



COVID HALLOWEEN FUN

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Emily Balais, Year 13

As I'm sure you're aware, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Trick or Treating is off the table this year. As of this week, our region – South Yorkshire – has been placed into the highest of the Three Tier System, Very High. This means that there can be no mixing of households or support bubbles indoors, but we can meet outdoors as long as the rule of six is applied. In addition to this, Soft Play Areas and Adult Game Areas must close along with pubs who do not sell food. But we won't let these new restrictions prevent our Halloween fun, so here are some activities you could do to entertain yourself and your family this Halloween.

Pumpkin carving is one of the most common Halloween activities, but one of the most fun (and sometimes competitive!). People of all ages enjoy this activity as the typical carved pumpkin is a staple of Halloween. People have been carving their pumpkins as anything from spooky cats to Jack Skellington. Place a candle inside and put it on your front step for all to enjoy. Just make sure to avoid any pumpkin carving injuries!

Another activity that can be enjoyed by all families is baking Halloween-themed sweet and savoury treats, from cookies and cakes, to pizzas and baking. You could decorate cookies, cakes and pizzas to look like a pumpkin, or make a pumpkin out of a tangerine by peeling it and stick a small piece of celery on top as the stem.

A spooky night in watching all your favourite Halloween films is another classic Halloween activity. Grab all your Halloween themed treats and sit in front of the TV and turn on your favourite spooky film (mine is *The Nightmare Before Christmas!*).

Finally, you could host a virtual costume party. What is Halloween without dressing up as a classic spooky character? Even though we can't go out and enjoy Trick or Treating like we're used to, we can still dress up and get in front of the computer and video call our friends and show them the characters you've decided to dress up as. Have a great Halloween, and stay safe!

Message from the Principal

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to you at the end of a challenging but very positive half term. I'd like to start by thanking you for your support, understanding and patience during these unprecedented times. We have endeavoured to do everything we can to keep our students and staff safe, whilst delivering the education our community deserves.

Despite the challenges, we have had some fantastic experiences over the past eight weeks. Our risk assessment and systems have allowed all students to access their full curriculum as they normally would. Students have completed experiments in science, danced in a dance studio, cooked in a food technology room and taken part in PE lesson in our great sporting facilities. Both ensuring safety and ensuring that students do not miss out on any part of their education has been at the heart of every decision we have made.

Some of the highlights of the half term are listed below:

Year 7

Our new Year 7 students enjoyed two transition days in the summer including a day when they got to meet their entire year group on the final day of the summer holidays. These days allowed them to familiarise themselves with the academy before any other students returned. As a year group, they have made a fantastic start and we are very proud to have them as Wath Academy students.

Year 6 Transition

We delivered over 1600 transition packs to our local primary schools. We welcomed over 120 families to our open evening and have now conducted over 60 Golden Ticket tours. It has been a privilege to show off our fantastic academy and show prospective parents what we have to offer. We have received very positive feedback about the opportunity to visit the academy during the day to see it in action.

Year 11 Revision Evening

We hosted two fantastic Open Evenings for Y11 to launch our 'Achieve Programme'. Our motivation is to ensure that Year 11 are not disadvantaged by the events over the past few months, and we will do everything we can to make up for any lost time. Each student received a personalised revision pack which included revision guides for each of their subjects and stationery to help them revise. On the evening, Mr



Taylor also presented his top revision tips, which will help the students prepare for their exams.

Parents' Evening

Due to the current situation in our local area, we were unable to deliver Parents' Evening in the usual format. Therefore, we invested in new technology to allow us to deliver Parents' Evenings remotely via appointment video links. Overall, the evening was a great success; as always, we have taken feedback from parents to further enhance the provision for our upcoming Parents' Evenings.

Year 11 and Year 13

Despite uncertain times, Year 11 and Year 13, who are now in their examination year, have made fantastic starts to their academic year. Their commitment to catching up on missed learning time has demonstrated their resilience and no excuses attitude; these are skills and experiences which will allow them to be successful in future years.

Teaching and Learning

In line with our vision of delivering exceptional learning experiences, staff have worked tirelessly in developing the quality of Teaching and Learning at the academy.

We work on the premise that everybody in the academy needs to improve, not because they're not good enough, but because they can be even better. With this in mind, staff are fully committed to improving the typicality of day-to-day teaching.

Covid-19 Systems

Many of the systems we have put in place due to Covid-19 have actually improved the functioning of the academy. For example:

- The one-way system ensures that there is a smooth flow of students during transition times
- The staggered starts to lessons mean that far fewer students are on the corridor at one time
- The 100-minute lessons allow subjects to go into far greater depth

Golden Ticket Events

This week, we held our first Golden Ticket Rewards events. Students who had gained 50 E-Praise points were able to claim their golden ticket and attend either Table Top Sports (including air hockey, pool and darts), the Wath Academy FIFA tournament or Film Night. We are looking forward to launching next half terms events when the students return.

These are just some of the many highlights we have experienced this half term. We also have a lot to look forward after half term:

- We will be launching the new Wath Academy App which will allow you access your child's academic, attendance, behaviour and rewards data at any time. We will also be using it to communicate with parents.
- In November, we will be launching our brand new website. The website will reflect the great work and journey the academy is currently on. The website will be easy to navigate and will have all the information parents and visitors need.
- The first 'Parent & Community Advisory Board' (PCAB) meeting is due to take place just after half term. We are looking forward to engaging with parents and the community to discuss ways in which we can improve our educational provision.
- We will be hosting a Y12 Open Evening for our current Y11 to see what we have to offer within our fantastic Sixth Form.

Finally, I'd like to thank you once again for your support and for the welcome I have had from the community. I hope you have a great half term,

despite the restrictions and we look forward to welcoming the students back after the break.

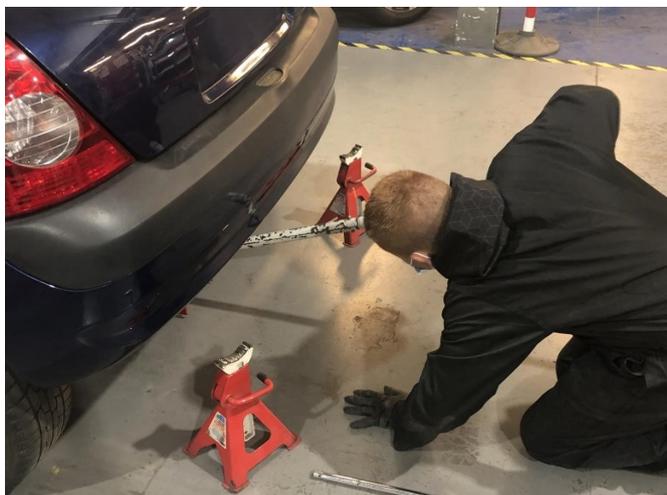
If, over the half term break, your child unfortunately contracts Covid-19, please let the academy know via email at enquiries@wathacademy.com. This is to allow us to 'Track and Trace' and ensure the required self-isolation is in place for the return in November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome
Principal

Alternative Provision

Year 9 and 10 Alternative Provision Students enjoyed their placement day at Dearne Valley College whilst studying Motor Vehicle Maintenance:



Year 10 Girls Alternative Provision studying NCFE Level 1 / 2 Health and Hygiene successfully cooked a range of healthy meals as part of their course:



Latest News and Updates

Settling in as a New Y12 Student

By Joshua Havenhand, Year 12

Having previously studied GCSEs at Rawmarsh, I recently moved to Wath Academy to study for A Levels.

Whilst the move was initially daunting, I feel that I have settled in really well and finally know how to get to my classrooms, not going to the end of school every time just to get to F13 for Maths. I initially decided to study Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but although I enjoyed Physics, I decided to do an EPQ in order to enhance my CV for my medicine application, which is my ultimate goal, grades allowing.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my Biology practicals at Wath so far, where the teacher gave us a full lesson to carry out all the chemical food tests that we had learnt about, on a set of 8 unknown samples. This was challenging and enjoyable and at the end very competitive, when everyone was comparing their results. I find the practicals a very good way to engage with the content we are taught and understand how it works in real life.



The start of Biology and Chemistry have been very engaging, and I loved learning about proteins and carbohydrates, especially their uses in the body - again understanding how these things we are taught behave in real life. I feel to succeed at Wath I need to continue to engage with all my lessons and keep my passion for learning new things, whilst revising to ensure I remember all the previous content I have covered. I have already found the support from Wath immense, with teachers replying through Sachel One to any queries and have found the Learning Platform to be super organised and useful. I am very excited to continue learning more at Wath.

Another New Perspective

By Lucianne McTaggart, Year 12

Moving to Wath was very daunting at first as I didn't really know anybody. However, the staff and students were very welcoming, which helped me to settle in. I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Drama for my A levels. I am also doing Dance as an enrichment, which is a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and it also looks good on university applications. I am wanting to study at Oxbridge in the future, if I achieve the grades, and I feel as though this enrichment will help me to do so as extra curriculum activities never go unnoticed when applying for universities.



So far, in Biology, we have studied cells, lipids, proteins and carbohydrates. I have found these topics really interesting and have loved doing the practicals that come along with them. We have recently done a practical called biochemical food tests, in which we were given 8 unknown substances and had to find out what they consisted of. I found this challenging at first but with help from my peers we managed to complete the practical and achieve some accurate results.

I have also found Chemistry very engaging and interesting. I have loved developing my knowledge on bonding whilst also learning new topics like the mass spectrometry. At first, I found some new topics very difficult as they involve a lot of maths and equation work. However, with guidance from my teacher, I can now confidently say that I can do these equations and maths calculations. The help and support from the school has been immense and I have never felt unable to ask for extra help from my teachers. I am excited for my future studies at Wath Academy and can't wait to continue with my chosen subjects.

from Wath Academy

Download an eBook Today!

Given the global pandemic, the school library is having to work a little bit differently this year. Students now have access to a huge selection of free eBooks and audiobooks, through [Accessit](#), the library management system.



Alternatively, students can download them through the "ePlatform by Wheelers Books" app on a mobile/tablet, which can be downloaded for free from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Start downloading today!



Poem of the Month

Triggers

By Lola Billingham, Year 10

Forced out from the world, on top of an unbelievably thin needle
I catch my balance, the tip of my finger touches our sky, and I know I'm not alone
With the single bent wing we were given

I ask, what do you want to do from your birth to your disappearance?
Because you smile just like an angel
Distorted in the heat, we fall through the cracks of the burning buildings
In the end, I'll pull the trigger

After that winter will come, and snow will cover everything
I may not be rewarded, and I don't think I can get back what I lose
But the farthest place equally exists for us
We can't keep being here, so press onward

I ask, what can you do from your birth to your disappearance?
You always smile at me without any hesitation
At the end of a dream, like a burning butterfly
I glimmer once, and steal the clouded eyes of the world
Stole everything.

I want to live with you from my birth to my disappearance
I can't depict that just like a legend
We connect summers and in a spiral through the cracks of history
we fall straight to hell, and in the end, I'll pull the trigger...

With that, even we will turn to dust.

Together, for the rest of time...

Wath Student Runner-up in Literary Prize

Year 13 student Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse has finished as runner-up in the senior section of The Orwell Youth Prize, an annual competition for young writers.

Responding to the theme The Future We Want, Molly wrote a poem entitled 'The Future'.

"I've always been a fan of dystopian fiction, so I wanted to write about a future where society believes they have solved the problems faced by humanity currently by using a science which is seen as unethical," said Molly. "However, it becomes clear to the reader as they continue that there is a problem with this system and has not really changed anything, contrary to what the narrator believes."

Poet and judge Kayo Chingonyi was impressed and said, "This poem displayed an exceptionally well-managed sense of tone. You can really imagine the person speaking and the world to which they belong."

The Future

By Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Year 13

When we discovered
the fundamental flaws in humanity –
inequality, cruelty, class divide,
discrimination –
we rectified them.
Parents choose their child's genome
while they are still growing
only the positive traits can be deposited.
Intelligence, height, looks;
they can all be designed.
The perfect child
born from a perfect system.
Obviously, there are different services...
(premium is expensive).
Some of the more "underprivileged"
(that's the politically correct term)
choose to play by the genetic lottery –
apparently that's how
it used to happen
(*No wonder society was flawed, they cried!*).
The Company's slogan is:
cheap work is never good and good work is never cheap –
imagine what free must be.

First published by The Orwell Youth Prize
for The Orwell Youth Prize 2020
(www.orwellyouthprize.co.uk)

Meet the New Senior Staff:

The Torch journalists Emily Balais and Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse (Year 13) caught up with the new Principal Mr Ransome, while Year 7 Anwen Browne found out more about the new Vice Principal Mr Swann. [Read on learn more.](#)

Mr Ransome

Mr Ransome is the new Principal at Wath Academy this year. He joins the school from a school in Thailand. He has also previously worked at Kingswood Academy in Hull, where he worked as the Deputy Head.

As is tradition each year within *The Torch*, we had a new staff interview with him in order to find out more about him. Firstly, we asked him who or what inspired him to be a teacher. Mr Ransome told us he was inspired to teach maths when he met a Maths teacher (called Mr Nuttall) who totally changed his perspective of education with his amazing lessons. During his time as a teacher, before becoming the Principal at Wath Academy, he also taught PE and Business Studies.

We next asked him how he had found fitting into a new school. He stated that the experience has been 'good' and he has 'really enjoyed it'. The staff and students have been 'very welcoming', demonstrating a 'community spirit' within the school. He acknowledged that, at some points, it has been difficult, but overall, he has been 'enjoying the challenges' the transfer to a new school has posed.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Euan Green, Sienna Gilway, Ruby Hornung, Amelia Newsome, Amelia Radojevich, Ruby Leach, Igrayne Whitelam, Sienna Gillway, Molly Harper, Millie O'Brien, Amelia Radojevich, Isobel Clowrey, Isobelle Fenton, Emily Rodgers, Alex Cook, Lissy Bowman, Grace Clowrey, Ngai Wa Yuen, Aidan Jennings, Caitie Swallow, Laura Rodgers, Lauren Williams, Emily Balais, Molly Hammerton and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Joshua Havenhand, Lucianne McTaggart, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, please find Miss Taylor in F30 to be added to the Satchel:One group!



We then asked him how teaching this year has been different to teaching any other year in his career. Obviously, the current situation has had an impact on teaching this year. Mr Ransome feels that Covid-19 has posed 'lots of interesting challenges'. He is, however, keen to create solutions (not excuses, in line with the school's key drivers!) and to see the advantages. For example, he believes the pandemic has allowed the school to introduce lots of beneficial systems, such as calmer corridors and longer lessons.

We also asked him which football team he supported. The answer was Hull City. He started going to games with his dad when he was 5 years old and has been going ever since (until lockdown!).

We finished the interview with a more light-hearted question, asking him if he could be any character from popular media, who he would be and why. Mr Ransome revealed that he would be James Bond; however, he also told us: 'I'm scared of heights and struggle with subtlety so it's more of a wish than a reality.'

Mr Ransome and Mr Swann



Mr Swann

Mr Swann, a passionate Science teacher, is the new Vice Principal to the school. He started teaching at Maltby Comprehensive and worked there for five years until it became an Academy. While he was there, he worked as Key Stage 4 Coordinator for Science and also Lead Teacher for Teaching and Learning. After Maltby, he moved to Sheffield Springs Academy as Head of Science, and then spent the next part of his career as Director of Science to Kingswood Academy in Hull, where he progressed to Assistant Vice Principal and finally to Deputy Head Teacher.

After five years at each of his previous schools, he joined Wath Academy this September, and he is fully aligned to all of the key drivers and the curriculum intent, and he really believes in everyone in the school and the wider community. From his education in the past, Mr Swann saw the difference in teaching, the good and the bad. He loves Wath, because he has never lived further than 2 miles away from our school.

One of his favourite books is *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. He likes her novel because the

book makes great predictions about the future. He also loves *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, because it takes an adult's world into children's eyes. We next asked him who he would be, if he could be anyone from popular media. He chose Spider-Man, but for his scientific mind rather than his obvious skills - a love of Science inspired Mr Swann into teaching.

We finished the interview by asking him to tell us a few interesting things about himself. He shared the fact he is a Sheffield United fan. He also ran 800m for the country in athletics when he was younger. He has three children, who are currently five, seven and ten. He also has a holiday planned to go to France next year (dependent upon the Covid-19 situation, of course!).

Photograph of the Month

By Molly Harper, Year 7

A beautiful evocation of autumn!



Interested in getting your own photograph into the *Torch*? Next month, we want a photograph of the month which perfectly captures winter! Send entries to Miss Taylor at etaylor@wathacademy.com.

Meet the New Staff at

Curious to learn more about the new staff faces you see on the corridor? A number of journalists from Isobel Clowrey, Isobelle Fenton, Emily Rodgers, Alex Cook, Lissy Bowman, Grace Clowrey, Ngai Wa Yuen,

Miss Eames - English



Miss Eames came to Wath Academy Sixth Form and was inspired by her amazing English teacher to become a teacher herself. She was also curious about how the school works for teachers and wanted to give something back after it helped her so much. Miss Eames took on the challenge of doing five A Levels alongside a job and working towards taking her driving test. In addition to this, she also achieved a first class degree while doing two unpaid voluntary roles. The Victorian and Romantic periods are her favourites, and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë is her favourite book, as it combines romance and gothic genres. If she could be any character, she would like to be Elizabeth Bennet, a very strong female character for her time with advanced ideas, whilst also being a romantic character.

Miss Herdman - English

Miss Herdman has been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness. She was inspired to be a teacher by Mr Price, her favourite teacher. He was kind and dedicated to his work which Miss



Herdman thinks are great qualities to have as a teacher. Whilst at university, she spent her spare time learning Sign Language, so that she can communicate with everyone. She even paid extra to get a qualification as she was dedicated to be able to help everyone. Miss Herdman prefers to read books that will educate her. However, her favourite character is Matilda as she proves she can make a difference when people don't have faith in her. In her spare time, Miss Herdman likes to spend quality time with her family and one day she hopes she can live in York.

Miss Hunt - DT



Miss Hunt's own school Art teacher inspired her into teaching, who allowed her to come up to the art classroom whenever she had a free period to continue working on her art projects. She was drawn to apply for a job at Wath because she is really impressed with the great art facilities

the school has. Her favourite books are the *Rebel Girl* series because they show strong, inspirational characters, and if she could be any character from popular media, she would like to be Rachel from the TV series *Friends*. Like Rachel, she also wanted to study fashion in New York when she was younger.

Mrs Lane - Spanish

Mrs Lane, who studied three foreign languages, and also had the opportunity to live abroad in Spain and Portugal, wants to inspire students to love languages as much as she does. She believes that learning languages can open the door to the world. Like Miss Eames, Mrs Lane attended Wath Academy in the past and took inspiration to start teaching from her Spanish Sixth Form teacher, Mr. Bacon. She also wanted to work here because of the school's excellent local reputation. Mrs. Lane's favourite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. This is because her GCSE English teacher made reading it so much fun that she said she must have read it about ten times since then. Mrs Lane most admires Isabel Allende, a South-American author, a fantastic story-teller who brings characters to life in a very inspirational way.



Mrs Limer - Geography



Mrs Limer's geography teacher inspired her to start teaching. She also likes the thought of helping others succeed. She hopes to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in teaching KS5 and to offer more opportunities. Her favourite book is *Prisoners Of Geography* by Tim Marshall because it teaches about geopolitics around the world, and she loves human geography and learning about how the world is inter-connected. A person she admires is Emma Watson, who has spoken out about ending gender inequality and how to fight it in her speech at the United Nation.

Miss Lindley - Geography

Miss Lindley was inspired to enter teaching by her mum, who is a great primary school teacher. She chose to work at Wath Academy because she heard the school is driven to be the best and achieve world class learning and

believes she can bring new ideas to Wath as a newly qualified teacher. An inspiring fact about Miss Lindley is she's dyslexic and believes there is not a thing you cannot do as long as you try your best - you can overcome anything! Her favourite book is *The Almighty Dollar*, because it shows how interconnected our world has become and how globalisation is changing our world.



Miss Mason - English



Miss Mason loved school and English as a student, and enjoys working with young people. She chose to start teaching at Wath Academy, because this school is very good and has an amazing vision, and everyone here wants the same thing. Her favourite is *I Don't Know How She Does It* by Allison Pearson, because it has a fascinating perspective on modern working life. Miss Mason wasn't very wealthy growing up, but that didn't stop her from doing what she wants to do; this makes her believe that everyone has the attributes to succeed. If Miss Mason could be any character from popular media, she would be Inspector Morse because she would like to be that clever and would like to spot small details and solve crimes. She would probably be a detective if she wasn't a teacher!

Miss Redfern - RE

Miss Redfern, who came to Wath as a student, was inspired by her own RE teacher (Mrs Fairman). Both her children come to this school and she also decided to work here because Mr Jackson



is a really inspiring person. An interesting fact about her is that she has climbed all the mountains in the UK. Her favourite book is *Philosophy of Religion* and she would like to be the Queen, given the choice to be anyone else, because she would be curious to see how well she is treated and what her daily life is like.

Mr Roberts - Computing

Mr Roberts' inspiration was his own Maths teacher at school and he chose to work at

Wath Academy

The Torch (Euan Green, Sienna Gilway, Ruby Hornung, Amelia Newsome, Amelia Radojevich, Ruby Leach, Lauren Williams, Emily Balaiss and Molly Hammerton) have found out all about them!



Wath Academy after a teaching placement here, where he loved the school, pupils and friendly atmosphere. He thinks that he can bring to the school his love for the subject – and education as a whole. An inspiring fact about him is that he went from getting one of the lowest grades in his college class to the highest grade in his degree (1st class honours) due to his hard work and commitment. His favourite book is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, a sad but brilliant story, a fantastic portrayal of a horrible part of history. Finally, if he could be any character from popular media, he would be Dominic Toretto from *Fast and Furious*, as he loves cars and his family.

Mr Slack - History

Mr Slack has a passion for history. A fact that may inspire you is that, through hard work and dedication, he was able to achieve a 100% pass on his History GCSE! When he was a child, his favourite book series was *Harry Potter*, and now it is Nelson Mandela's autobiography, who is one of his personal heroes. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, playing dodgeball and watching Bolton Wanderers, which is the football team of his hometown. He admires Barack Obama because he believes that Obama provided a real change for the best in America as well as inspiring people to fight for what they believe in! He chose to teach here because the person who trained him used to work here and told him about how amazing Wath Academy is!



Miss Thacker - Science



Miss Thacker's own Biology teacher inspired her to start teaching, who helped her build confidence in her skills and inspired her to pursue a career in Science. She chose to work at Wath after visiting last year for a week, when she found the students were very engaged in Science and it felt like a nice community environment for both students and teachers. Miss Thacker was diagnosed with dyspraxia, but didn't let it stop her from achieving her goals. She

says that her favourite book is *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo as it was massively emotional and follows a similar story to the life of her great-grandad. If she could be any fictional character, she would be Princess Leia, due to the fact that she is such a strong character with great leadership skills, who doesn't let being a woman stop her. As well as that, she added, being able to fly a spaceship would be cool!

Mr Tipping - DT

Mr Tipping was inspired into teaching by his Art teacher (Mr Orchard), his experience in youth work and his passion for art in general. He decided to work here at Wath Academy for two reasons. First, he missed teaching sixth form, and second, it reminded him of his childhood school. If he could be any fictional character, Mr Tipping would be Chief Hopper from *Stranger Things* since he always endeavours to do the right thing even if the path ahead is unclear. Throughout Years 7 and 8, Mr Tipping struggled with anxiety and shyness, at a time when his sister was extremely ill and unwell. This, however, only encouraged him more. He started attending school every day until his attendance reached 100%, and he also joined the school drama club and performed in front of hundreds of people. Mr Tipping clearly possesses a growth mindset to aid him to overcome even some of the most difficult obstacles.



Miss Thompson - Dance



Miss Thompson used to have a business where they visited schools to teach students to dance as a treat for them, and she took inspiration from this to begin her career in teaching. She picked to work at Wath Academy because she liked the Movement Evening and how open the website was—it was comforting that the school shared a lot about the curriculum. She believes that it's never too late to try, since she was self-taught to dance, and she still got the job she wanted, even with possible setbacks. Her favourite book is *Alice in Wonderland*, because it is a good read, and it is a bit random, just like her. She likes

how there are so many different interpretations of the story. She said that if she could be anyone, she would be Beyoncé, because she is a strong, powerful woman, with many skills.

Ms Thorpe - Maths

Ms Thorpe's Maths teacher Mr Disney inspired her to begin teaching and she chose to teach here because she grew up locally and she thinks this school is an amazing place to teach. Miss Thorpe is aiming to bring glitter and sparkle to lessons. Her favourite book is *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, because it was the first book her parents gave her, and the book is about a cat, which she adores. She also wants to be the character Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* because she is a curious person who loves finding out about and learning new things. She likes to see things differently to others, so when someone sees rain, Ms Thorpe sees a rainbow. Once, her Science teacher said that she would never be a dancer; however, she learnt different types of dance like ballet, ballroom, tap and belly dance and she also performed dancing on stage, too! She believes you should never give up on a dream, no matter how people view you.



Miss Walker - RE



Miss Walker was inspired to start teaching by her passion for Psychology as it was her favourite subject in school. She has come here, to Wath Academy, because she loves the highest standards and expectations rules and she believes she will fit in well. An interesting fact about this teacher is that when she was younger, she had to miss three mornings a week at school because she was ill. Those classes were English, and although it isn't her best subject, she persevered and made it to the top. Her favourite book (at the moment) is *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* as it is very addictive. If she could be any character, film, TV, books or otherwise, she would be Lorelai Leigh "Rory" Gilmore from the *Gilmore Girls*. This is because she tried really hard and Miss Walker would like the time to read that Rory has.



Media and Review:

Enola Holmes Movie Review

By Grace Clowrey, Year 10



Enola Holmes is based on the YA book series by Nancy Springer, and tells the story of Enola, the teenage sister of Sherlock Holmes. On her sixteenth birthday, Enola awakes to find her mother gone, with no clue as to where she might be. Enola is left to become a detective herself, outwitting her brothers' attempts to find her as she tries to solve the puzzle of her mother's disappearance.

On her journey, she encounters a runaway Lord, a killer and a conspiracy. I would highly recommend this movie, which is hilarious and full of twists and turns, leaving you guessing at what might happen next.

Enola is a determined, charismatic character, who is more likely to be found practising jujitsu than doing embroidery; she challenges the stereotypes of the era and those around her, and fights to be recognised – there are also lots of references to the suffragette movement.

It is available to stream on Netflix.

Wentworth Woodhouse

By Igrayne Whitelam, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

A PLACE YOU NEED TO SEE!

Events

Wentworth Woodhouse holds a wide variety of events such as the music festival and car fest sometimes it can have artwork projected onto it! Once they had a huge light up globe inside it. Another time, it had an image on the ground supporting the Tour de Yorkshire where loads of cyclists raced by.

During the coronavirus pandemic, they even made a piece of artwork made to represent it was a huge group of birds painted and put into a spiral with a little help from the locals.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Showbiz and Blockbusters

Tons of shows have been filmed at Wentworth Woodhouse. From *Billionaire Boy* to *Darkest Hour*, even the most popular films sometimes have scenes here.

Films, Games and More



The Legend of the Wentworth Beast

When Charles Marquis of Rockingham ruled over the mansion and ruled over England, (as he was once prime minister) he fell in love with one of his servants named Elizabeth (informally Betty) Gill she loved him too, but she didn't know that he loved her back.

As time passed, Elizabeth told more people that she loved Charles. Eventually, she got worried that people would tell Charles about her love for him, so she drowned herself in a lake. During these times, they had huge black hunting dogs and one of them went demented, and with that, they let it loose. Nobody knew where it went or if it died, but, eventually, it did!

Once, two local carp anglers went fishing at the lake where is said to be the lake that Elizabeth died in, but they reported that they saw smoke in the shape of a woman change into the shape of a big dog, hovering around the lake. A few locals describe that they have encountered similar occurrences, but can they coincidentally be big, black dogs?

The Taste of Heaven

Restaurant Review: The Elephant and Castle

By Sienna Gillway, Year 7

Firstly, I, my mum, my dad and my sister visited The Elephant and Castle during August when they did 'Eat Out to Help Out'. As soon as I arrived at the restaurant, it looked exquisite and I knew the food would be delicious. When my food arrived, it tasted and looked astonishing. Due to the 'Eat Out to Help Out', it was half price, but when my dad told me the price it should have been, it was slightly overpriced. I recommend either going on a birthday or anniversary due to the atmosphere.

Tetris 99: The Most Intense Battle Royale Ever!

By Aidan Jennings, Year 10

So, I recently got myself a Switch and so far, I'm really enjoying it. One of the things I love so much are the exclusives, and today I'm going to talk about one of the Switch's funniest exclusives: *Tetris 99*.

Let's get the negatives out of the way first. I don't have many problems with this game, but by far the biggest of them all is the fact it does a terrible job teaching you the ropes. This is a battle royale game, which means the last one standing wins, and you are able to KO people in it. The only problem is that it doesn't tell you how to KO them. It also doesn't tell you how to T-spin, which is where you spin your T-block at just the right moment to get it into places it otherwise couldn't have gotten. I manage to figure this out on my own eventually, but with no help from the game. It also doesn't tell you the controls. My final thing I dislike about the game is that match-making takes a while. There will be a full lobby waiting to play, but the match will still take about 30 seconds to start.

Positives time. This game is really fun. I'm not sure what it is but I always want to do just one more game. It's intense, and difficult, but unless you're in the worst possible spot, you always feel like you have a chance. Unlike other battle royales, everyone's on an even playing field. There is never that guy who you just can't possibly beat because he got all the best loot, because you don't grab any loot; you get what the game gives you and try to do your best with it. There are also daily challenges. which means you always feel like you are working toward something. You also unlock icons by completing certain tasks. Basically, the icons act as achievements or trophies, but they are better because you get an icon you can use. The gameplay is Tetris. You make lines and score points, but in this one, it also makes your opponent's life harder (as far as I can gather). It's really simple, easy to pick up, and really fun. When you get to 50 players remaining, the music gets faster, making things even more intense. On top of single mode, you have team mode, where four teams compete to beat the rest. It's fun knowing that if you lose, you might still have a chance to win, as victory isn't all on you, it's also on your teammates. If you want to play team mode, be warned—not a lot of people play it, so it may take a while to fill up.

I think I've covered everything. *Tetris 99* is a fun game, with a couple flaws here and there. But the best part of it all is it's completely FREE. So, if you have a Switch and you haven't played it, you have nothing to lose. Considering all of the above, I gave *Tetris 99* an 8/10.

Feature: Is JK Rowling a TERF?

By Laura Rodgers, Year 13

Despite the chaos that is currently happening across the world, author JK Rowling has decided to fan the flames of division with some recent comments she made about the trans community. Rowling, whose Harry Potter series provided a safe space for many LGBTQ+ young people, has put out multiple tweets in lockdown that do not seem inherently problematic at first, but when you further analyse their meaning and context, their transphobic undertones become more apparent.

The first tweet to spark outrage was in response to an opinion piece by Devex called 'Opinion: Creating a more equal post-COVID-19 world for people who menstruate'. In the tweet, Rowling says "'People who menstruate.' I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?" which was widely interpreted as the author stating that the only people who menstruate are women, which is not only fundamentally incorrect, but also erases the lived experiences of many trans men and women, cis women and non-binary people. The article was clearly trying to use gender neutral language to avoid excluding these groups, but Rowling actively singled out this more inclusive article for the sole purpose of mocking it.

In response to the backlash this tweet caused, Rowling published a thread of tweets defending herself, stating that, "If sex isn't real, there's no same-sex attraction. If sex isn't real, the lived reality of women globally is erased. I know and love trans people, but erasing the concept of sex removes the ability of many to meaningfully discuss their lives. It isn't hate to speak the truth". She went on to say that, "The idea that women like me, who've been empathetic to trans people for decades, feeling kinship because they're vulnerable in the same way as women—i.e. to male violence—"hate" trans people because they think sex is real and has lived consequences—is a nonsense." and that "I respect every trans person's right to live any way that feels authentic and comfortable to them. I'd march with you if you were discriminated against on the basis of being trans. At the same time, my life has been shaped by being female. I do not believe it's hateful to say so.". Each of these tweets not only fail to provide a rational argument for her previous statements, (that seemingly originated from nowhere) but also further suggests her transphobic and out of touch beliefs.

The first tweet of this thread states that if the idea of

'sex' (meaning the physical and genetic characteristics attributed to men and women) is erased, the entire 'lived reality of women globally is erased' and that 'there is no same-sex attraction'. By definition, this statement suggests that the lived experience of women should be defined solely by their physical characteristics, which totally goes against the 'feminist' views that this was supposedly trying to communicate. Her attempts to appeal to the LGBTQ+ community by suggesting that trans people are trying to erase the concept of same-sex attraction was met with the opposite reaction, with many instead arguing that 'same-sex attraction' was an outdated term. When confronted with these negative reactions, Rowling went on to say that their responses were 'nonsense' and tried to highlight her 'support' for trans people, which only caused further conflict.

This led to the publication of her 3,600-word essay 'TERF Wars' where she publicly discussed her experiences with domestic abuse and sexual assault for the first time whilst also making unsubstantiated and incorrect claims surrounding trans people and their experiences. Rowling mentions her struggles with sexism and misogyny repeatedly, even stating that, "if I'd been born 30 years later, I too might have tried to transition" after reading accounts about gender dysphoria by trans men. This provoked an initially confused reaction from many readers, who felt that this did not align with her previous statements, but Rowling went on to blame misogyny and sexism for the 4,400 per cent increase in the number of young people being referred for gender therapy and gender affirming surgeries and treatment in the past decade. This actively contradicts the experience of most trans people, who do not undertake such a physically and emotionally taxing journey just to escape from the societal pressures associated with their assigned sex at birth. (For a complete analysis of the essay with relevant citations, this video is very useful: youtu.be/6Avcp-e4bOs)

Following the publication of this essay, Rowling responded to a seemingly unrelated thread of tweets asking, "Who had money on JK Rowling pivoting to supporting those who call people who take mental health medication "lazy"? I take daily medication to function, this sentiment is beyond offensive, it is actively harmful to millions.". In her response, Rowling wrote: "I've ignored fake tweets attributed to me and RTed widely. I've ignored p*r*n tweeted at children on a thread about their art. I've ignored death and r*pe threats. I'm not going to

Twitter Transphobia Row

ignore this. 1/11.” She then proceeded to open up further about her struggles with mental health and her experience with taking anti-depressants. Rowling then went on to say “Many, myself included, believe we are watching a new kind of conversion therapy for young gay people, who are being set on a lifelong path of medicalisation that may result in the loss of their fertility and/or full sexual function”, actively comparing the lifesaving hormone and surgical treatments given to trans people to the incredibly damaging and dangerous process of ‘conversion therapy’ which is used by religious groups across the world to ‘convert’ LGBTQ+ people. Rowling then went on to focus on ‘detransitioners’, which makes up a very small percentage of trans people (less than 1%), and tries to portray them as the majority, further endangering trans people by trying to make them seem as if they are ‘confused’.

The controversy has continued into recent weeks, with the announcement of the publication of her new novel *Troubled Blood* under her pseudonym Robert Galbraith. The book is the fifth book in the Strike series and follows the story of a cold case from 1974, when GP Margot Bamborough disappears, and a failed police investigation means that she was never found. Further details were disclosed in a pre-release review by Jake Kerridge for *The Telegraph*, who states that Bamborough was ‘a victim of Dennis Creed, a transvestite serial killer’ and that “One wonders what critics of Rowling’s stance on trans issues will make of a book whose moral seems to be: never trust a man in a dress.” Despite the seemingly shocking and controversial nature of the novel’s subject, it isn’t the first time Rowling has placed trans people in inherently predatory roles in her novels. In her second novel, *The Silkworm*, the main character, Detective Strike is stalked by a woman named Pippa. She attempts to stab Strike but gets trapped in his office, where Strike demands to see her ID and the fact that she is trans is revealed. She tries to escape but not before Strike says: “If you go for that door one more time I’m calling the police and I’ll testify and be glad to watch you go down for attempted murder. And it won’t be fun for you, Pippa. Not pre-op.”

Rowling’s obsession with demonising trans people has generated some support from mainstream celebrities,

but has mainly created conflict with many notable figures like Stephen King, Johnathan van Ness, Juno Birch, and Margaret Atwood, alongside many members of the cast of the Harry Potter films including, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Evanna Lynch, Eddie Redmayne and Miryam Margoyles. Each of these figures wholeheartedly denounced her actions and played a vital role in showing the public the malicious intent behind Rowling’s statements. Trans activist Munroe Bergdorf tweeted: “J.K. Rowling is not a scientist. She is not a doctor. She is not an expert on gender. She is not a supporter of our community. She is a billionaire, cisgender, heterosexual, white woman who has decided she knows what is best for us and our bodies. This is not her fight.” Each of the Harry Potter cast members that spoke out against Rowling did so very publicly, and many highly recommended making donations and spoke about their own donations to charities that support trans people.

So finally. The big question. Is J K Rowling a TERF? The definition of a TERF is a trans exclusionary radical feminist. So, in order to be a TERF, one must first be a feminist, which means that you believe that all genders are equal. This ultimately leads to a total contradiction. If one identifies as a feminist, one cannot discriminate against trans people, which therefore renders the term TERF entirely defunct. J K Rowling is not a TERF, but a transphobe. J K Rowling has exploited her position of power to discriminate against trans people. J K Rowling has used her status as an influential person to spread harmful misinformation and hate speech.

If you would like recommendations for more inclusive fantasy novels, try these:

- *Carry On* – Rainbow Rowell
- *Dreadnought* – April Daniels
- *The Raven Cycle* – Maggie Stiefvater
- *The Fascinators* – Andrew Eliopoulos
- *Infinity Cycle* – Adam Silvera
- *Cemetery Boys* – Aiden Thomas
- *Maiden, Mother and Crone* – Gwen Benaway

News, Politics and Opinion:

Cinemas Shutting Down

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

The latest James Bond film has now been delayed until 2021. As a result, the Cineworld company, which owns 127 theatres in the UK, including Picturehouse cinemas, and 536 in the US, has decided to close its cinemas, which will cost 45,000 jobs. It is the second best movie theatre. Last month, Cineworld reported a loss of \$1.6 billion (approximate £1.4 billion) in the first half of 2020. Its cinema in Dublin, its only venue in Ireland, had to close due to Covid-19 restriction 2 weeks ago. The world's second-biggest cinema chain wrote to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden this weekend to warn them that the industry has become unviable. Vue cinemas have reduced their opening days and now they are Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Ticced Off

By Caitie Swallow, Y12

Tourette's. I bet that quite a high proportion of people inside school believe that Tourette's Syndrome is just people swearing. This is nowhere near the truth. Only 10% of people do suffer with coprolalia (involuntary swearing or involuntary uttering of obscene words or phrases.) I suffer with Tourette's and I don't suffer with coprolalia.

My tics are more vocal and motor. They include coughing (which isn't good during the times we live in), sniffing, wincing, animal noises. Plus a whole lot more. I want to change the stereotype of Tourette's. It isn't fair for someone who suffers greatly with Tourette's to say they have it and then get told, "No, no, you don't because you don't swear." This is from personal experience. It's awful. I'm thankful that all of my friends know and are accepting and they knew that it wasn't just swearing.

1) Do tics hurt?

Yes, sometimes. In my personal experience, if I cough

too hard, I end up pulling a muscle in my stomach or if I do an animal noise, it hurts my throat more times than not. Many other people who suffer from Tourette's have quite complex tics in which they could punch themselves which would definitely hurt them.

2) How is Tourette's Syndrome diagnosed?

To be diagnosed with Tourette's someone must:

- Have two or more motor tics and at least one vocal tic although these might not happen at the same time
- Have had tics for at least a year
- Have tics start before 18 years old although there are rare cases of people a bit older starting with tics
- Have symptoms that are not due to other medicine or due to any other medical condition

3) What is it like to suppress a tic?

It's like having a really, really bad itch that you can't scratch but a whole lot worse. It's also like trying your hardest not to blink. It's alright when you start but after a few seconds, you get the urge to blink. Just like people with Tourette's have an uncontrollable urge to tic.

4) Should people be more accepting of Tourette's?

Yes they should because people with Tourette's can't help doing their tics. It is way more complex than the stereotypical swearing. Saying horrible things about people who do suffer such as, "People with Tourette's are dumb," is nothing at all. You never know who around you had Tourette's or has someone in their family who suffers. So please, don't say anything like that. Many people with TS are scared to do their tics and therefore suppress them. These people are afraid (just like me) that someone will judge them or say something.

So please, just remember that people with Tourette's can't help ticcing. It is involuntary. So do not say anything to them about it as you will just make them uncomfortable and feel isolated.

Wath Students Have Their Say!

The Day Of The Dead

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

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The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico (in particular, the central and south regions), and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

How did the Day of the Dead start?

Dia de los Muertos has its origins in Aztec traditions honouring the dead. The Aztec Empire's influence extended throughout present-day Mexico and central America, while few native Americans of the present-day US shared Aztec traditions. They would be unlikely to adopt *Dia de los Muertos* rituals.

8 interesting Facts

1. The Day of the Dead is not a Mexican Halloween, even though they are celebrated around the same time.
2. The holiday has a rich and ancient history, dating back over the 2,000 years.
3. Families who live in Mexico place *ofrendas* to honour their dead relatives.
4. The Day of the Dead isn't sombre. It's a celebration.
5. Humour has played an important role during the holiday.
6. It is customary to visit the cemeteries on this day to see your relatives and to clean and also

wash the grave.

7. Marigolds are a key component for this day.
8. A central thing for this day are pastries and sweets.

Remembrance Day

By Lissy Bowman, Year 10

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Remembrance Day (Armistice Day) marks the end of World War One on the 11th of November. This is a special day where everyone who fought for our freedom is remembered (even though we do this everyday). On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we have a 2 minute silence to take time out of our day to remember those who fought for our freedom that we have today.

Over 30 nations fought in the Great War, most of which were on the Allied side, fighting for freedom and from the Central Powers. It was 4 years of brutal wars raging across the globe, everyone fighting for what they believed was right. The conflict on a geographical scale was never seen before and many people died trying, many of them civilians and innocents.

So remember, you are living right now, speaking your language, doing what you're doing because of the men who had fought in those brutal wars. Don't forget about this important date for without that Armistice, who knows what would have happened and if the Central Powers would have won.

Feature: Magic and Magicians

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

Magicians are people who have learnt tricks for so long or not even long and then perform in front of their family and to other people. Magicians do not always do tricks they also do illusions and effects.

5 easy and simple steps on how to be a magician

1. Always have your equipment ready.
2. Learn basic magic tricks and sleights.
3. Organise your magic tricks into a routine.
4. Devolve your magic skills, clothes and presentations.
5. Practice your magic skills and routines.

What is the mystery behind magic?

It can cause conflict between what you think can happen and things that you have experienced. While some magicians would like you to believe that they possess real magical powers, the true secret behind magic lies in clever psychological techniques that exploit limitations in the way our brains work.

What is the most 7 dangerous magic tricks ever?

1. Escape from the crane
2. Escape the burning rope
3. Bullet catch
4. Buried alive
5. Tornado of fire
6. The sword cabinet
7. Frozen in ice

What can be dangerous about magic tricks?

Escaping from the crane is dangerous because the crane could break or the person attached to the crane might get an injury. It is also dangerous because rope could snap.

Escaping from the burning rope is dangerous because the person who is attached to the rope could get set on fire and if you are doing it in a house or somewhere inside, then you have to make sure the place does not catch on fire.

The bullet catch trick has claimed the lives of magicians, assistants, spectators, and countless others over the years.

Buried alive is also as dangerous as it sounds. The premise is that 'the escape artist' is handcuffed and buried beneath six feet of soil without a casket, which doesn't sound a particularly enjoyable challenge!

The tornado of fire is violent and can do damage to anyone who fails the trick. They can suffer when very intense heat from a fire rises and surrounding air rushes in to replace it. This creates a spinning column of air. That's when you get a whirl of fire or a fire tornado.

The sword cabinet is not safe, even though the assistant is usually a contortionist. The frozen in ice trick is not a good idea to do because you might not be able to move after because of the temperature the ice and it could kill you.

All tricks are performed by experts and you shouldn't try them at home!

How did magic start?

The earliest magic trick was the cup in ball trick. It is almost 5000 years old, first performed in 2700 BC by Dedi in Egypt. The same trick was performed 2,000 years ago in Rome. It has been used for centuries since by street hustlers to con people out of money.

Who is the most famous magician?

David Copperfield is the most famous magician because he has performed innovative magic in his many television specials and continues to tour and perform for live audiences.

Famous magicians



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Harry Houdini (*left*) and David Copperfield (*right*) are two famous magicians.

Feature: Digital Art Tips and Tricks

By Lissy Bowman Y10

Digital art, in my opinion, is so much better than traditional, giving you the option to create such dramatic pieces or sentimental scenes (with the added bonus of an undo button). Here are just a few tips and tricks to get you started on a digital journey, maybe expanding your tastes!



Apps



First, to get started, of course you need an app. Depending on what device you are using, there are a range of free apps available to everyone. The most popular ones include IbisPaintX (great for beginners) MediBang (with a more professional layout) and Krita (Also comes with an animation or comic template). Now, depending on which device you use also depends on the app. IbisPaintX and MediBang are free on both tablets and phones while Krita is free on PC. The app you choose depends on your preference; I prefer IbisPaintX as it had a variety of brushes available for free by watching a simple video.

Using IbisPaintX allows for an easy use, the layout being pretty easy to follow to create masterpieces. It doesn't have to be just drawings as you can edit photos or just make simple texts. Layers, clipping, alpha lock, selection and smudge are just a very few of the tools it has to offer.

MediBang is a little more complicated than IbisPaintX, yet you still end up with a fantastic piece

if you use it correctly. The layout is more professional compared to the other and sometimes can be hard to find things you want like the rubber or delete tool. In the end, depending on your preference, MediBang is an amazing app to use also for drawing!

Krita is for the PC drawers (recommend using a drawing tablet to make your life just that little easier) who like a professional but easy to navigate layout. The software is great for first time PC drawers, offering a variety of brushes and tools for the user. Canvas sizes vary yet not as much as IbisPaintX or MediBang, allowing A5, A4, A3 and comic templates.

Helpful Tips

Here are just a few helpful tips that can get you started:

When shading, people are tempted to use black and white for highlights yet you have a variety of colours to choose from. Your art would look 10x better by using a dark shade of brown and orange/yellow highlights for a setting or rising sun.

If you want to colour a large section, bucket select it and then it's easier to colour without going over the lines. It makes things so much quicker and easier.

To get neat, straight lines, try using a stabiliser. Easily found on the brush settings, stabilisers finish your line art off, giving it a more professional look and pleasing to the eye.

Texture. Although not needed, it makes your art look less flat and just makes it pop from the rest of everything.

Muted tones. Not everything needs to be bright as it's an eye strain to most people; try using some more muted tones to make it a little more pleasing to the eye.

That's all for now. If you are inspired to create some digital art, why not share it with *The Torch*? Email etaylor@wathacademy.com and we'll print it in the next edition!

Feature: Urban Legends

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By Isobelle Fenton, Year 9

In Jamaica, ghosts are called 'Duppy'. At a funeral, they will place an upside down shrub on the coffin once it is lowered into the ground.

This came from the belief that the 'good' soul goes to heaven, and the 'bad' one stays underground. However, after three days, the bad souls will rise to walk on earth, as a Duppy. The shrub is placed roots upward because the Duppy will see the shrub, get disorientated and stay down. If the shrub either isn't there, or is facing the correct way, the Duppy will come up from the grave.

Duppy are dangerous and can hurt people. They don't

have full features, just seem like they should, but they have a huge grin, made of white teeth: a contrast to their grey shadowy silhouette, and they smell like rotting meat. They have long hands, they are strong, and make groaning, husky noises.

If they are a relative, you can tell, and they might talk to you, but they don't sound like they did in life. They have a deep voice, and it is not comforting like usual.

Duppy can have strange effects on the surroundings. Food can rot when it shouldn't, and the wind can blow unusually strong. There are ways to summon Duppy, but you should never invite Duppy to come to you.



Creative Corner

Singing Songs of Old

By Lissy Bowman Year 10



Young soldiers are all walking,
Singing songs of old.
Going against all rule of men,
Just doing what they're told.

Lest we forget the men,
Who sing these songs of old.
Never shall we forget,
The men who paved a path of gold.

And they sing these songs of old
Stronger they are together.
Only when the last shot was fired,
Will their dream last forever

And lest we forget these soldiers,
Who sung a song of old.
Just some brave young men,
Whose stories are retold.

Feature: Bonfire Night

By Amelia-Summer Radojevich, Year 8

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Bonfire Night occurs every year on the 5th of November. It's where people go to watch colourful fireworks and fires.

It dates back to 1605 when Guy Fawkes and a group of Catholic conspirators plotted an explosion on the Houses of Parliament. They filled a cellar with gun powder (a powder which makes fireworks) and waited for the right time - November 5th. However, after an anonymous letter, the authorities searched the cellar and caught Guy Fawkes red-handed whilst guarding the cellar. He was arrested and executed on 31st January 1606, two months after the failed gunpowder plot.

Obviously, word got out about the attempted explosion, so the Houses of Parliament still stand today and no one inside was hurt. The people of London lit fires as a relief that Parliament still stands.

So, we now watch the beautiful colours in the sky and toast marshmallow on the fires. Some people still create 'Guys' to throw on the fire—though the actual ringleader was a man called Robert Catesby.

Book of the Month

Paradis – by Michelle Iannantuono

Reviewed by Emily Rodgers, Year 9

'Gods may be real, but the true heroes are human.'

Over quarantine, I had a lot of time to read. A book that really stood out, which I couldn't resist reading twice, was *Paradis* by Michelle Iannantuono, an award-winning film director and online



content creator. I often say this, but this is genuinely an amazing and beautifully written book.

It follows the story of Connor Bishara – an ex-Navy Seal who was dishonourably discharged when his colleague outed him as gay. Ten years later, he's working as a fry cook to support his younger sister Clara. Until archangel Raphael walks into his life, who's dealing with the political tensions of Paradisia (the Realm of the Gods) and an oncoming war. Connor accidentally binds himself to him, struggling to cope with the openness after years of burying his emotions from himself and others.

This book contains such amazing diversity, with POC characters, strong female leads, gay relationships, and aro/ace representation. It also tackles some difficult topics such as self-esteem issues, homophobia and severe hate crimes. This book defied all of my original expectations, not falling into any well-known tropes or unhappy endings. It left me feeling fulfilled, not wanting more or disappointed with the conclusion.

Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to anybody who wishes to read it. Not only is it fantastic, it's also supporting a first-time author and indie film creator, and Michelle Iannantuono definitely deserves it after writing such an incredible story.

Sport and House Update

LIVERPOOL LEGEND: JOHN BARNES

By Millie O'Brien, Year 7

In light of October being Black History Month, this article will talk about John Barnes, a Liverpool FC legend. A great past player and an anti-racism activist, he is now known as a black football icon.

John Barnes is fifty-six years old and Jamaican-born. He moved to England when he was 12 years old. John has seven children and a wife called Andrea. He started his football career in 1981 and played for four clubs: Charlton Athletic, Liverpool, Newcastle United and Watford.

During his playing career for England, he made a total of seventy-six appearances, scoring 12 goals. In 1988-89, he was named as both PFA Players' Player of the Year and Football Writers' Footballer of the Year. He also did a famous rap in the football song 'World in Motion'.

He is also one of the most famous black players to play for England at a time when there were not many black players in the game. Now retired from football, he continues to speak out about black rights at many events, including rallies and on the BBC television programme *Question Time*.

I personally support Liverpool so when I think of John Barnes, I think Liverpool, much like I do when thinking of Steven Gerrard and Mo Salah. And in my eyes, he is an inspiration.

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New Routine

