Hugh Jackman and Taron Egerton star in Eddie The Eagle – in cinemas from Friday. Tamzin Outhwaite opens in How The Other Half Loves at the Theatre Royal Haymarket on Thursday. And the Pet Shop Boys’ new album Super is released on Friday.

The Definite Article

We ask a celebrity a set of devilish questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: writer and broadcaster Gyles Brandreth

The prized possession you value above all others... My Winnie the Pooh. I collect cuddly bears and have over 1,000. This one’s special because I wrote a musical play about AA Milne called Now We Are Sixty in 1986 with the composer Julian Slade, who gave me the bear. Milne’s son, the real Christopher Robin, liked the play and we became friends.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I’ve always lacked physical courage. I even get nervous on aeroplanes.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Oxford English Dictionary. Language is what makes humans unique and English is the world’s richest.

The priority activity if you lacked physical courage... I’d go to the Kremlin in Moscow and find out about an English valet who ends up working for rich Americans in the US.

The person who has influenced you most... My wife Michèle. I’ve been listening to her words of wisdom since 1968, although I’ve not always paid complete attention! She has the greatest integrity of anyone I know.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Don’t dabble, focus. If you want to achieve anything you need to concentrate.

The temptations you wish you could resist... Cake, especially coffee and walnut.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I collect statues on my iPhone – whenever I see one I take a photo and learn its history. I’m ready for a statue to be made of me.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My hair. As a Tory MP for Chester from 1992-1997, I say that I went grey for John Major and then bald for William Hague.

The film you can watch time and time again... Ruggles Of Red Gap from 1935, starring Charles Laughton. It’s a comedy about an English valet who ends up working for rich Americans in the US.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Meeting Michèle when she auditioned for Cinderella in a production I was putting on at Oxford University. I offered her a part in the chorus and to take her for a Chinese meal. She told me what I could do with the chorus part, but said yes to the meal. It was the best one shilling and sixpence I’ve ever spent.

The undying quest that drives you on... To explore new things. So much interests me, yet there’s so little time.

The song that means most to you... The Hokey Cokey because it sums me up perfectly. I can never make up my mind about anything! "In. Out. Shake it all about" – that’s me!

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... The Plug... Gyles’s one-man celebration of the English language, Word Power!, is touring from 2 April. Visit gylesbrandreth.net. As told to Rob McGibbon

The four BGT judges reveal what’s in store for the show’s tenth birthday... Delicious recipes from the National Trust cook book... PLUS Britain’s best TV listings guide

PS...