



# THE TORCH

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Able, Active and Qualified  
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

## SPONSORED WALK 2018



On Friday 13th July, staff and students donned their walking boots and took to the fields in the school's annual sponsored walk, aiming to raise money to be spent on student rewards for the next academic year.

After the recent spell of uninterrupted sunshine, it was a relief to see the morning of the walk dawn with overcast skies and a cooler temperature. The odd splatter of rain earlier in the day caused a little consternation, but the rain held out to give good walking conditions—not too cold and certainly not too hot—until near the end of the walk, and when the skies finally did open, the soaked walkers ploughed on undeterred.

As usual, students began the day in lessons for Periods 1, 2 and part of 3, and then had an early lunch before

returning to tutors to excitedly await the beginning of the walk. Once dismissed, they headed to Hooper Stand, passing through various marshal points and navigating roads with the help of the police, taking in the scenic views and some rather parched and cracked earth. In total, the walk took between an hour and half to two hours—depending on the chosen speed of walkers.

Organiser, Mr Lines, said: "The walk went very smoothly on Friday. Thanks to everyone who worked together to ensure it was a real success."

The overall total raised from the walk has yet to be calculated. If you need to hand in your sponsorship money, please do so as soon as possible.

### Candy Wordsearch

Alex Burrows and Anna Gray, Year 7

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| CADBURY   | GALAXY    | OREOS    |
| CHOCOLATE | GUMMYBEAR | REESES   |
| COOKIES   | HARIBOS   | SKITTLES |
| DONUTS    | LOLLIPOP  | SNICKERS |
| DRUMSTICK | NERDS     |          |

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

Return your solved puzzle to Miss Taylor for three merits.

# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the end of the school year is almost upon us, it is an appropriate time to reflect on our achievements this year. We are, of course, proud of all of our students' achievements and throughout the year the concerts, Movement Evening, dance shows, drama productions, sports successes, Sports Awards Evening and DofE expeditions have given us the opportunity to celebrate the wealth of talent of our students, as evidenced in the recent end of year Celebration Assemblies. In the recent Rotherham Young Musician of the Year competition, Sienna Thorpe played extremely well and Kirin Howat came 2nd. These are great achievements considering that they were competing against students up to 18 years of age.

With regards to summer sports, we have generally had a good season, competing in Rotherham Schools and English Schools athletics events across Years 7-10. We have averaged around 60 students per event, by far the best in Rotherham. There were notable successes with us retaining the prestigious Inter-Schools competition against Wickersley, Dinnington and Maltby at the Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster and the Year 7/8 boys qualified for the regional English Schools cup and finished a creditable 3rd against mainly private schools. There were also individual successes with 38 Rotherham Championship medallists (15 golds, 10 silvers and 13 bronze). We also had 19 students selected to represent Rotherham schools at the South Yorkshire Championships: the second best in Rotherham. As a result of this, Kristie Archer (Year 10) and Billie-Jo Harris (Year 13) qualified for the English schools final.

In rounders, the highlight was our Y7 squad finishing as runners-up in the Rotherham finals while our mixed rounders squad made it through to the regional rounds and recently played in Leicester, representing the school with credit. At cricket, all 4 teams (Years 7-10) have enjoyed success this year. We have strong numbers and a really good Wath team ethos throughout, with all teams playing with great sportsmanship and enjoying taking part. All teams have won more games than they have lost; unfortunately 3 of the teams lost in the semi-final of the Rotherham Cup to strong opponents, however, our Year 9s made it to the final by winning 3 cup games.

In terms of individual successes - Luke Breedon (Year 7) is the South Yorkshire ball throw champion and new South Yorkshire record holder, Kristie Archer is the South Yorkshire long jump champion and qualified for the National Championships and Billie-Jo Harris also qualified for the National Athletics Championships.

The last few weeks of term have been very busy and the recent Year 11 and Year 13 Proms are certainly among the highlights of the year. Both were a huge success, enjoyed by students and the many staff who attended.

As always, the end of year brings some sadness as we say goodbye to staff who are leaving to take up new posts elsewhere, for promotion or relocation, and also to pursue other avenues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank

them all for the positive contributions they have made to Wath Comprehensive School and wish them every success in the future. In particular, Mr Riddle and Mr Lowiss are retiring from Science, as Head of Chemistry and Head of Physics respectively, and Mr Powell is retiring as Deputy Headteacher and teacher of Economics. We very much appreciate all they have done for the school and wish them well for their future interests.

I would also like to pay tribute to Irene Hartley MBE, who is retiring after 35 years on the Governing Body of the school, the last 32 of which she has been Chair of Governors. This amount of voluntary service is exceptional and her calm but determined eye will certainly be missed; however, I know she will remain a keen supporter of the school.

Of course, none of the extra activities in the school could occur without a very committed group of staff. We are working very hard to implement improvement plans to ensure every student makes the maximum possible amount of progress. We have a governing body who remain absolutely committed to our students having the very best educational experience. We are already looking forward to making even further improvements in our external examination results this summer. I am very proud to be working with such a committed group of people and I am confident that the school will continue to develop and continue to enjoy success in the years to come.

As we fast approach the summer holiday, the school is looking forward to joining the Maltby Learning Trust next academic year and continuing the exciting journey of improvement, committing to many new ways of working both inside and outside the classroom.

Next year, we will see a change to the school day, moving to five one hour lessons to allow for deeper learning and more time for the key subjects of English and Maths. The curriculum has been extended to offer greater breadth in the core subjects and discrete sessions in Life Skills (which focuses on careers education, personal, social awareness and healthy lifestyles). Whilst the start and finish times will remain unchanged, the movement time between lessons will be reduced, maximising learning time. In addition, the structure of the school day will increase the form time at the start of the day, helping to improve students' readiness for learning.

Over the final week of the year, your child will attend an assembly to support them to understand some changes that will be made to our behaviour system and the school's 'Standards for Success'. We have spent a significant amount of time reviewing other schools locally and nationally, and how they have addressed behaviour and standards. We believe that, by making small changes to our existing systems for September, we are best placed to support our students to be successful learners.

Outlined below are the key changes that have been made to our 'Standards for Success' from September:

1. We are committed to recognising students who go 'above and beyond' in terms of their learning, through a process of

positive recognition. Students will be awarded E-praise points for going 'above and beyond' in lessons and around the school. In addition, we will communicate with parents on a regular basis when we believe students deserve recognition.

2. We are committed to reviewing our existing rewards programme with students from September to ensure it is fit for purpose and acts as a motivator for effective learning. As such, student voice panels will be set up when we return in September to explore potential developments in this area.
3. From September, we will be using a reviewed consequence system (please see the revised behaviour policy on the school website). Students who continue to fail to meet expectations during lesson time will be removed from the lesson and receive an appropriate sanction.
4. It is our expectation that all students will come to school each day fully prepared for learning: this will include having all the correct equipment with them, including their school planner.
5. We have reviewed our uniform policy and, whilst this remains unchanged, we have been very specific in our descriptions to ensure parents are supported to make the correct purchases over the summer period. We appreciate how stressful this can be and want to ensure that students begin next year with the correct uniform and footwear (black leather shoes not trainers). Additionally, we have worked with students to remind them of how we expect the school uniform to be worn (please see the school website for full details).
6. The introduction of a 'Conduct Card' in September will give the opportunity for students to be rewarded for positive behaviour outside of the classroom. It will also record instances of negative behaviour. Where students choose not to comply with our expectations, they will be issued with a detention for the following afternoon for 30 minutes.

In order to support students and parents with the changes to our Behaviour Policy next academic year, we have put several things in place:

1. Students will have the new 'Standards for Success' shared with them in an assembly prior to the summer holiday.
2. Our website will detail the full 'Standards for Success' and uniform guidance for parents to access.
3. Students will revisit the 'Standards for Success' in assemblies in September and then across the course of the next academic year.
4. Students will be supported via their form learning time and form tutor to ensure they are fully compliant with the 'Standards for Success' at the start of each day and are able to focus on their learning.

Thank you in anticipation of your support in relation to these improvements. We believe that by making these changes we can support teachers and students to engage in conversations that focus upon learning and progress, and not compliance with standards, that in most schools and work places are basic expectations.



Work has finally begun on a classroom extension to the main school building, beyond the existing Design Technology area. This is due for completion in January 2019. On 20th July, work will begin around the main school car park and main vehicular entrance from Sandygate. As a result of this work, access to the school will be via the bus turning circle during the summer holiday.

As we approach the summer holiday, please note our end of term arrangements and some other key dates and information for the next academic year.

#### **End of Term Arrangements (Thursday 19th July 2018)**

The school will close on Thursday 19th July at 12.20pm and packed lunches will be available from Le Rendezvous for students who are entitled to a free lunch. Please note that these must be pre-ordered.

The following Marsland Travel buses will depart from school at 12.30pm:

- 647 Bolton and Thurnscoe
- 648 Wentworth and Harley
- 649 Wombwell.

#### **First Day Arrangements (Tuesday 4th September 2018)**

The school will open to new Year 7 students on Tuesday 4th September at 8.20am. All Year 7 students will meet in the same area as they did when they arrived for their induction days - the playground at the back of the school, located between the dining area and youth centre.

Students in Year 12 should arrive at school for 8.30am.

Students in Years 8-11 & Year 13 should arrive at 9.50am and go to their tutor bases. We would ask that you ensure that your son/daughter does not arrive on site before 9.45am.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school as we work together to ensure the best education for all our children and young people both now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Headteacher

# Latest News and Updates from

## Student Spotlight: Mya Taylor

From Wath Comprehensive to Texas: Year 7 journalist Cadence Taylor interviews her older sister Mya, who has just left our school sixth form, heading for the States to attend university on a sports scholarship.



*Mud splattered and exhausted: running for victory.*

### **Q. Where is the university you will be going to?**

*A. I was in talks with six universities but in the end chose Lamar University, which is in a little town called Beaumont, just outside Houston Texas.*

### **Q. What are you going to the university for?**

*A. I'm going on a full ride sports scholarship for Athletics and Cross Country: basically, the university pays all my fees, including living costs, and the team is sponsored by Nike so I get all my kit for free. I just have to train, compete and study.*

### **Q. Why are you going a year early?**

*A. The early offer came around because I was ranked 9th in the entire UK for 3000m in 2017; I sat the USA Level equivalent exam (SAT) in December and got the entry standard so was able to go.*

### **Q. What will you be doing alongside running?**

*A. I'll be studying psychology and hopefully getting to travel around the USA in the holidays and during competition.*

### **Q. Are you nervous to be going so far away from home at a young age?**

*A. I'm a little nervous but I'm mostly excited for the opportunities and experiences I'll gain in the next four years.*

### **Q. What will you miss most about the school?**

*A. I've been at Wath since I was 11. Of course I'll miss my friends and the support I've had from teachers for my running has been brilliant and being allowed time off to compete in the English Schools and National Cross Country has helped get me to this point so I'm really thankful to the school for that. I'm also really thankful for the help from the Exams Office as I had to provide lots of paperwork and reports for the US college system which they helped with; they honestly made the whole process much easier.*

Thanks, Mya. It just shows with hard work and great support from school you can go anywhere you want and I'm sure lots of people will miss you around the place.

## Kevin Mincher: Motivational Speaker

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

A few weeks ago, Year 9s and 10s walked into the Sixth Form Study Area thinking how boring the talk would be and how the chairs are so uncomfortable. However, the talk wasn't boring at all. Year 10s went in the first and second period, Year 9 girls went in the third and fourth period and the Year 9 boys went in the fifth and sixth period.

Kevin Mincher was born in Doncaster and founded Unstoppable Teen in 1997. Since then, more than 300,000 teenagers have attended his talks and completed his training programmes. No-one can miss him if they see him: he has bright yellow trainers! His talk was very funny and he gives you activities to do so you aren't just sitting there listening, you are joining in. The talk was very engaging as Kevin made it really funny and some people were crying tears of laughter after his Ferrari and Skoda impression. This was to show us what it is like to work using only half of your brain and knowledge and how we should work to our full capacity. It was very good and very funny and I think everyone enjoyed it (I know I did and my friends did). It was also very peaceful in the last two lessons as there weren't any boys in our classes (no offence), and I can't wait for the next talk.

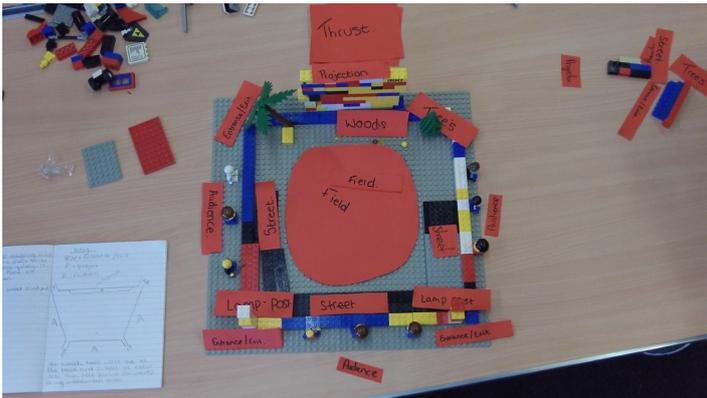
# Wath Comprehensive School

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

On Wednesday 6th June, a group of Y7 girls and boy went to Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which is full of different sculptures. It was a long bus journey but when the Y7s got there, they were very excited to see all of the different shapes, sculptures and ice-creams. Y7s were tasked to sketch some of the inspiring sculptures. One of the Y7s said, 'It was a great place to go and see because the Sculpture Park was so inspirational and it was so interesting.' Our leader of this trip, Mr Fidler said that it was a great place to visit because there are so many sculptures to see. I would recommend to go there because it has ice-creams!

## Mini Production of *DNA*



*Early design for the stage: created from Lego blocks.*

During the GCSE course, our Drama students study a play called *DNA* by Dennis Kelly, so we thought why not create our own production of the play this year? The play is about a group of teenagers who have formed a gang and the consequences for some of the poor decisions they make.

Our Year 9 Drama students have been working hard to produce the play, preparing lighting, sound, projection, costume and set designs, whilst our Year 10 Drama students have been rehearsing the play. They have looked at a number of rehearsal techniques to develop their characters and have had a massive amount of lines to learn. This project will come to a climax in the school hall on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th July when the groups come

together and finally realise the production in performance.



*From script to film: a still from the performance.*

Students in the Year 9 group said, "It has been useful working on the play practically because it helps you understand what is happening and what it would look like in a performance instead of just reading it".

## Maths Feast Competition Winners 2018

Congratulations to eight Year 10 students who represented Wath at the Maths Feast Competition based at Horizon Community College earlier this year.

The competition was split in to four rounds testing a wide range of mathematical knowledge. Both teams performed exceptionally well, with Katie Hawksworth, Zerkif Yazigan, Samuel Brashaw and Jasmine Denton-Cavella as a team collectively finishing in 6th place and Alex Boardman, Isabella Parkin, Jessica Cooke and Aaron Duce ending up as comfortable competition winners.

We are incredibly proud of these students for their conduct and superb mathematical skills demonstrated throughout the day.



*Working hard to be the winners.*

# More School Updates

## Hegarty Heroes

Congratulations to Alyssa Woffenden (Year 7), Alex Boardman (Year 10) and Kian Foster (Year 9) for completing the most amount of questions on Hegarty Maths, an online revision tool. Between the three students, they've answered over 3000 questions! As a school, we are just 250 questions off hitting the 125,000 questions mark, so keep up the good work.

From September, there will be a new competition every two weeks to see which students can complete the most questions; amazing and incredibly rare Maths badges will be given to the winners. The competition is open to all students and it's very simple to win: answers lots of questions. Plus, your Maths grades will improve alongside receiving prizes.

**HEGARTY HEROES**

**MOST HOURS COMPLETED**

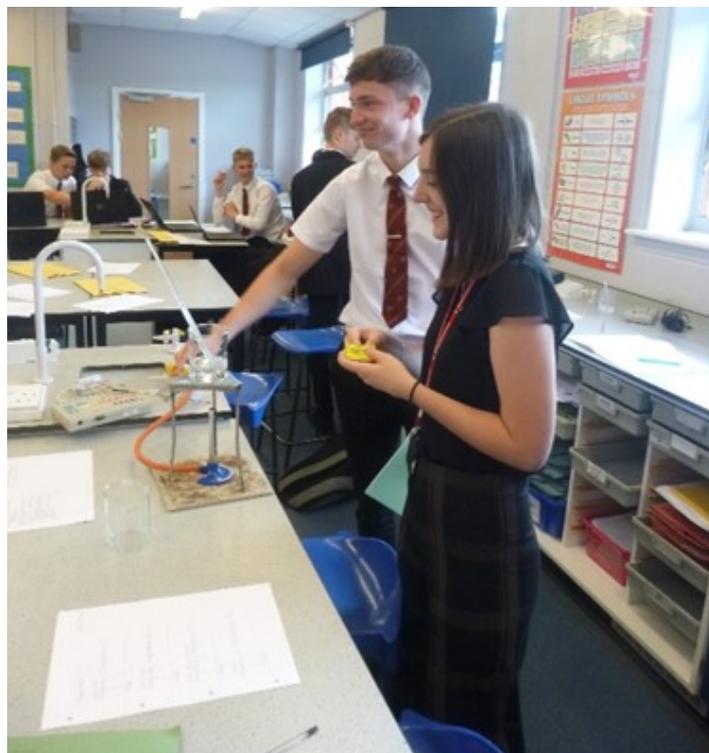
- Year 7**  
Natalie Marsh  
Ryan Summerfield  
Lola Richardson  
Isabelle Wycherley  
Harry Singh
- Year 8**  
Charlotte Shodiya  
Jorja Foster  
Jasmine Richards  
Honey Probert  
Maddison Hinchcliffe
- Year 9**  
Rebeka Brinkus  
Ellie May Beaumont  
Joe Parks  
Hattie Franklin  
Suzanne Travers
- Year 10**  
Matthew Saxton  
Ana Rocha-Lawrence  
Abigail Moore  
Lauren Morton  
Olivia Lumb

**MOST QUESTIONS COMPLETED**

- Year 7**  
Natalie Marsh  
Lola Richardson  
Kelly Jaunpetrovics  
Harry Singh  
Mollie Saxton
- Year 8**  
Jorja Foster  
Jasmine Richards  
Finlay Kennedy  
Charlotte Shodiya  
Mitchell Riley
- Year 9**  
Kian Foster  
Euan McGinness  
Joe Parks  
Alicia Levitt  
Sophie Edwards
- Year 10**  
Matthew Saxton  
Alexia-Maria  
Antoniou-Radu  
Samuel Brashaw  
Katie Malson  
Ana Rocha-Lawrence

but also learn about new topics such as cosmology, the coding language Python, galaxies and stellar structure. Sheffield University also offers the use of telescopes and so far I have taken images of multiple objects such as the open star cluster NGC 6939. In the third year, I will have the opportunity to go the Las Palmas on the Canary Islands and use the telescope there. I have really enjoyed my course so far and the City of Sheffield is an amazing place to live.

“As I am about to enter the third year of my degree, I began to think about my future and what I would like to do after university. I have always considered a career in teaching and, when the opportunity to work in a school arose, I applied immediately.



## Science Welcomes Its First Intern

The Science Department has been lucky enough to have Miss O'Flynn with them for four weeks. There is a real shortage of physics teachers across the country and the internship has been designed to allow physics undergraduates (students who are studying physics at university) to spend time in school to encourage them to consider teaching as a career.

Miss O'Flynn has written about her experience at Wath:

“My degree is Physics and Astrophysics at the University of Sheffield. The course at Sheffield specifically interested me because it is one of the only courses in the country to offer a 50/50 split between Physics and Astrophysics. The course offers a wide range of modules, offering the chance to develop essential physics knowledge such as quantum mechanics, waves, optics, relativity, electromagnetism

“The internship has been very interesting. Having only just left school myself, it is fascinating to see the ‘other’ side of a school, especially a large school like Wath. As an intern, I mainly help and observe teachers in the classroom with lots of different groups. I have had experience in classes of all years and have learnt a lot about how teachers work so hard to get the best out of students. I was also a part of the Year 6 and Year 11 induction days and was given the opportunity to design and resource a 4 week science project around Science Week next year which have both been very enjoyable.

“Overall, it has been an insightful and gratifying experience that has truly shown me what it is like to be a teacher. I would like to thank the Science

Department for helping me and making me feel so welcome, especially all the teachers who had me in their classrooms. Also a special thanks to my mentor Miss Whitworth who has been very supportive and kind. I have had a great time at Wath and wish the school the best for the future."



## Iby Knill Visits



On Wednesday 23rd May, all students in Year 12 gathered in the Sixth Form Study Room to hear a moving talk from Holocaust survivor Iby Knill. Students conducted themselves with utmost respect throughout the afternoon, finding the talk extremely emotive and insightful.

## Performing Arts Extravaganza

Students in the Performing Arts Faculty have been working hard since Easter putting together a wonderful celebration of Music, Drama and Dance. The performance took place on Thursday 12th July. Mr McHale, Second in Performing Arts, said, "With over 170 students dancing, acting, singing or playing musical instruments, not to mention the students who offered technical support, it was a real pleasure to end the term seeing the hall packed (we had to add some chairs, and even had people standing at the back) and showcase the range of real talent we have."

## Wath Cheerleading Champions



Back in June, our school cheerleading team "Wath Warriors" travelled to Manchester to compete in the UKCA National Schools' Cheerleading Championships. Students worked incredibly hard all year in preparation for the competition, from late night rehearsals to fund raising for our amazing new uniforms! The standard of the competition is always extremely high and the squad competed against teams from all over the country. It is fantastic to be able to say that, despite the high standard from all the other teams, Wath Warriors won first place in the KS5 Level 2 category! This is even more impressive seeing as the vast majority of the team are actually in KS3 and KS4. Our urban cheer squad also came 5th in their category, which is fantastic. Well done to the full squad on their success as they continue to grow from strength to strength!

## Why We Need Safeguarding in School

By Darcey Rogers and Isabeau Snee, Year 7

Safeguarding are here in school to keep you safe. They can help with bullying and cyberbullying. They can help resolve bullying issues by speaking to you and the bully to resolve the problem in many ways.

The Internet can be a dangerous place to navigate. Sometimes, you also find paedophiles online, and safeguarding can deal with this and keep you safe. Did you know that your child could be in serious danger when on social media? This could affect their future career, especially when posting inappropriate pictures! Safeguarding helps teach students to stop and think!

They can also help with things that go off at home. They can help people that self-harm and can help with your anxiety and anger.

# News, Politics and Current Affairs:

## London Bloodbath

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

Over the past few weeks, London has been hit with a giant crime wave. Two boys were shot in the head in broad daylight on 6th May, while another man had been shot the day before. On May 7th, a teenager was stabbed in Leytonstone, east London. He is thought to be 17 and was rushed to the hospital but thankfully without life-threatening injuries.

On May 9th, just two days after the last attack, a man in his 40s suffered multiple stab wounds after an attack in Shepherd's Bush in West London. He was taken to the hospital and thankfully his injuries also were not life threatening. In the 48 hours before the man got stabbed, a teenager was stabbed on Monday afternoon; a teenager was stabbed in Hackney following a "mass brawl" between youths armed with machetes; a 16-year-old was knifed in the street in Twickenham; a teenage victim was rushed to hospital with stab wounds after reports of a fight in Woolwich and a woman was taken to hospital after a suspected acid attack in Brixton. A day later, a man was rushed to the hospital after suffering multiple stab wounds in an attack in Wanstead, north east London. His injuries thankfully aren't life-threatening either.

On May 16th, a young man was left fighting for his life after being stabbed multiple times in a brutal attack on a west London street. He is believed to be in his 20s and he is still fighting for his life. On May 22nd, a man was stabbed to death in Islington in a horrifying broad daylight attack. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A 44-year old man has been charged for his murder.

These attacks didn't stop there. On May 29th, three

teenage boys were stabbed in a space of a few hours across the capital. One 14 year old was found with knife injuries, an hour later another boy was stabbed and then a 15 year old was found with knife injuries to his chest. Their conditions were not life-threatening and no arrests have been made. Elsewhere in Chelsea on the same day, a man was stabbed to death.

These attacks are still continuing. On June 2nd, a 22 year old man was also left fighting for his life after being found suffering from multiple stab wounds. No arrests have been made for this attack either. On June 3rd, a 17 year old was stabbed to death in Ipswich and detectives arrested a 41 year old man. On June 5th, things worsened deeply. A baby and its mother were found stabbed in their house. The baby is in a critical condition. The woman is in her 30s and the baby is only one year old. Police announced a manhunt for the man who lived at the address and no arrests have been made so far.

Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, has been asked if he will put the armed forces onto the streets to stop this rise in crime. The mayor said that there is a protocol in place if there is a terrorist attack that the army will come onto the streets but they won't if it isn't terror related. A lot of the public are wanting more police on the streets and are wanting some to be armed in certain places as some fear it will soon become too dangerous to go outside.

## Donald Trump Refuses Pride Month for The Second Year

By Lucille Lowrey, Year 8

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Donald Trump has refused to have a Pride celebration for the second time this year. Even people in the White House fail to recognise it. He is following the footsteps of George W. Bush, whereas Obama and Bill Clinton did choose to celebrate it.

"For the second straight year, Donald Trump refuses to recognize June as #PrideMonth and for the second

### THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Phoebe Orwin, Cadence Taylor, Grace Clowrey, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Elena Cretu, Joe Shackley, Alex Burrows, Jacob Linney, Lucille Lowery, Daniel Nutley, Bella Aaltio, Elizabeth Gray, Charlotte Ting, Olivia Storey, Caitie Swallow (proofreading), Rebeka Brinkus, Lauren Williams, Molly Hammerton, Kiara Fenton, Alex Law, Emily Balaiss and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Darcey Rogers, Isabeau Snee, Victoria Taylor, Mr Bishop, Miss Perry and the many other staff members who support us each edition.

**If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH next year, please see Miss Taylor for more information.**

# Updates from around the Globe

straight year most of us in the LGBTQ community refuse to recognize Donald Trump as our president," one tweeted, while another added: "Reminder that Trump and the White House didn't recognize Pride month in any way in 2017. I'm sure 2018 will be no different."

People have now started LGBT Rage Month instead, in retaliation.

Personally, I think campaigners are right to express their anger at the president's lack of respect. We are no longer in a bygone era when it was illegal to be gay, bisexual, lesbian. The State Department has recognised Pride month. Why can't Donald Trump and the White House?

## ***Love, Simon* Was Just Banned In India**

By Lucille Lowrey, Year 8



*Love, Simon* was the first queer teen film released by a major studio, making a turning point for LGBTQ+, especially for young, queer people.

According to the box office, it raised \$57.5 million so far, after an initial \$17 million production and marketing budget.

Unfortunately, not all countries have been as tolerant towards the LGBTQ+ message of the film. As reported by *Gay Star News*, the Indian Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has reportedly banned *Love, Simon* for its depiction of gay relationships.

"India is considered as a progressive country but still hasn't scheduled the release of *Love, Simon* in the cinemas despite the movie being released in majority of the countries," the author of the petition writes. "It's been more than 2 months and the LGBTQ+ community has been patiently waiting for the movie which finally gives the community some representation.

"India has lacked a mainstream powerful representation of its LGBTQ+ citizens for a long time. Although not Bollywood, this film could not only encourage LGBT kids

to come out, but also educate parents about what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual etc. This film could have a tremendous impact on the country's perception of what it means to be a part of the LGBT+ community."

Personally, I think it should go back into cinemas in India since it teaches people that it's normal to be gay, bisexual, lesbian, etc. It was an amazing film so I think other people should be able to watch and enjoy it.

## **10 fun facts about Harry Potter**

By Emily Balais, Year 10

1. Although J.K Rowling is in Gryffindor, she said that Hufflepuff was the best house.
2. While writing the middle of the series, Rowling was considering bumping Ron off making the Golden Trio the Golden Duo. But we now know that she didn't.
3. If Muggles came across Hogwarts, it would look like some old castle ruins with a 'danger' sign.
4. While filming *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, Tom Felton's pockets were sewn shut as he kept sneaking food onto set.
5. Sirius Black and Fred Weasley, both tricksters, both died laughing.
6. Daniel Radcliff and Rupert Grint both had a crush on Emma Watson while filming.
7. Tom Felton originally auditioned for the roles of Harry and Ron, but the casting directors thought he would fit the role of Draco instead. He must have just wanted to have ginger hair or have a scar and glasses.
8. Rowling has previously stated the Harry Potter books might not have come to fruition if her mother hadn't died. "The books are what they are because she died ... because I loved her and she died."
9. The first Harry Potter book was published in 1998, the same year the final Battle of Hogwarts was fought. Rowling has said, "I open at the close."
10. On the ten year anniversary of Harry's parents' death and the first time Voldemort was defeated, 31st October 1991, he and Ron saved Hermione from the troll in the bathroom. This is generally regarded as the day the trio became friends.

# Au Revoir to Year 11...



The AESSEAL New York Stadium in Rotherham was once again host to the Year 11 prom, held in the scorching heat of Wednesday 5th July.

While everyone looks forward to the long summer holiday that marks the end of the academic year, it is always tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our departing students. This year is no different, with an exceptional group of young adults leaving Wath Comprehensive School. Although many Year 11s will return to the sixth form, those moving on – and all the Year 13 leavers – shall be sorely missed.

As the first cohort to take the more challenging new GCSEs in the majority of their subjects, the Year 11 students had to work harder than ever.

“I’m so proud of you all,” Mrs Eyre, Academic Year Leader, told the students in her speech at the Year 11 prom, held at the AESSEAL New York Stadium on 5th

July. “I just can’t wait for your future.”

Pastoral Year Leader Mr Lines added, “You’ve worked hard. You will get where you want to be.”

The Year 13 prom, at St Paul’s Hotel & Spa on 13th July, was also a fantastic evening. Attendees enjoyed a drinks reception, three-course meal, dancing and an awards presentation, with Dumisani Mhlanga and Hannah White being crowned Prom King and Queen.

“Many of our Year 13 students have been with us since Year 7 and, with their fabulous GCSE results at the end of Year 11, progressed into our sixth form. Others joined us from external schools, choosing us because of the strong reputation of the sixth form,” said Ms Shaw, Deputy Head of Sixth Form. “The Class of 2018 has been a superb set of students, effectively led by Head Girl Elizabeth Collier-Taylor, Head Boy Christian Cooper and the team of senior students. The whole year group have worked hard at their studies, as well as maintaining a dedicated commitment to a vast range of extracurricular activities and events at school. We are very proud of them and look forward to celebrating with them on results day in August.”

## Year 11 Prom Award Winners

**Prom Queen**  
Ebony Caine

**Prom King**  
Kyle Clayton

**Best-Dressed Female**  
Brooke Saxton

**Best-Dressed Male**  
Ty Isherwood

**Top Joker**  
Jordan Kirkham

**Top Geek**  
Robert Johnson

**Loudest Person**  
Scott Smith

**Unsung Hero**  
Alicia Harrison

# and Farewell to Year 13



*Above: a selection of photos from the Year 13 prom, held at St Paul's Hotel & Spa on Friday 13th July. Below: the formal Year 13 portrait.*



# Opinion and Comment

Whatever the topic, you can be sure that Wath Comprehensive students have their views...

## How to Keep Your Pet Cool in the Summer Heat!

By Ellisia Bowman, Year 7

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It's going to be hot this summer with the heatwaves and while we are feeling the heat so are our pets, so here are some tips to keep your fluffy friend cool!

This is obvious but it is still happening everywhere: NEVER (EVER!) leave your pet in the car! Temperatures can rise quickly and can overheat your pet.

Ice blocks can also cool them down. It's easy to make too! Get a mould and fill it with water then freeze it! Easy to make and can cool your pet down.

We all need sun cream to avoid us getting sunburn and so do our pets! Rub pet safe lotion onto the exposed parts on their skin. Don't forget to put it on the tips of their ears and feet!

Exercise is important for your pet but with this heat, the pavements can get warm. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your pet's paw. You'll know if their feet are burnt as they start to limp or refuse to walk; the pads are also darker or damaged.

Keep an eye on where your pets are, especially cats, so they don't end up in hot greenhouses or sheds.

If you have fish, lizards or birds, their cages and tanks should be kept away from direct sunlight.

No pets? Well, you can still help animals in the heat. You can help wildlife in your garden by putting out fresh cold water for drinking or even to take a dip!

## How to find an Internet Easter egg

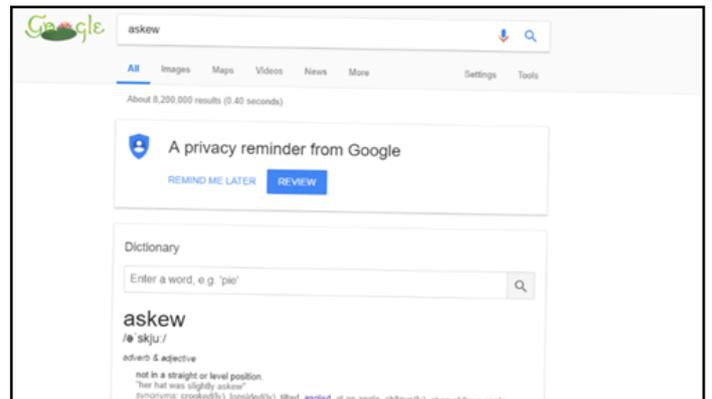
Joe Shackley, Year 7

In this article, I will be telling you the best Google Easter eggs.

Although some of you may be thinking of the chocolate you get at Easter an Easter egg is actually an unexpected or undocumented feature in a piece of computer software or on a DVD, included as a joke or a bonus. In order to do these things you must type these words or phrases into Google search or Google Chrome.

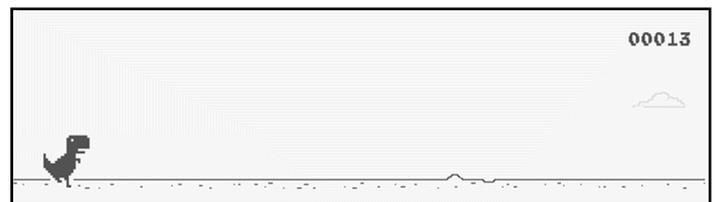
### Askew

In order to do this Easter egg, you must type in 'askew' into the search bar. When this is done you search shall become tilted.



### Chrome Dino

This is a very fun game you can play for free as an alternative to be playing on cool math. Just type in chrome://dino/ and it will come up with no internet connection. Then all you have to do is press the space bar and play the game (space to jump, down button to duck).



### Do a Barrel Roll

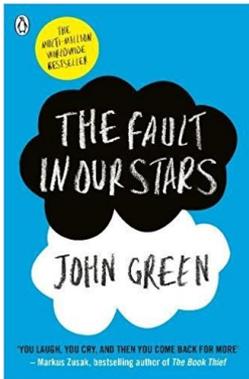
This Easter egg is quite well known because it is very enjoyable to watch. When you type 'do a barrel roll'





# Summer Scorchers:

If you're stuck for something to do over the long six week holiday, why not retreat into the world of



## ***The Fault In Our Stars***

**By John Green**

Reviewed by Caitie Swallow,  
Year 9

If you think this is a film, then you are correct. The 2014 film adaptation was based on the novel of the same name, written by John Green, who also wrote *Paper Towns*.

It is about a 16-year old girl called Hazel Grace Lancaster, who was diagnosed with terminal thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs, and as a result, she has to have an oxygen machine at all times. At the Support Group in the "Literal Heart of Jesus," (in the basement of a church), she meets a 17-year old boy called Augustus (Gus) Waters, who previously had osteosarcoma which liked his leg so much that it took it and now he has a fake leg. Gus at the start of the book "is on a rollercoaster that only goes up my friend".

Over the course of the novel, Hazel and Gus form a firm friendship that buds into something romantic. Along the way, they end up in Amsterdam chasing after Hazel's dream to meet the author Peter Van Houten; however, cruel cancer overshadows each step the fragile young lovers take.

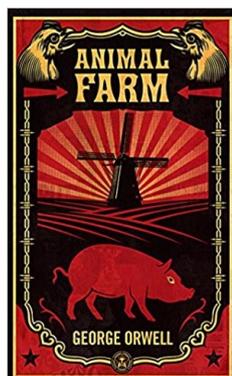
If you do want to read this novel, ensure you have tissues ready!

## ***Animal Farm***

**By George Orwell**

Reviewed by Anna Gray, Year 7

This classic novel was inspired by the Russian Revolution that occurred in 1917. The book is set in the future when animals are much cleverer than they are now, and because of their cleverness, they are



able to start a revolution against the humans. In this story, the pigs are a lot smarter than the other animals, which gives them power to be leaders. This, however, is a bad choice.

Personally, I think the book is a great way for people to learn about democracy and human rights. My favourite character in the book would have to be Boxer (the horse). He worked so hard for the farm and never complained once about it. He was a great example for the farm. Sadly, Napoleon (the pig) managed to manipulate Boxer into thinking that he was always right. The saddest moment in the book was when Napoleon sent him to the slaughter house just to get some extra money for himself.



## ***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea***

**by Jules Verne**

Reviewed by Isabella Aaltio,  
Year 9

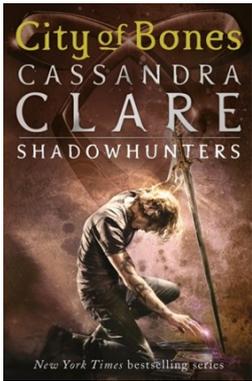
This book begins with reports of sea monsters dragging down ships to their doom. Professor Pierre Aronnax, a French marine biologist and narrator of the story, is called in to help solve the mystery. He goes on a ship commissioned to find the monster, in a dramatic encounter with the monster Aronnax fall off the ship along with 2 other companions Ned Land (a harpooner) and Conseil (servant to Aronnax). They get picked up by a mysterious submarine called the Nautilus, whose strange captain, Captain Nemo, sends them on a journey twenty thousand leagues under the sea. They battle sea monsters among getting trapped under the sea with limited oxygen. Is escape possible, especially considering the captain's strange moods?

Overall, this was an exceedingly enjoyable book, strongly recommended as an exciting read.

# Seven Holiday Reads



fiction? Check out some of these, which *The Torch* journalists can guarantee are good reads!



## ***City of Bones***

**By Cassandra Clare**

Reviewed by Grace Clowrey,  
Year 7

When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she doesn't

expect to watch a boy being murdered—not by 3 teenagers with strange tattoos who no-one else can see. How can you call the police when there is no body, not even a drop of blood? Who was murdered – or what?

This first book in The Mortal Instruments series sees Clary meet the shadowhunters, a group of people who vow to rid the world of demons. Vampires, warlocks, fairies and werewolves exist. All the stories are true. This is a great book: it is gripping, exciting and you won't want to put it down.

## ***Wonder***

**by R.J. Palacio**

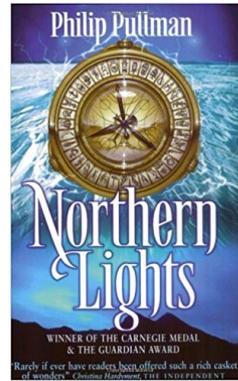
Reviewed by Phoebe Orwin,  
Year 7

*Wonder* is about a boy called August who has a condition called Treacher Collins Syndrome, a deformity of the face. The book starts from August's point of view explaining how he had to start middle school and tells you a bit about his life. It then weaves in narratives from his sister Olivia her boyfriend Justin, August's best friend Jack and Olivia's best friend. It finishes once again from August's point of view and has a heart-warming ending.

There are many sad, funny and moving moments. The main theme is friendship and there is certainly a lot of it in the book. *Wonder* has a sequel to it and has also been made in to a film. The author of the book



recommends you read the books before you watch the movie. Overall, each 'entry' has its own story to tell and I know I'd read this book again.



## ***Northern Lights***

**By Philip Pullman**

Reviewed by Ellisia Bowman,  
Year 7

If you love books with big themes to ponder over, set within a captivating quest of good against evil, then this is the book for you!

In Oxford, Lyra learns children are being kidnapped by mysterious Gobblers. Then when her friend Robert vanishes she is determined to find him, and is given a powerful alethiometer. Her journey takes her to the far North in a fascinating magical tale that makes you want to read on to know whether Lyra does find her friend.

## **The Harry Potter Series**

**By J. K. Rowling**

Reviewed by Emily Balaiss, Year 10

If you haven't read the series, where have you been?

You may come across some people that think the concept is good but say that the writing is not as good. But the Harry Potter Fandom is a great universe, taking the hearts of millions of people—so many people can't be wrong.

Basically, the Harry Potter series is about a boy who survives a killing curse and goes on to do a lot of other quests before facing Voldemort again and then killing him, ending the reign of the dark lord.

Overall, 20 years on from its publication, the Potter series continues to be a life changing experience that millions around the world enjoy. Start with *Philosopher's Stone* and join the conversation today!



# Media and Review:

## ***Solo: A Star Wars Story* Review**

By Alex Law, Year 10

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*Solo: A Star Wars Story*, one of the most anticipated films of this year, follows the beloved smuggler and pilot Han Solo on his epic journey to meet Chewbacca and his mentor Becket. We follow Han to planets such as Correlia and Kessel, and we finally get an official backstory to Han and Chewbacca and an intense scene of Han and Chewie completing the Kessel run in the Millennium Falcon. To any die-hard Star Wars fan, this film is everything they hoped for as they got to see all the things that made Han who he is.

This film is the second in the assortment of Star Wars 'stories' and, in my overall opinion, the better half of

the two films. Unlike the newer Star Wars films, Solo re-introduces the old essence of the Star Wars films, the fun action with many cheesy lines, while still keeping the seriousness of the storylines. I thoroughly enjoyed watching this film as it reminded me of watching the original trilogy as a young child and I'm sure that this is how everyone felt with this.

This is definitely not a film to be missed and is a great backstory for the famous Han Solo. Alden Ehrenreich's portrayal of Han Solo is a good one as he progressed through the story showing how Han became the egotist we know him to be; Harrison Ford must be happy with Alden's version of Han as he brought the character to life, the same way Ford did.

Overall, I am very pleased with this film and would recommend it to anyone. If you have never seen a Star Wars film, this is a great film to get started with.

## ***Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* Trailer Review**

By Emily Balaiss Year 10

If you haven't already, go watch the trailer before reading this article.

The trailer for *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* has been out for a couple of months now and it has released some information about the new film.

The first thing we see is Hogwarts and possibly MACUSA Auras Apparating, which we know is forbidden at Hogwarts because of the charm that has been placed. We then see the young Albus Dumbledore in what looks like the Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom. We then learn that Newt Scamander is headed to Paris, working under Dumbledore's orders.

We then see Tina looking very gothic and then we see Jacob in a room with a lot of magical creatures and he gets very excited when Newt says "we're going somewhere" to him.

We then see Credence (yes, he is alive) and some other young lady, who is carrying a new kind of blood curse called Malidictus, which means that at one point she will turn into a beast and will never turn back to a human. We then get to see our first look at Leta Lestrange in some

## **Top 10 Films Of 2018**

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

1. *Black Panther*
2. *Solo: A Star Wars Movie*
3. *Avengers: Infinity War*
4. *Deadpool 2*
5. *Annihilation*
6. *Ready Player One*
7. *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*
8. *Ocean's 8*
9. *Red Sparrow*
10. *Isle Of Dogs*

How many have you seen? Why not check them out over the summer?

# Film, Music and More



kind of a party, looking very confused. And we then see someone (most likely to be Dumbledore) looking at what looks like a family tree.

And then we get the first look at the circus where Credence could have possibly run off to. In that circus, Credence starts smashing things which could mean that he is angry about something. We then see what looks like an epic battle between Newt and his brother Theseus and possibly Grindelwald.

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## *Attack of the Clones:*

### The Worst Star Wars Movie?

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st series of films in the Star Wars franchise, but the most hated movie is widely acknowledged to be *Attack of the Clones*. But just because it's a popular opinion doesn't mean it's true, does it? Well, in this article, I will be pointing out the pros and cons in this movie. Let's start with the cons: first off, Hayden Christensen's character Anakin Skywalker is in a secret relationship with Natalie Portman's character Padme Amidala, but it feels forced, which makes the movie feel very awkward at times with scenes that are meant to be heart touching but instead just feels cringy and boring.

Moving on, the CGI is worse than any other movie in the

prequel trilogy. To go along with this, most of the fight/battle scenes rely on a green screen which makes the background look unrealistic and the characters don't fit in the environment, especially when Force wielders like Jedi and Sith look like CGI rag dolls jumping around like flies. Anyway, that is all the cons that I have identified. We'll save the pros of the film until the next article after the summer!

## Worst Star Wars Characters

By Emily Balaiss and Alex Law, Year 10

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### 1. Jar Jar Binks

Because he is REALLY annoying and just no help to the plot. Just look at that face!

### 2. Rose Tico

She says that war is about saving the ones you love—however, some people say it is about power.

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### 3. Zam Wesell

Not even sure who this is? She's the bounty hunter that Jango Fett paid to kill Padme. It backfired—but hey, if you want to be lazy, Jango, you pay the price.

### 4. Boss Nass

Who in their right mind would make Jar Jar a general? This leads to him becoming a senator, which lead to him giving Emperor Palpatine emergency powers which lead to them becoming the first addition of Storm Troopers.

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### 5. Jabba the Hutt

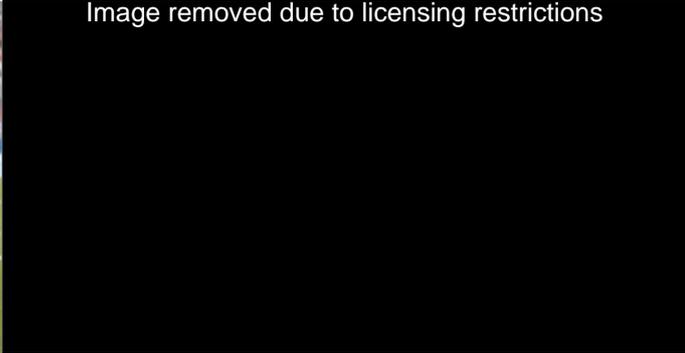
The giant slug of the Star Wars universe, he feeds people to the Rankor and Sarlack—that's just plain mean.

# FIFA World Cup Russia 2018:

By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

The first game of the tournament kicked off at 4pm on Thursday 14th June. The hosts Russia took on a poor Saudi Arabia whilst one of the most powerful men in the world, Vladimir Putin, watched next to the Saudi Arabian president from inside one of the boxes at the Luzhniki. Russia dispatched the Arabian side 5-0, with most of the goals coming later on in the game. Uruguay went on to top group A, with the hosts finishing second.

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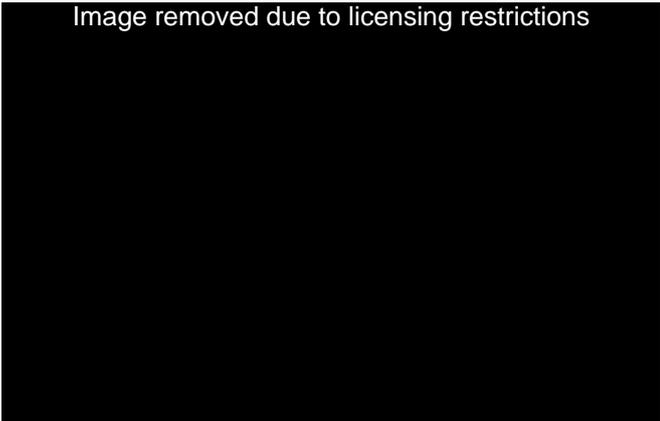


The first game of group B was huge. Current European champions Portugal took on their neighbours Spain in a fantastic showcase of World Cup action, where it took only four minutes for five-time *Balon d'or* winner Cristiano Ronaldo to slot a penalty home. Spain's brilliant equaliser from Diego

## From Russia With Love

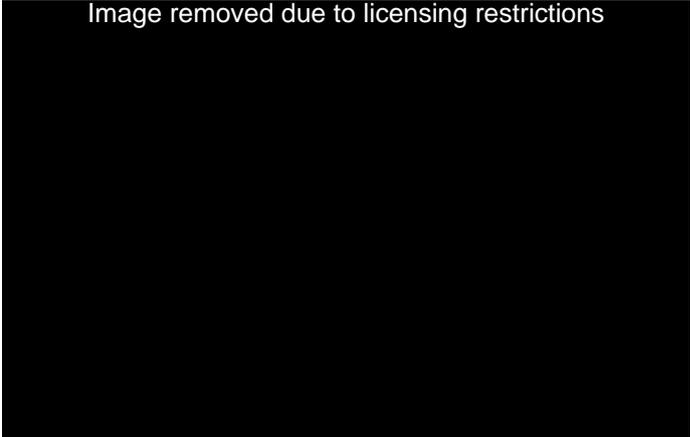
We all know that Russia is the host country for the tournament this year, but do you know exactly where it has taken place? 12 stadiums across 11 cities will host the 64 matches. Also, there was one stadium outside of mainland Russia in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, situated between Poland and Lithuania. The first and last matches of the tournaments were held in the Luzhnikini stadium which is located in Moscow.

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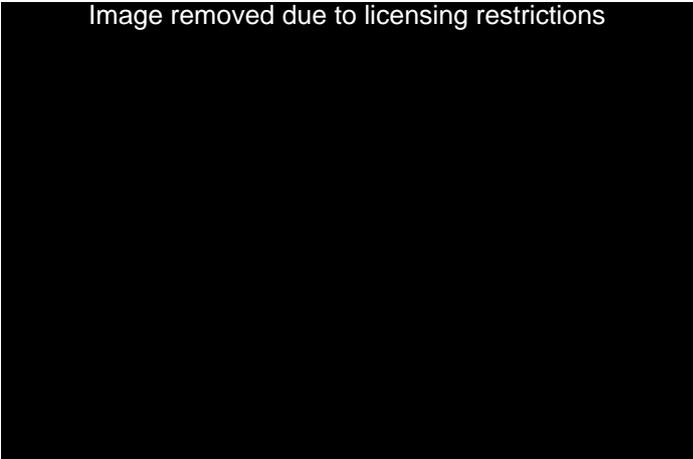
Costa only slowed Portugal, who regained their lead right before half time, but there must have been a convincing team talk from Fernando Hierro, the Spain manager, at half time, as they equalised again ten minutes into the second half and three minutes later gained a lead. This lasted until the 88th minute, where Portugal won a free kick just outside the penalty area. Cristiano Ronaldo, who already had two goals in the game, unleashed a lethal free kick to secure a point for Portugal and complete his hat-trick. The two sides went on to finish first and second, with Spain finishing top on goals scored.

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In Group C, France didn't look great, but they still managed to top the group with 7 points; they won their first game against Australia thanks to a late penalty and only won 1-0 against South American side, Peru. In the final game of the group, the eventual winners and runners up were stuck in stalemate with a one-a-piece draw.

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With Argentina sharing the points with Iceland, who were making their World Cup debut, in their first game, they went into their second match up of Group D against Croatia desperate for all three points. It wasn't to be, and Argentina were left in a

# Full Group Stage Round Up

seemingly unfavourable position after losing 3-0. Next, they took on Nigeria, who had looked like a side that could pull a few surprises at the World Cup and after winning against Iceland. However, after 14 minutes, Messi took a fantastic touch to control and placed the ball into the top corner, scoring his first goal of the tournament. Despite an equaliser five min later, another late goal (this time Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo) allowed Argentina to win and steal a spot as runners up of group D, behind Croatia who won all their games.

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Elsewhere, in Group E, previous hosts of the tournament Brazil were looking to bounce back from their last World Cup match, a humiliating 7-1 loss to Germany in the semi-finals of their own tournament. Despite this desire to win, they only took 1 point from their first game, drawing 1-1 with Switzerland. These two teams shared the points and also both went through to the knockouts with Brazil winning their other two games and Switzerland winning one and drawing another.

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Current champions Germany, who entered as favourites to win, looked set to top Group F. However, this is the World Cup and anything can happen! The four-time champions took a shock defeat to a spirited Mexico side, losing 1-0.

Germany needed a win to stay in the tournament and in their way was Sweden, who looked set to win when they took the lead in the 32nd minute. Just after half time, Germany equalized through Marco Reus and, deep into the five minutes of added time, agonizingly scored a winner: a sweetly taken strike from Tony Kroos, following a free kick, restored hope for Germany. However, South Korea went on to thrash Germany 2-0 in their last game, sending them home after a measly three games, not even making it out of the groups! Mexico and Sweden went through on a joint six points.

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**Check out the back page for full information about England's journey through the World Cup in group G.**

In the final group, Group H, Japan and Colombia also progressed to the next stage, taking out Senegal and Poland. Columbia ended up as group leaders with 6 points, and but their good run ended in the quarter finals when England took them out on penalties, with a 4-3 final score.

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The World Cup final took place on Sunday 15th, where France secured the golden trophy in a 4-2 victory against a determined Croatia, who battled to the very end.

# Sport Update

## World Cup: It Almost Came Home...

By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

It's that time again! Four years have passed since the madness of Brazil and now the greatest football tournament in the world is back for 2018 and this time, it's in Russia. Before the tournament, there was a sense of apprehension – I mean the location was quite a controversial selection for a start. Were some of the World's best past their peak? Would it be a disappointment? Well, I can happily say that the magic of football has returned with England equalling their good performance in 1990.

At the start of the tournament, England found themselves in Group G, with the best draw we could have asked for. Tunisia and Panama looked to be an easy route out of the groups and any points against Belgium would have been an added bonus. However, it wasn't so easy. It took a late winner to secure all three points over Tunisia in the first game, though we then cruised past Panama, smashing them 6-1, with five of our goals coming before half time. When we played Belgium, the situation before the game was that both teams were through and this game decided who went through top and who went through runners up. Despite appearing to be the better option to try and finish first, it meant England would be put into the side of the draw with the likes of France and Brazil, so it may have been better to finish second to get an easier route to the final on paper.

Both England and Belgium changed their teams from the previous games and the Three Lions lost 1-0.

**For a full round up of the group stages for all teams, please turn back to pages 18 and 19.**

In the knockouts, England went on to face Colombia. England lead 1-0 from the 60th minute, thanks to a Harry Kane penalty but somehow threw away the win in

the 90+3rd minute. The resulting added time dragged and neither side broke the stalemate, sending it to penalties, something that invokes horrible memories of all those wasted penalty shootouts from England in the past. However, this time we actually won! Eric Dier scored the winning penalty after Jordan Pickford pulled off an outstanding save.



FIFA WORLD CUP  
**RUSSIA 2018**

We were through to the quarter finals where we would face Sweden. Before the game, the phrase 'it's coming home' was being bandied about

everywhere and afterwards even more so, as England won 2-0, with a goal coming from local lad, Harry Maguire, who was born in Sheffield. We were through to the semi-finals for the first time in 28 years and only the third time ever!

England's dreams fell apart on Wednesday 12th in a 2-1 defeat to Croatia. After a final game against Belgium on Saturday 14th also ended in defeat (0-2), they exited the World Cup in fourth place. But Southgate's team has restored pride in English world football.

