



**BALES COLLEGE
NEWS**

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2023

ART

LANDSCAPES



House among the trees by Tamara Batshon Y10



by

Regent's Canal
Henry Dinh Y12

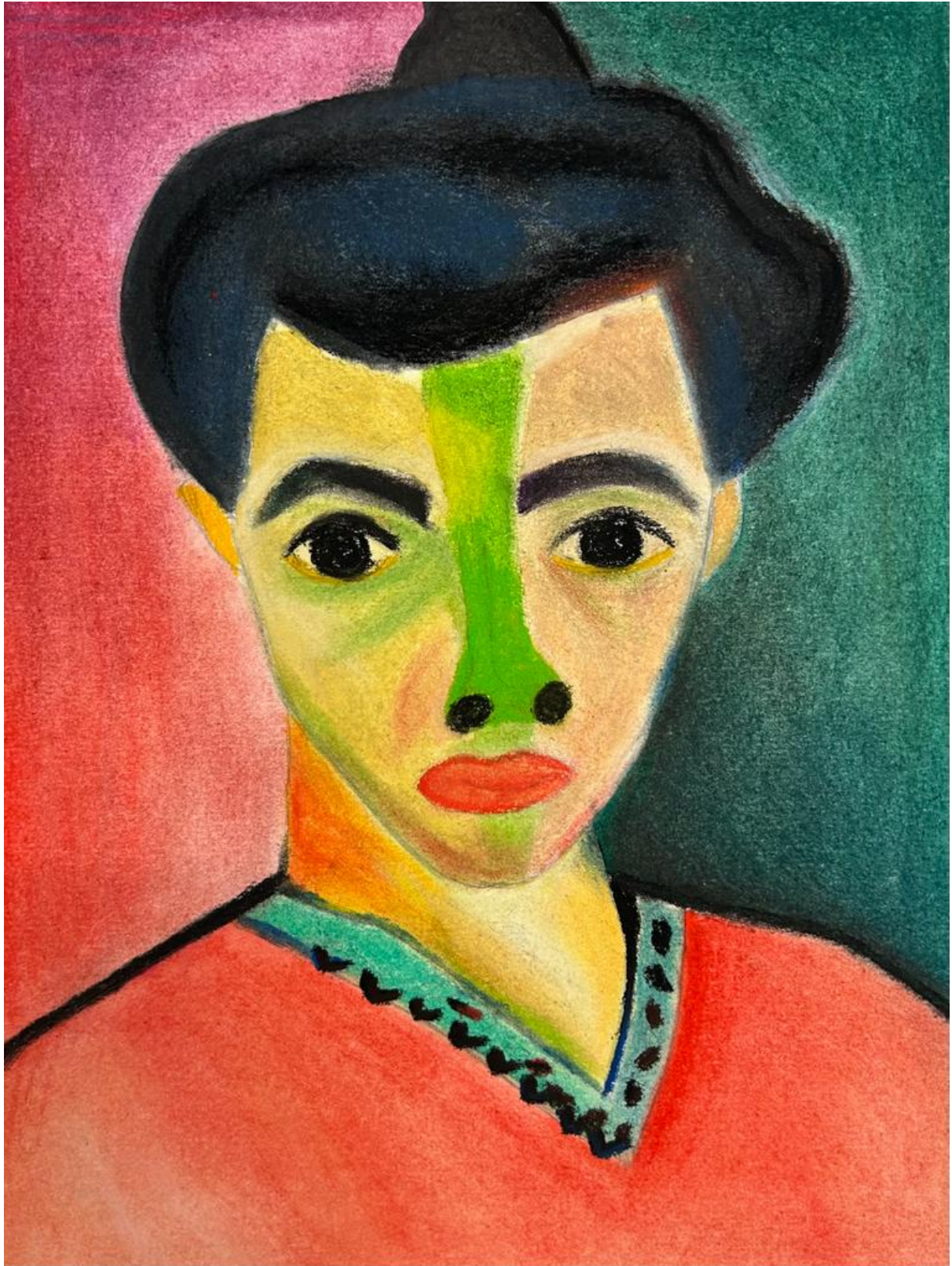
PORTRAITS



After Picasso by Shengrui Xi Y11



Portrait by Rea Kuci Yll



After Matisse by Bao Linh Y12

CREATIVE WRITING

Pieces written in October 2023 by Year 10 students:

Lusara Hewage, Ewuradjoa Sackey, Olivia McAllister, Conor Jay, Haroon Khan, Siddiq Mukhtar

BECOMING ONE IN A SEA OF MANY

In the heart of the city, where the buildings were drowned by the sky and the streets hummed with a ceaseless energy, I found myself swept up in a sea of humanity. It was as if the pulse of life itself reverberated through the pavement, coursing through the veins of every passer-by.

The crowd was a kaleidoscope of faces, each one a story waiting to be told. There were hurried commuters, faces buried in their devices, lost in the digital world; beside them walked the dreamers, heads tilted toward the skyline, their gaze fixed on some distant horizon.

The cacophony of voices formed a symphony of urban life, the rhythm of footsteps creating a steady percussion. Amidst all of this, I felt both insignificant and alive. I was a mere drop in the ocean of humanity, yet there was a certain freedom.

The odour of street food mingled with exhaust fumes, creating a strangely comforting urban aroma. Faces passed in a blur, each one a fleeting connection. A shared smile, a momentary glance, an accidental brush of shoulders - brief encounters that spoke volumes in their brevity. I realized that in this sea of souls, we were all bound by the same current of existence.

As the city's heartbeat pulsed around me, I revelled in the flow of this living, breathing Earth. It was a reminder that, no matter what the chaos and clamour, there was a beauty in the shared experience of existence, in being a part of this magnificent, bustling crowd.

Lusara Hewage

CRISIS

As she stood there, facing the judge with slightly trembling legs, and a sense of nerves kicking in which she somehow managed to control, D.A Miller took a deep breath, ready to present her closing statement; a statement which would hold part of the weight of the final decision to be made in terms of finding the defendant, Maxwell Sawyer guilty or not guilty. She clasped her hands behind her back, fingers interlocking as she braved herself and took a step forward, not before turning her head to glance at the family of the victim, whose life ended at the hands of the defendant. She could see the pain and anger in their eyes, aching to see justice for their loved one. In an instant her nerves were replaced with confidence and composure, determined to make sure they got the justice they deserved.

Turning to address the jury, D.A Miller's voice echoed through the room as she began her closing statement, carrying the weight of truth and justice as she laid out the evidence against Sawyer piece by piece, highlighting his guilt, the forensic evidence and motive, leaving no room for reasonable doubt in order to leave a solid foundation for a guilty verdict. With every word, she could feel the eyes of the jury on her, their attention rapt. She began to feel the verdict was very likely to be in her favour. As she concluded, her final words lingered in the air, the weight of them hanging heavy as all eyes were fixed on her, the room filled with complete silence. You could hear the proverbial pin drop.

As she took her seat, the defense attorney, Mickey Taylor known for his cunning tactics, rose to his feet, ready to challenge the prosecution's theory. He questioned the validity of each piece of evidence, offered alternative theories, and painted a picture of

reasonable doubt, something D. A Miller thought would be impossible for him to do after what she had presented to the jury. With every argument he made, he masterfully sowed seeds of doubt in the jurors' minds, a mix of contemplation and intrigue in their eyes.

Pulling a sudden move, the defence requested to be allowed to present new evidence, calling up a surprise witness. Miller objected to this because of limited time to prepare for cross examination. The judge allowed it however, as the defence claimed it was newly found information crucial to the innocence of the client.

Dr. Brown was then called to the stand. He gave a live demonstration of how it was



impossible for someone who is 5'5", like the defendant, to have murdered the victim, and that whoever did it had to have been at least 5'9 or above in order to generate enough force to hit the victim on the back of the head hard enough to kill him, since blunt force trauma was the cause of death.

Gasps and murmurs of disbelief swept through the courtroom as the jury and spectators were now left uncertain of the accused murderer's guilt.

D.A. Miller's confident posture wavered as she struggled to comprehend the implications of this newfound evidence.

And her case, which she once thought was solid, began to unravel, her heart sinking at the thought of the possibility of the hard work she had put into this being for nothing.

Asked if she would like to cross examine, she stated that the prosecution rested and had no questions for the witness as the demonstration shown by Dr Brown was too powerful for her to challenge. The judge ordered a recess for the jury to reach their final decision.

Hours passed like an eternity, as everyone waited for the jury to come back with a verdict. D.A Miller anxiously awaited their decision, her belief in the justice system tested like never before. The victim's family sat in nerve-racking silence, their hopes for closure hanging by a thread.

Finally, the jury returned, their faces unreadable. The judge asked the foreperson to announce the verdict. Miller took a deep breath, hoping her efforts would be enough to secure a guilty verdict as the foreperson said, in a voice wavering with a very slight sense of uncertainty, "We, the jury, find the defendant..."

To be continued....

Ewuradjoa Okyir-Sackey

THE BATTLE OF WHO WAS LOUDER

It was my birthday and the gift I had been waiting for had finally arrived. It was a ticket to the Tottenham game. I was overjoyed as I had never been to a Tottenham game before and this was going to be my first time.

The day had come and it was time for me to go to the game. I grabbed my Tottenham Shirt and left for the stadium. I was really excited. When I got on the train it was packed. I felt like I was in an airtight room. Once we got to the stadium we had dinner before the match. For dinner we had three options: mash, fish or curry. I picked the fish.

After we had dinner it was time for the game. It was Tottenham vs Liverpool. The match had started and I instantly felt that I was a part of the game, like I was on the pitch. Tottenham supporters were chanting, then Liverpool fans; it felt like it was a battle of who was louder. In the first twenty minutes Curtis Jones had been given a red card - Liverpool fans were not

happy, but Tottenham fans were laughing - including me. Once Tottenham had scored I was ecstatic and cheering with the other Tottenham supporters. I was cheering so loud that my throat started to hurt but that didn't matter, I just kept cheering until everyone else had stopped.

Whenever there was a goal it felt like the stadium was shaking from the roars of the crowd, it was like I was on another planet. The crowd was cheering even when there was not anything going on. After the game they started playing songs as we had won; the crowd was singing like it was their last time. After we had left the stadium to go back home there was still cheering; everyone was jumping. It felt like the floor was shaking. Even on the train people were still celebrating. That was my experience in a crowd.

Conor Jay

THE SILENT WAR

Teachers will say that I have been slow and wrong and have not tried, but all I saw was my teacher. Someone to respect. When battles were fought behind closed doors between my parents and my teachers, I could neither comment to my oppressor nor thank my defenders. In the haze of concealment my anger grew in the dark, neither noticed nor bidden. I could not act.

I was frozen in my ignorance, yet resentment is noticeable even in the powerless. I was not disruptive. My dictator had no more evidence than my peers; the ripples my anger disturbed were not responded to. Though my allies greatly outnumber my enemies, eventually their cries blurred the already fuzzy lines of truth. I began to doubt myself. Was this my fault?

NO! I am neurodiverse and that doesn't make me stupid. What I suffered is wrong! Yet compared to the repetitive years of neglect and outrageous abuse of the generations past, it is getting better because we fight for the right to education. I have silently endured

indifference and have unwillingly slipped through the cracks, but just because I fought in silence doesn't mean my battle cries were not heard, because come the day when they say that I am broken, I need not be silent any longer. I will and have righted their assumptions.

I did stay quiet. I was polite, but I did fight. The more allies I have the smaller the opposition; every class I enter, I think friend or foe? So I ask you: will you ease my burden or force on me a heavier load? This is the war I fight. I hope to have you by my side.

Olivia McAllister

GRANNY SLAVE STORY

In 1803, Granny was born, she lived in Lagos, Nigeria. She dealt with lots of people trying to get slaves.

Granny lived in a mansion, as she lived in a rich family selling oil. The mansion was as big as a giant. Granny's parents were called Apple, because they sold lots of apples and berries. Granny was very scared to see people from her town violently taken away. She was also scared that they would whip you if you didn't listen to them.

In 1864, Granny got captured; she screamed for help, but no one helped. This old lady was forced onto a boat, she was forced to lie down. Her hands and feet were tied very tightly. Granny was really missing her home as days passed. Granny and the other slaves were all wounded and then splashed with salt water. Then they were oiled to make them look good to sell.

Granny arrived finally and was then auctioned and sold - for fifteen dollars. The owner of Granny tied her up and forced her to do house jobs. While Granny was doing the jobs, she was tortured and whipped.

One night, Granny found a way to escape. She crawled through the vents and escaped but she had to look white to be able to live there.

She found some white paint outside a shop and used it.

Granny ran away and slept in the bushes. She killed all the people that tried to get slaves and found an empty boat to escape and go back. She found a map and compass and went in a westerly direction and finally made it back. The town was empty, but Granny's family had escaped the people.

Haroon Khan

SWARMING THE STADIUM

The air was electric as I found myself in the midst of a sea of red jerseys and scarves, surrounded by passionate Liverpool fans at Anfield. It was a chilly night. I had managed to score myself a ticket to the UEFA Champions



League semi-final match between the Mighty Reds and the 'Culés' from Barcelona. This was my first live football experience of this magnitude.

As I went to my allocated seat, I could see all the fans swarming the stadium like pigeons to breadcrumbs. The atmosphere was nothing short of incredible. The well-known anthem, 'You'll never walk alone' echoed throughout the stadium, sending shivers down my spine. I was mesmerised by the passion and energy of the crowd and I couldn't help but join in, singing along with the thousands of others. Suddenly, I could feel a sense of vibration in my seat. Violins playing struck a melodic tune. As the LFC anthem echoed through the famous Kop stand, the Liverpool players lined themselves in an orderly fashion.

As the referee blew his whistle to signal the start of the match, the Liverpool players immediately had an electric start. The lads were pressing hard to overcome a 3-0 deficit from the first leg. The crowd's energy was unwavering. Every tackle, every shot and every save was met with roars of approval and groans of frustration. I was caught up in the emotions of the moment, feeling like a true part of the Liverpool family.

Then the magic happened. Divock Origi scored an early goal for Liverpool, and the stadium erupted into a frenzy. I felt that I was floating on a wave of pure joy and excitement, hugging strangers and high-fiving everyone around me. The impossible was looking quite possible as a glimmer of hope flashed in our minds.

As the game progressed, Trent Alexander-Arnold's precise corner kick set up another goal, and the roar from the crowd could have been heard from across the city. Barca looked stunned, Liverpool's spirit was unbreakable. The fans were on their feet, their voices reaching a deafening crescendo.

It was the last ten minutes of the match, Georginio Wijnaldum scored, levelling the aggregate score at 3-3. The stadium erupted into bedlam, and I found myself caught in a whirlwind of emotions. Tears of joy streamed down my face, experiencing this unforgettable moment together with thousands of others. With four minutes to spare, Trent Alexander-Arnold crossed and the ball landed a Origi's feet; he scored his second goal of the night. Anfield turned into a thunderous explosion of cheers and chants. We were on the brink of an astonishing comeback, and it felt like I was dreaming.

When the final whistle blew, Liverpool had done the impossible, overwhelming a 3-goal deficit to win 4-0 triumphantly. History was written once again for this historic club.

Siddiq Mukhtar

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP: OCTOBER



Year 11 Geographers left early for a field trip to the Hive Centre, led by Miss Bloor.

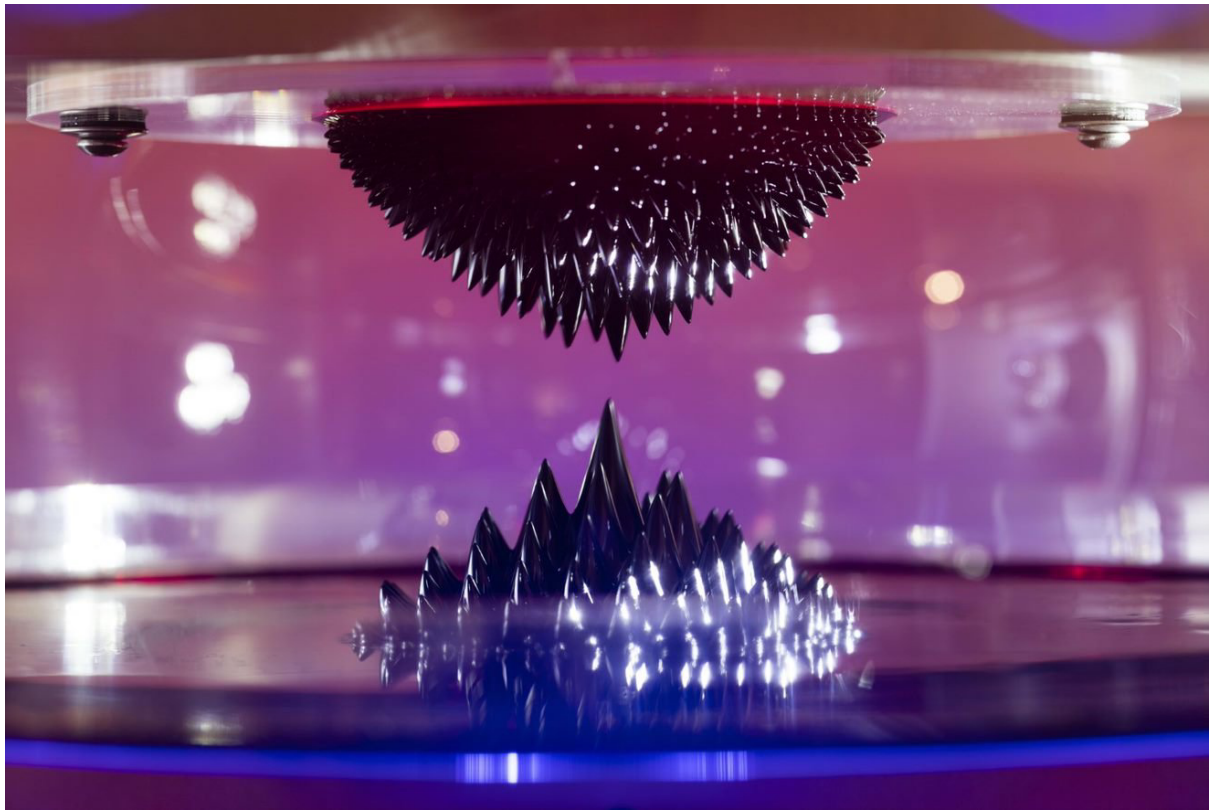
This was a required activity for the GCSE course, but that did not mean there were not some surprises - (see the snake!)



SCIENCE TRIP: WONDERLAB AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM – YEAR 8 & 9

Yesterday, October 19th, we went to the science museum by 52 bus and got off at the Royal Albert Hall. When we arrived we went inside the museum and explored the technical exhibition.

The trip was very interesting and we learnt a lot about technicians and how anyone from whatever background they are from can become one. I enjoyed the game which helped me understand technology and medicine.



The trip was fun and very interesting. We learnt about many things like: technicians, pharmacists, medicine, film and many more. In each area there would be mini games that you could play about a specific subject. I really enjoyed this trip.

I personally think the trip was fun. Exploring the museum was exciting and the mood was relaxing. I learnt how fun science is and the activities were enjoyable. Thank you to Miss Barbu for taking us.

Jacob, Betel, Siti, Yusuf. Year 8

Spanish GCSE – how much do you understand?

Hola, yo me llamo Hector, yo vivo en Londres. La Capital de Inglaterra . Yo tengo dieciséis años. Me gusta mucho leer. ¡Me encantan los libros! Mi libro favorito es Doce mil Kilómetros debajo del mar. Este libro es muy divertido. Es de Jules Verne. Él vivía en Francia hace doscientos años en el pasado. También, me gusta mucho hacer deportes. Esto es porque es bueno para mi salud y para mi cuerpo. Me gusta el Kickboxing. Esto porque me gusta entrenar mis músculos y mi físico

Hector Zigliotti Year 11

English texts

Y9 have been reading 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night', a story about a boy that suffers with autism in his later life.

Alaite writes her response here:

"I'm now thirty years but my life has become worse. I'm still in uni since I joined going after I moved out to try and fit in with the 'cool kids'! I started drinking and I was drinking a lot! Going to parties was an everyday thing for me. I've had more roommates than parties I've been to. I haven't been in contact with my Mother and Father since I would just ignore all of their calls. I know that's a bad thing to do that but I don't feel like talking to them. Sandy (my dog) passed away five years ago due to starvation. I neglected sandy and I was going to give him to mother and father but I thought it would be weird to show up with Sandy after all the years that I've ignored them. I'm studying medicine now and I want to focus on myself more. I still carry my Swiss Army knife just in case since I was in a gang and people are out for me. I don't understand medicine and I don't even know my prime numbers any more. "

Alaite Mahray Year 9

A Level: Economics

Many students consider economics as an A level choice and eventual career.

Jordan Littlewood's piece on contestability gives an idea of the challenges involved.

Question:

Evaluate the macroeconomic and microeconomic impact of increased contestability in the U.K. industries such as telecommunications, food manufacturing and food retailing.

Contestability refers to the ease with which new firms are able to enter and exit a market. Within this type of market there are very low or no barriers to entry and also no sunk costs, sunk costs being those that cannot be recovered later down the line. Another way to explain contestability is through a diagram:

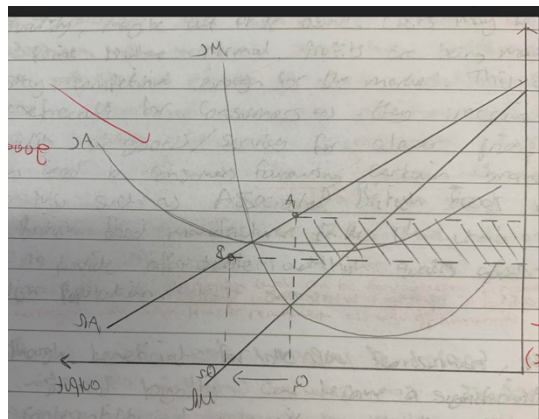


diagram:

This diagram shows supernormal profits in a non-contestable market. If the market was a monopoly, you would see firms maximising profits at P1 (point A). However, if it is a contestable market, due to freedom of entry and exit in and out of the market, the existing firms are provided with an incentive to cut costs to P2 (point B) to keep ahead of any new competition that enters the market. New entrants will continue to enter the market until normal profits are achieved, which is due to firms taking advantage of the supernormal profits and utilising the hit and run strategy.

One impact of an increased contestability market is that due to the low barriers to enter and exit you will expect to see an increase in the amount of competition entering the market. Due to this increase in competition, existing firms will try to find ways to avoid X-inefficiency, cut costs, or improve quality, maybe all of the above (overall, becoming more productive and efficient in their production). Costs may be cut to a point to where normal profits are being made to stay competitive enough for the market. This is beneficial for consumers as they receive higher quality of goods/services for a lower price, this can lead to consumers favouring certain brands who do this such as Associated British Foods who are a British food manufacturer in the U.K. who's mission is to produce affordable and high-quality goods for the British population.

Although beneficial for the U.K. consumers, the potential increase in brand loyalty and become a significant determinant of contestability and can either make the market more or less competitive. If a small firm is able to achieve this they will be able to compete with the larger firms which increases competition. On the other hand, if a large firm grows their brand loyalty, small firms will find themselves with a barrier to enter into the market and, hence decreasing contestability.

Another outcome of the increased contestability is the development of strategies by larger firms to create barriers to enter so that they can prevent new entrants from entering the market. One firm who did this was Amazon when they exploited their workers and exclusivity they had of the Kindle along with the large market share and strong buying power to lower prices very low, taking short term losses to increase long term revenue. This is called predatory pricing, which is when a firm lowers their prices, so low that other firms are unable to sustain themselves and have to leave the market. Food manufacturers have the ability to do this as well if they vertically integrate backwards to develop new technology or production methods so that they have control over their production services as well as distribution. The new methods may produce the ability to massively lower costs in the short run due to increased efficiency, taking a loss to then increase revenue in the long run.

The control of important technology or production can cause creative destruction, leading to the collapse of current existing markets and creating a new market in which that firm has the advantage. This will result in contestability decreasing. To make sure the market doesn't become a monopoly, legislations are put in place to prevent tactics such as predatory pricing, slowing or stopping the decrease in contestability.

If contestability increases there will be some incentive to innovate and invent new methods be technology to keep up with the amount of competition flooding the market. This will help technology improve as well as the invention of new more efficient methods of production however, this can lead into employment being affected. Within the food manufacturing industry, a lot of processes are becoming automated if they haven't already. This causes a decrease in demand for the labour-intensive jobs and a more specialised, qualified person is required and not so many when compared to the labourers. This again is creative destruction as the labour market will shrink for food manufacturers and the automation will be quicker, more efficient and can be run without the need of a break. This will have a positive impact on the production of a firm but at the cost of the workers well-being and employment. If this happens though out the industry in some capacity, the total GDP will decrease as the amount produced in relation to the number of people in the country will fall.

Along with the improvement in technology, there will be sunk costs that will be required as the machinery is specialised for one industry and therefore may be hard to recoup costs if required. Depending on the level of innovation, this may be a barrier to entry for new entrants if automated systems are created as new entrants will not only find it hard to acquire the technology but also the specialised staff needed to operate it.

An increase in contestability may lead to an increase in market share of imports. This is because trade can be very important in increasing competition, if there are such things as free trade agreements put in place so that import tariffs will be lower, the import quota will promote contestability as existing firms will see threats both domestically and internationally. This will cause a fall in the current account of balance of payments and also a fall in aggregate demand. This consequence will force domestic firms to increase in all areas such as costs, productivity, quality, advertising and many more to sustain themselves in the market. Within the U.K. we import around 46% of all consumed food within the county, which is close to half of all food consumer. This is a large market share to miss out on from s firms perspective, therefore innovation and other strategies will be spoken about so they can claw back their percentage of the market share.

Overall, I think that where there is a contestable market the consumers will most likely be the ones to benefit as all firms will be trying to grab their attention and try to influence their purchasing decisions so that they buy their own goods/services. This can be done with lower prices or higher quality as well as other strategies however in all of them the consumer is the one who benefits. The competition that is created in a contestable market is what makes these outcomes a possibility to be considered.

Jordan Littlewood Year 13

Assemblies

The weekly assembly is held in St John's church which provides a bright but serious setting.

A range of topics has been addressed this term, including:

1. The importance of passion and determination, emotions which drive the desire for knowledge and success, culminating in the presenting of certificates to students who had participated in the science competition organised by CERN. During the weeks before the summer break, there was a group of eight students who pursued their interest in science by taking part in a schools challenge run by an organisation called Beamline based in Geneva.
Winners included: Vonley Joseph, Alya Nasheed, Erin Kuci, current members of the Sixth Form and Year 11.
2. An assembly on the relationship between maths and music, commencing with an outstanding piano rendition of 'L'Orage', played by Daniel Ehsan of Y13. Aida and Temi of Y 12 read poems showing different aspects of the way that storms can be represented through the words of Emily Dickinson and Theodore Roethke.
The power of the storm represented in the music was a tour de force and led to thinking about the power of nature.
3. How music can be connected to maths formed the basis of thinking about the great mathematicians down the ages, and the different areas that have been created, from Pythagoras and geometry to algebra to the more recent code breaking by Alan Turing.
It was also revealed that there is a special music created by the rubbing together of the planets and stars in orbit, called the 'Music of the Spheres'.
4. Approaching the assessments week, thought was given to all the different ways in which humans assess themselves in daily life from the driving test to the eye test, blood test, software test – the list of tests we perform in or undergo is increasing all the time. Of course, students were given advice on how to prepare for their own assessments!
5. The history of medicine was given full consideration, exploring some of the major advances that have advanced the way we live and our attitudes towards health. Four members of Year 11 read examples of these major innovations – Hayfa Ahmed, Rubie Vincent, Hla Ammar and Alya Nasheed.
6. Another topic given time was the importance of 'respect' in school, but also in life generally. Consideration was given to the need for respect of each other in school and thinking about how that affects our behaviour and the way we go about things. The Bales College motto begins with 'Respect' and we consider it an essential element of our school society – that we should all treat each other with respect.

Upcoming

Dates for the next half term

8	30 th October			
9	6 th November	7 th November 9 th November	Parents Evening: Y9 + 10 Parents evening: Y7 + 8	4.00 – 6.30 p.m. Feedback on half term assessments 4.00 – 6.30 p.m. Feedback on half term assessments
10	13 th November			
11	20 th November		Send out revision material for assessments	Exam timetable issued
12	27 th November			
13	4 th December	5 th – 7 th December	Exams 7-11 + 12 Mock exams 11 + 13	
14	11 th December	13 th December	Parents Evening: 11, 12, 13	4.00 – 6.30 p.m. Feedback on mock exams/ assessments
		15 th December	End of term: 3.15 p.m.	

Extra-curricular

We are planning to run extra-curricular activities for Years 7 – 10 on Friday afternoon from 3.15 to 4.00 p.m.

Students will choose from a range of activities including chess, science, table tennis, gardening, and board games.

However, those whose behaviour has been below expectations will spend their time in Study Club.

Although the lunch period is very short, we also plan to run some of the clubs during the second part of lunch.