eva Duarte and how a girl from poverty rose to be the First Lady of Argentina.

The real Eva is still much loved in Argentina for her charity work with the Eva Perón Foundation, which helps to

clothe and feed thousands in poverty. But the controversy surrounding her, stems from allegations that her work was not sincere, and was instead a front for funnelling government money into Swiss bank accounts.

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# The Strength to Succeed

By Kuziva Mutandwa and Kathryn Kennedy

*“By developing key virtues such as fortitude, our students stand out from others - we have developed the ability to be patient in times where others would be impatient and the ability to be brave when others would succumb to fear.”*

**Editors Kuziva Mutandwa and Kathryn Kennedy discuss this month’s school virtue, fortitude, and describe what it means to them.**

Are you a strong person? You may think you are, but are you really? True strength comes from developing the virtue of fortitude, as Kuziva Mutandwa explains.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines fortitude as “the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good.” A virtuous person with fortitude shows resilience during times of difficulty and consistently pursues good even in the face of adversity or possible rejection. Fostering the cardinal virtue of fortitude also encourages the development of other virtues such as patience, resilience and courage.

The patience to work with classmates you may disagree with, the resilience to carry on with your work in the quiet room rather than chat in the common room and the courage to step up to leadership roles and volunteer at school, all are aspects of fortitude.

We naturally try to avoid hardships, but in fact, they are good for us. By facing difficulties and learning how to overcome them, we grow and develop, we have the strength to share the burdens of others, to grow in patience and to be more resilient.

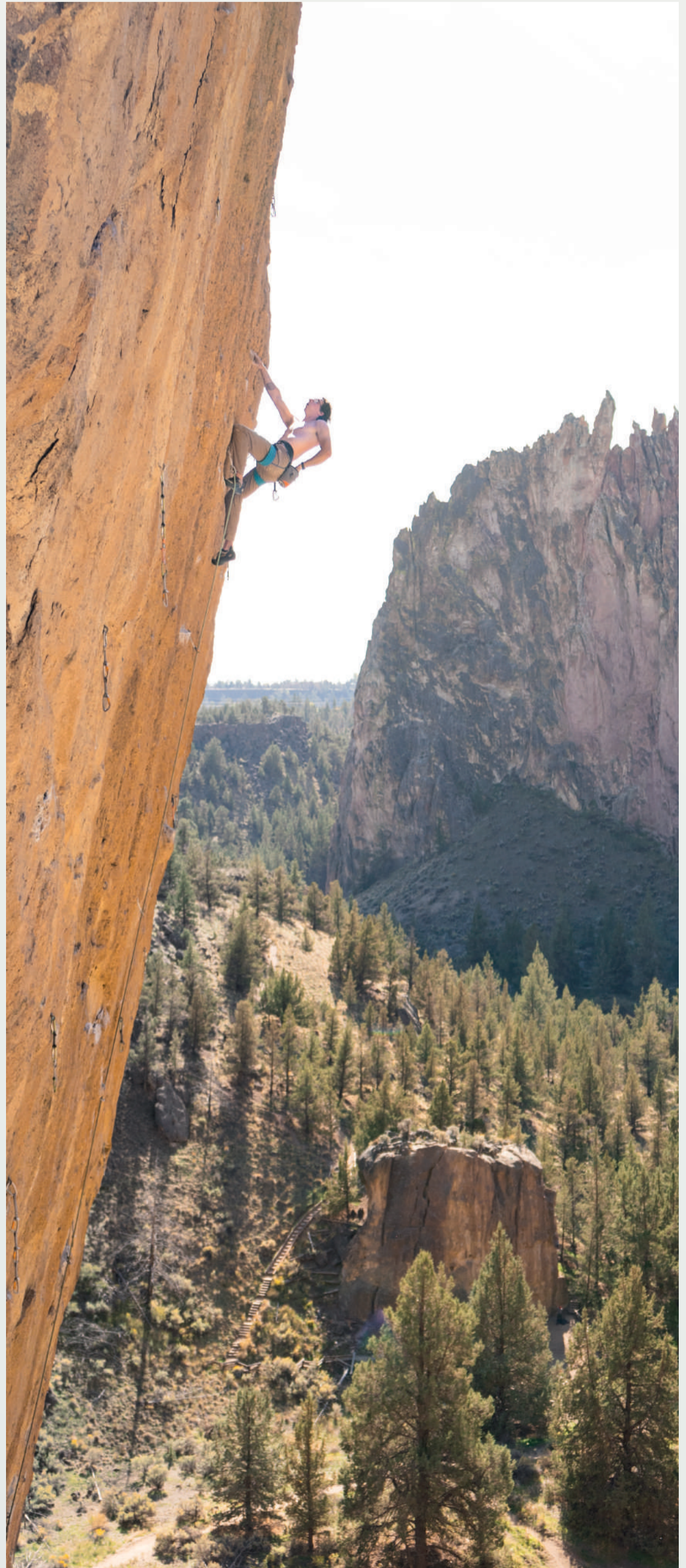
Whether it be resisting the temptation to binge that new Netflix show instead of revising, or opting out of a casual gossip session, find a way to bring fortitude into your daily life, even

if it is on a small scale. Fortitude is the inner strength to follow your conscience, even when things get difficult or frightening. By constantly pursuing good, we grow in character and become more righteous.

Fortitude is often considered a great act of courage in the face of immense adversity, writes Kathryn Kennedy. However, we at St Bede's have learnt in the month of January that fortitude can be shown in simple acts of courage, which are just as important. The efforts of Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth students to prepare for mock exams shows great strength in stressful times. The cast of our school’s musical has shown great courage in persevering in rehearsals and then getting up on stage to give wonderful performances to a range of audiences.

By developing key virtues such as fortitude, our students stand out from others - we have developed the ability to be patient in times where others would be impatient and the ability to be brave when others would succumb to fear.

But this doesn’t mean we should be proud. Instead, we should seek to help others, precisely by helping them develop virtues such as fortitude, so that they too can see the good in themselves, others and the world through the dangers and anxieties that may decorate their lives.



# Apprenticeships: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

By Kuziva Mutandwa

*“You can learn whilst you earn, get the work experience sought after by employers and you have a greater chance of securing a permanent position.”*

**Editor Kuziva Mutandwa talks you through the pros and cons of apprenticeships, accompanied by an interview with the College’s Careers Coordinator, Mr Hepburn.**

As a Sixth Form student you’ve grown accustomed to talk of university applications, but have you ever considered an apprenticeship? In short, it’s a job that allows you to earn money whilst studying for a degree. You can learn whilst you earn, get the work experience sought after by employers and you have a greater chance of securing a permanent position. Could this be the new way to get to your dream job?

The school’s Careers Coordinator, Mr. Hepburn explains how apprenticeships differ from university: “Apprenticeships are much more hands-on and vocational – you’ll spend 3-4 days a week working in your company and perhaps 1-2 days studying.”

With an apprenticeship, you can gain valuable work experience in your field that you can’t get as a full-time university student as well as the benefits of a regular employee. Many apprentices go on to become long-time staff members with 90% offered permanent employment during or after their apprenticeship, according to data from the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills.

Mr. Hepburn also added, “That means you’re not going to get the traditional student lifestyle while doing an apprenticeship – although you will be earning!” This said, apprenticeships are not limited to just university students or a certain skill level – they can be done by school leavers, graduates, existing employees or those simply wanting a career change.

In England, those aged 16 or over can start the following apprenticeships to achieve

their respective counterparts: intermediate (Level 2 – equivalent to GCSE), advanced (Level 3 – equivalent to A-level), higher (Levels 4 and 5 – equivalent to a foundation degree) and degree (Levels 6 and 7 – equivalent to a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree). Between 2019 and 2020, 47% of new apprentices were aged 25 or over.

Mr. Hepburn asserts, “The greatest benefit is that it allows people to study and work at the same time. This also means you are very likely to be offered a job by the company at the end of an apprenticeship.” He mentioned, as an example, representatives from AJ Bell and Virgin Media who visited the school for a talk about apprenticeships and who had worked in Project Management whilst earning good money and gaining a lot of valuable work experience.

One student in the Lower Sixth Form who attended this talk explained how it gave her an insight into what options are available to help her get to her goal: “It showed us where an apprenticeship could take us in business and finance.” When asked if it changed her mind on the traditional pathway of university, she said, “It didn’t fully change my mind, but it’s made me open to the different options I could choose for my future.”

But what are the downsides? Firstly, apprenticeships can be time-consuming. When interviewing Mr. Hepburn, he stated, “Apprenticeships can also take longer than a university degree – often 4-5 years before you get a degree.” Coupled with the fact that you’ll be bouncing between your workplace and university, an apprenticeship might not be for those who pine for the lifestyle of a traditional university student.

Our Careers Coordinator suggests you’d be best applying for an apprenticeship if you’re “clear about the career direction you want to go in and there are apprenticeships in that area. There are more and more of them and I’ve recently come across apprenticeships in areas such as law and radiography, but they are all aiming for a fixed career”, he continues. “If you’re more passionate about an academic subject such as history or are not sure about your career direction, university may be a better choice.”

The reality is that there is a limited choice of apprenticeships and certain careers may require additional qualifications, limiting your accessibility. I interviewed two other students who also attended the event hosted by Virgin Media and AJ Bell, who had different views: “I came in interested in a possible degree apprenticeship with an investment company like AJ Bell, but was hugely disappointed to find out they only offered a very small range of degree apprenticeships in some very niche fields,” one said.

“It wasn’t the most helpful thing for me, but I can understand why it’s helpful for others. They (AJ Bell) didn’t include what I was interested in. They had finance at level 4, but I want a degree (level 6-7)”, explained the other. As well as limited variation, starting an apprenticeship means you’ll bear larger responsibilities than your peers – getting to work on time, being on a schedule, managing your finances and completing daily work tasks may be a lot for a young adult, especially when you have shorter holidays.

When completing an apprenticeship, you get the 5.6 weeks national holiday allowance, as you would when working full-time. There is, however, intense competition for apprenticeships and the dropout rate in some cases can be high. This does not mean you have a low chance



## Employer Benefits

- Improved ability to attract and retain staff
- Increased individual sales effectiveness
- Drive overall sales team efficiency

## Learner Benefits

- Increased confidence in customer interactions
- Enhanced capability to deliver improved sales results



**67%**

of employers says that employing apprentices improved their image in the sector.\*



**97%**

of apprentices said their ability to do their job had improved.\*



**86%**

of employers said that apprentices helped to: develop relevant skills for the organization, and fill the skills gap.\*

\*gov.uk – Key facts about apprenticeships

of getting a place, it just means you have to be passionate in the field you have chosen to work in. There is no limit on the number of apprenticeship programmes you can apply to and, as they all have different skill levels, you can choose the one which suits your needs and interests best.

Starting an apprenticeship gives you the ability to learn new skills valued in the workplace, making you stand out from other applicants when job-searching. It will also allow you to transition into adult life where you’ll be dealing with personal, workplace and financial responsibilities. The biggest benefit must be working towards a degree whilst earning money.

Most applicants apply with this benefit in mind as it means you

can graduate debt-free. However, an apprenticeship is not for everyone. You would most likely benefit if you’re willing to take up the workload, have a specific job position in mind and would rather explore both the practical and theoretical side of your career. Now you know both sides of the coin, are you considering an alternative pathway to your future profession?

# Don't cry for me Bede's!

By Gray Corbett



*Continued from front page*

Born in 1919, Eva and her family were forced into poverty after her father abandoned them when she was only a year old. Ambitious and awe-stricken with tales of the big city, Eva ran away to Buenos Aires at 15 years old to pursue an acting career and by the age of 24, she was one of the highest paid radio actresses in the country.

In 1944 she met the politician Juan Perón and by October of the following year, they were married. She used her radio platform to support his presidential campaign, which he won in 1946, and so the poor girl from Junín became the nation's First Lady.

1947 brought the world famous 'Rainbow Tour' where Eva spent two months travelling Europe,

meeting heads of state and even the Pope! However, in 1950 Eva's health deteriorated and she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She succumbed to her illness on July 26th 1952, the radio announcement naming her "the spiritual leader of the nation".

Many skilled actresses have played Evita, most notably pop icon Madonna in the 1996 film adaptation. In our production, she was played by six different talents on alternating nights: young Eva, determined to go to Buenos Aires and be an actress (Amara/Jennah), actress Eva, a radio star starting to climb the power ladder (Lily/Francesca) and Eva Perón First Lady of Argentina (Robyn/Daisy).

After learning of her casting,

Robyn (who was exceptional as Cha Cha in 'Grease' in 2022) said, "I was so happy! It's my first big part and she's an incredible character to play." Determined to do the character justice, Robyn prepared by watching footage of Eva and trying to mimic her actions to be as close to the original as possible.

Upper Fifth's Lyndon also starred as revolutionary and narrator Che Guevara, who sees through the corrupt government and Eva. Angrily strutting the stage, Lyndon's Che offered a cynical commentary on Evita's rise to power and the adulation surrounding her. In total, around 60 students have worked incredibly hard, acting, dancing and singing in what was a spectacular show.

During rehearsals our thespians

took part in two amazing workshops with musical theatre professionals. The first was in early November with Andrew Lloyd Webber's vocal coach, Fiona McDougal, who helped them work on the sound quality and had individual sessions with the main cast.

The second workshop was with West End star Emma Hatton, who has actually played Evita! She helped the cast really think about their characters and their characters' purpose, performing 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' at the end of the workshop.

Taking on the advice from the experts, the production only increased in quality. Mr Dickson said he chose the musical because, "having seen the talent of the students when I saw 'Grease', I thought we could challenge them with something epic." With Miss Stark's choreography, Mr Davies' music help and Mr Mason behind the scenes, it was a performance to remember!

# PRIME: A sell-out or a scam?

By Kathryn Kennedy

*"Some also see the drink as just another cash grab used by influencers to exploit their young fanbases."*

**Editor Kathryn Kennedy investigates the mysterious truth behind the hugely popular 'PRIME' drink created by influencers KSI and Logan Paul.**

KSI and Logan Paul are internet giants whose online and in-person relationship has been turbulent and fraught with rivalry. 'Prime', their energy drink marketed at a young demographic, has now brought them together and supposedly 'ended' their feud for good, cementing their partnership in business.

KSI is a London-based Youtuber and influencer whose online presence has had a huge impact on internet content in recent years. His subscriber count is over 41

million. Logan Paul, a YouTuber and social media star with over 23 million subscribers, is based in Puerto Rico but is originally from the USA and, until 2021, lived in Los Angeles.

This collaboration has brought together these influencer giants and due to KSI's popularity in the UK and Logan Paul's in the US, it has united countries and fan bases to support the popularity of this drink. 'Prime' is currently being sold exclusively in supermarket Asda, giving it

major appeal to the fans wanting a taste of this new product.

However, there have been reports that Asda staff members have been secretly selling it to corner shops, newsagents and petrol stations - indeed, KSI touched on this subject in the podcast 'The Fellas', saying the "only place you are meant to get Prime is Asda and Arsenal stadium, but people are getting it in petrol stations." The actions of the Asda employees resorting to selling 'Prime' illegally demonstrates the popularity of this drink.

But what is Prime? It is a flavoured 'better-for-you hydration option' but the actual ingredients are coconut water, BCAA's (which in simple terms are amino acids which are sources of muscle energy), antioxidants, electrolytes and zinc. In short, it is a sports energy drink. It is pretty harmless with no added sugars and fewer harmful ingredients like artificial food dye, meaning it is healthier than other energy drinks, such as

Gatorade which has high levels of food dye and artificial sugars.

There is still a very limited supply of the drink in the UK, despite Logan Paul and KSI claiming there will be more soon. Logan Paul has confirmed that a Prime powder, or a 'flavour packet', is going to be released - a small packet of powder that when added to water, turns into Prime. This powder is not currently listed on the official Prime website and there is very little information about it other than Paul's statements. Paul states that "you can take it anywhere" and that you "put your flavour packet in a 16 oz bottle of water, shake it up, drink it." Could this be a way to try and tackle low-supply problems?

There are differing opinions on this drink, and some of our College's younger students think this hugely sought-after beverage isn't as good as it is made out to be. "I think it's quite overrated and it's overpriced," said a year nine student when asked about his

opinion on the drink. Some also believe that the only reason for its popularity is because of how it has been marketed - "Without the branding of Logan Paul and KSI it would be a corner shop drink," commented another year nine pupil. Could this prove that the drink is a scam and is only being sold due to its connections with these popular content creators?

The drink is definitely at the root of some controversy as some seem to love it as it sells out within hours, but some also see the drink as just another cash grab used by influencers to exploit their young fanbases. Either way, Logan Paul and KSI are profiting hugely from this simple drink that may not be worth all the hype.



## Books at Bede's

By Aaron Ankrah

*"Others were of the opinion that it was a glorious piece of proto-feminist literature highlighting the injustices women faced whilst depicting possibly the most passionate relationship ever written."*

**Writer Aaron Ankrah recounts his experience at the November Book Club meeting with Manchester Grammar School and Withington Girls School where the group discussed the critically acclaimed novel 'Wuthering Heights'.**

'Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.' This very famous, yet harrowing, line comes from one of literature's most acclaimed novels, Emily Brontë's 'Wuthering Heights'. In this line the novel's heroine Catherine Earnshaw describes the affinity she feels towards her almost abusive lover. This type of arduous love is expressed persistently throughout the novel as the story follows the tumultuous relations between her and Heathcliff and later their children's relationship. The two love stories, spanning decades and the Yorkshire Moors, have captured the attention of readers for over 175 years and on November 30th it was the topic of conversation at Withington Girls' school.

St. Bede's Sixth Form students gathered with Manchester Grammar School and Withington Girls' school students to discuss this timeless novel. As we all huddled together in the conference room 2 hours of rigorous academic discourse ensued. Some took the stance that the age-old novel was not a love story, but a story of abuse - an amoralistic text with no feminist intention, almost a 'car-crash' for us to view the horrors humans are capable of. Others were of the opinion that it was a glorious piece of proto-feminist literature highlighting the injustices women faced whilst depicting possibly the most passionate relationship ever written.

Regardless of the differing viewpoints, the night proved to be a huge success. Thanks to Mr Rose, Ms Pocas and Mr Howes, I - along with many other of my fellow Sixth-Formers - had the opportunity to gather with like-minded students from other schools. We were provided with a comfortable environment in which to discuss our passion for literature.

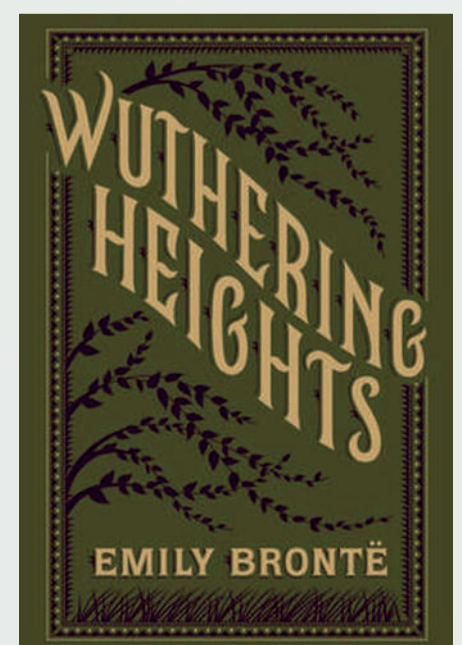
Kathryn Kennedy, a lower-sixth English student, commented, "It was great to have a discussion with other students and teachers about one book so we can hear each other's opinions. It really offered a wide opportunity to discover more about literature and it was a fun place to meet new people."

Kathryn will be leading our next book club session, on 7th February, where we will be discussing 'Circe' by Madeline Miller. The highly acclaimed novel is a retelling of 'The Odyssey', from the perspective of the witch, Circe. 'Circe' is another novel that many of us are very passionate about, so it should be no surprise that we cannot wait for our next discussion!

Thankfully, our librarian (Ms Pocas) has ensured we will not have to wait too long for another literary debate. She will lead a session on the 10th of February where staff and Sixth Formers will discuss 'Milkman' by Anna Burns. The Booker-winning novel is set during the

Troubles and is a slow-burning psychological piece of historical fiction. It follows an 18 year old girl as she is harassed by a dangerous individual, referred to as 'Milkman'. Following the success of the previous Staff and Sixth Form Book Club, we are all eager for the next meeting. All those who attended the last discussion of Naomi Alderson's feminist novel 'Power' had nothing but positive things to say about the book.

It is clear that St Bede's is the place to be for anyone who loves to read! There are innumerable opportunities to discuss great novels with people who care about them as much as you do.



# Newspaper Quiz

**Q1.) Who did Will Smith slap at the Oscars?**

- Chris Rock
- Taylor Swift
- Kanye West
- Chris Brown

**Q2.) Which female artist had all of her songs as the top 10 billboard spots?**

- Camilla Cabello
- Beyonce
- Taylor Swift
- Selena Gomez

**Q3.) What was the most watched film in 2022?**

- Top Gun: Maverick
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
- Avatar: The Way of Water
- Stranger Things

**Q4.) Which country won the most gold and total number of medals at the Winter Olympics in Beijing?**

- USA
- Germany
- Norway
- France

**Q5.) How many days did Liz Truss spend as Prime Minister?**

- 2 years
- 3 months
- 8 months
- 45 days

**Q6.) Which social media platform became the most downloaded app in 2022?**

- Tik Tok
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Snapchat

**Q7.) Just Stop Oil activists threw soup at which famous piece of artwork?**

- Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa
- Vincent Van Gogh's Sunflowers
- Sandro Botticelli's The Birth of Venus
- Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night

**Q8.) Which Jubilee did Queen Elizabeth II celebrate in June of 2022?**

- Diamond
- Silver
- Platinum
- Gold

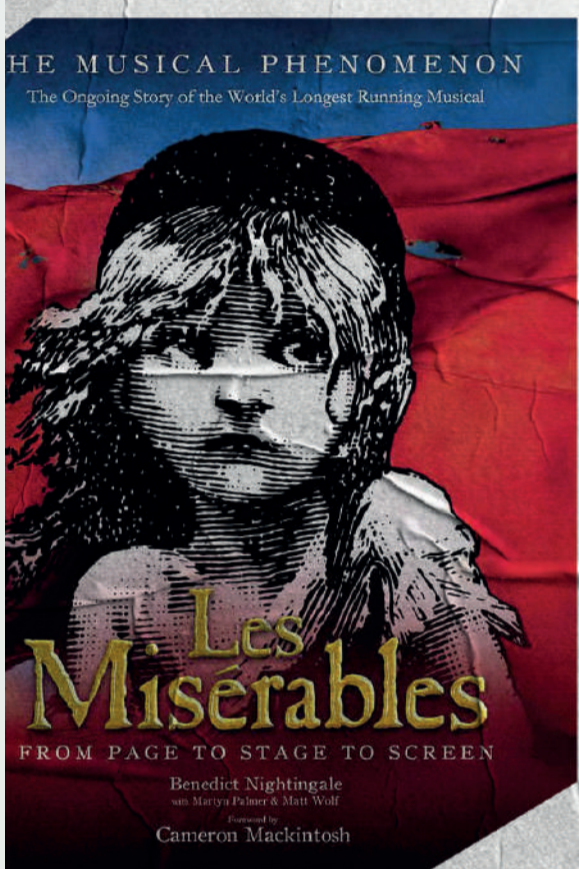
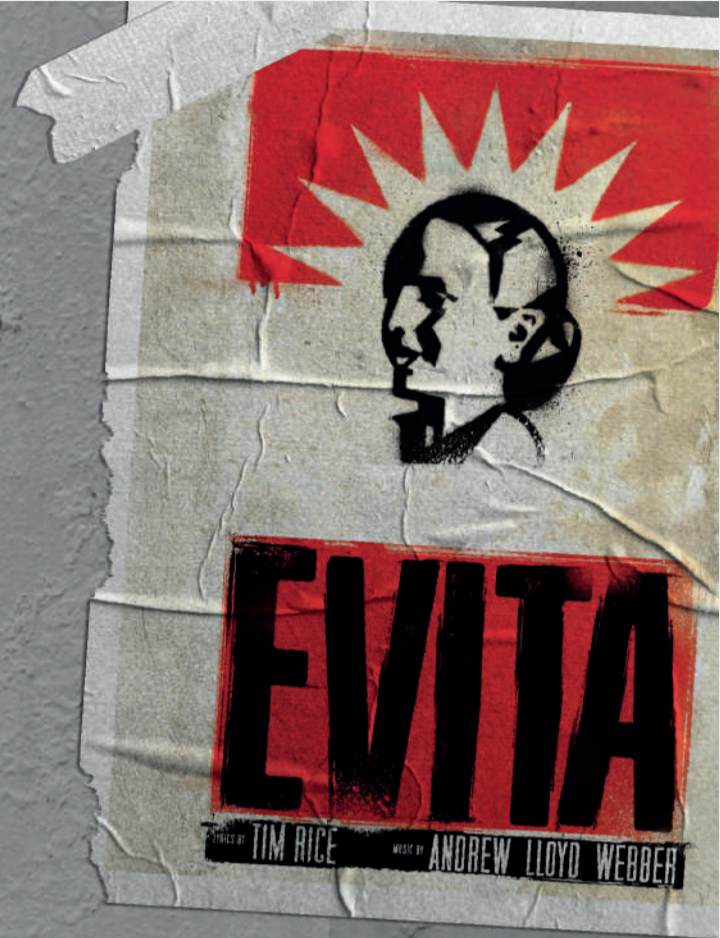
**Q9.) What is Liz Truss' real first name?**

- Deborah
- Elizabeth
- Eve
- Mary

**Q10.) How old was Queen Elizabeth II when she died?**

- 86
- 95
- 102
- 96

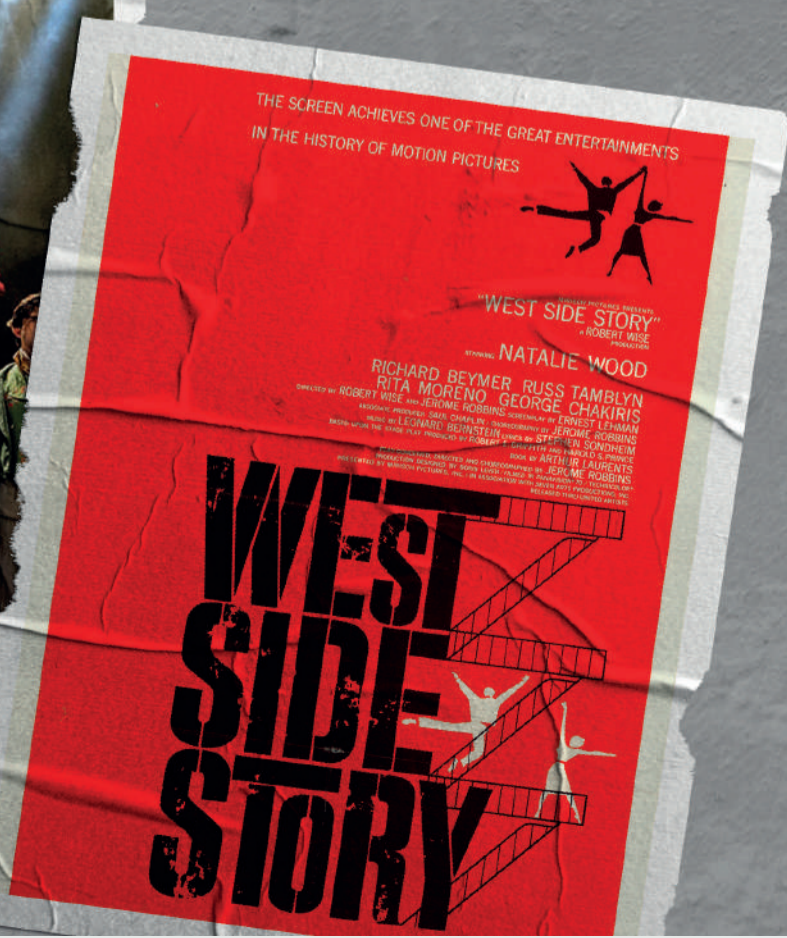




# One Night Only

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