



**Wath
Academy**

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 14

KEY DATES:

**Tuesday 24 January –
Y9 Options Evening**

**Movement Evening
Performances
31 January
1/2 February**

2022/23 TERM DATES

Our term dates and INSET days for this academic year can be found on the academy website by clicking the following link
[Wath Academy - Term Dates](#)

20 January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Success Stories

Recently Eadie Schofield in Year 8 auditioned for a place at Yorkshire Elite Associates in Bradford. Thankfully Eadie was successful at her audition, and she will now receive first class training in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Commercial and Acro. We are very proud of you Eadie, well done.

If you would like to share your success stories with us, please email us via the following address:
achievement@wathacademy.com.

Former Wath Student Becomes TV News Reporter

Wath alumna Natalie Higgins made her on-air debut as a reporter on *ITV News Calendar* this week. Natalie attended Wath Comprehensive School from 2009 until 2016, where she was part of our first ever A Level Media Studies class. After studying journalism at the University of Sheffield, Natalie worked in local radio before joining ITV Yorkshire. She mostly works behind the scenes but appeared on screen on Wednesday evening's *Calendar* to report on delivery robots being introduced in Leeds.



Year 9 Options Process

A reminder that on Tuesday 24 January we will be hosting our Y9 options evening. There will be two opportunities to watch the presentation, 5pm and 6pm. Following this you will have the opportunity to discuss potential choices with subject leaders and teachers. Additionally, to this we will be placing videos created by subject leaders on the school website from the 24 January for you to watch to further inform your child's choices.



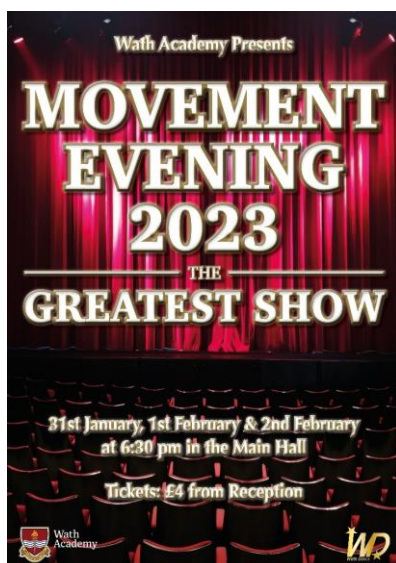
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Movement Evening

Movement Evening takes place on 31 January, 01 February and 02 February. Tickets are available for £4 from Reception before school until moving time and after school until 4pm.



Careers at Wath Academy

We are dedicated to providing the best possible support and guidance for our students to ensure they go on to live successful and fulfilling lives. With this in mind we have invested extensive resources and time into developing our offer. The careers team have put together a 'padlet' of information regarding careers which can be viewed via the link below. The padlet details upcoming events, our careers programme, the Gatsby benchmark, work experience opportunities, our careers curriculum and much more.

<https://padlet.com/nlaite/ax72poo781xuiwn2>

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome
Principal





Wath Academy Sixth Form

Recently Sixth Form have had the opportunity to take part in a HEPPSY led talk about degree apprenticeships. This gave Y12 & 13 students the chance to understand what alternative options there are to university or employment. Some students had the chance to meet one to one with the ambassador from HEPPSY, to ask further questions and for advice on future decisions.



Many Y12's have now volunteered as reading mentors to around 40 Y7 students. Really pushing our school focus of reading and to develop a love of reading for pleasure. The Y12 students help with clarifying, questioning and summarising various reading books selected by Y7 students. The programme has been a massive success and is really making a difference to the reading ability of our younger students. Thank you Y12!



Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Wath Academy Awards



Academy Awards

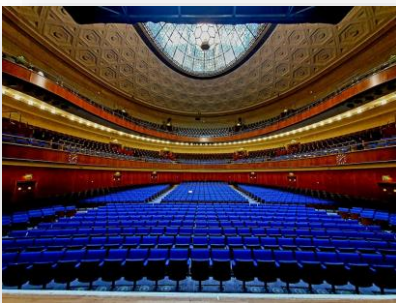
Following the hugely successful Academy Awards event hosted last year at the Sheffield City Hall, we have again secured the historic venue for this year's event which will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023.

On the evening we will be rewarding a number of students with a range of awards as well as watching the Academy's best musicians, dancers and actors. Last year Mark Labbett (best known as 'The Beast' from ITVs The Chase) presented awards. We will be looking to secure a celebrity once again to make the event special for our students.

We will be giving out over 2000 free tickets to students, parents/carers and the community for what promises to be an exceptional night.

We would like to provide local businesses with an opportunity to be involved in the event by sponsoring a page in the programme or even a prestigious award. In addition to advertising the business, we would also provide two VIP tickets which include reserved seating and drinks on arrival.

All money raised through sponsorship will be put directly in to making the event even more special. If you would like to sponsor the event in any way, please get in touch with us at academyawards@wathacademy.com.



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Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

KS3 & KS4 Friday Champions –
Aeroplane Launch! Winners –
Thebes
Box Task Winners – Greeting Card
Design Winner –Sparta
Sixth Form Champions – World
Religions Winners - Troy

Overall League Table of Everything



Building teamwork,
confidence and
community through
competition



Online Challenge Champions



Building teamwork,
confidence and
community through
competition

RELIGION QUIZ



100% Correct entries from Rome!

Harry S
Grace M
Dylan P
Daniel W

Thebes, you made my day!
If we all turn out every
Friday, we can smash this.
First is worth 600 points!



Coming Up This Week

"Get involved"



Building teamwork,
confidence and
community through
competition

Friday Challenge

Steam Train Challenge
Tennis Courts
Lunchtime
12:50pm prompt start!

Online Challenge



Winnie the Pooh
Complete the quiz on
Satchel: One
by Friday!

Sixth Form Friday Challenge

One-Liner Word Search
Post entries in the Box
in your study area by
Friday Lunch.

Box Challenge



**Chinese New Year
Creation**
See the next slide for
more information!

Chinese New Year Box Task

Your task is to design a "Chinese
New Year" themed creation.
This could be:

- .A new animal year.
- .A red envelope.
- .A lantern.
- .A dragon.
- .An advertisement Poster.
- .A short story.
- .Or anything else you can think of.

Post entries in your house box in
reception with your name and
tutor on.

Building teamwork, confidence and
community through competition



Building teamwork, confidence and community
through competition



HOUSE FUNDRAISING UPDATE !

 **Wath House Charity Support**

Sparta

Current Total Raised

£322.10

 **CANCER RESEARCH UK**



 **Wath House Charity Support**

Troy

Current Total Raised

£494.97

 **Rotherham Hospice**



 **Wath House Charity Support**

Carthage

Current Total Raised

£208.90

 **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**



 **Wath House Charity Support**

Athens

Current Total Raised

£329.60

 **barc**



 **Wath House Charity Support**

Thebes

Current Total Raised

£276.00

 **YOUNG MINDS**



 **Wath House Charity Support**

Rome

Current Total Raised

£254

 **mind** for better mental health

Rotherham & Barnsley



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITTER

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages ('tweets') of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Department Focus

English

This week all students have had an assembly with a focus on reading. The assembly in Y7-Y10 focused on the importance of their upcoming reading test and how they can specifically improve. Further, a real emphasis was placed on the power of reading just how much it can foster your imagination. Y11's assembly had a focus on reading skills for revision and GCSE purposes, whilst also highlighting fantastic books linked with careers. Sixth form also looked at the reading skills needed for a university point of view.



Eligible Y7 students have started additional tutor time reading interventions this term with an English teacher. These students have been identified as having gaps in their phonic knowledge. With the addition of the tutor time session, all Y7 students who have measured to be 'below average' in terms of their reading ability are now accessing intervention

English continue to deliberately select challenging 'core texts' for our term long schemes. This term students are studying the following:

Y7 'The Tempest'

Y8 'Macbeth' and War Poetry

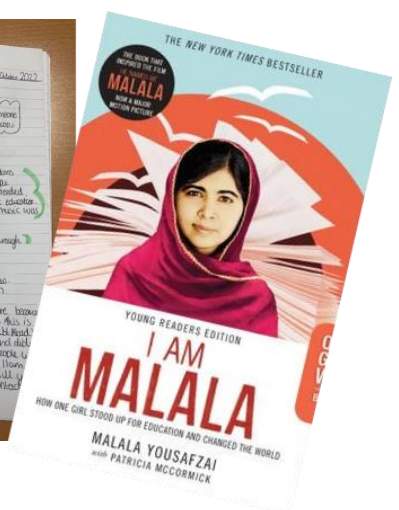
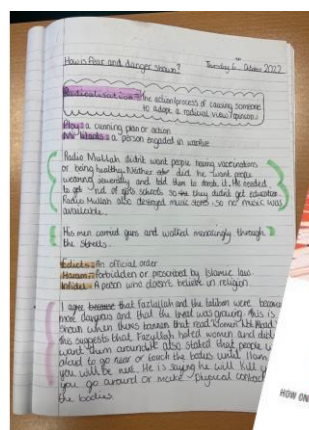
Y9 'Blood Brothers'

Y10 'An Inspector Calls'

Y11 – Revisiting both 'An Inspector Calls' and 'A Christmas Carol'

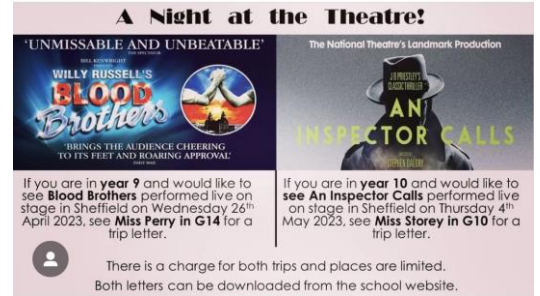
Along with these core texts, our term long schemes of learning include such a wide range of 'illuminating texts' where our intention is to spark a love of reading. For example, in the Y7 scheme we also explore extracts from 'Life of Pi' and 'Lord of the Flies'.

As well as this, students in Y7-Y9 have a fortnightly reading lesson, this term Y7 and some Y9 groups will be reading 'I am Malala' and learning about the experiences of oppressed Pakistani girls. We are really excited to deliver this text again, students are always fascinated to learn about the horrors of the Taliban and approach the lessons with such maturity.

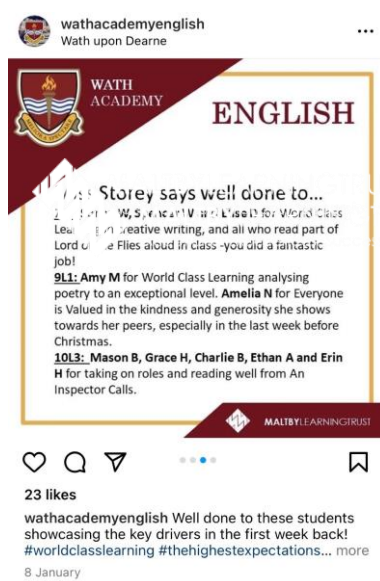


English

We are very excited to offer Y9 students the opportunity to watch 'Blood Brothers' at Sheffield Theatre and Y10 students 'An Inspector Calls'. We love the opportunity to bring these important work of literature to life for our students.



The library space continues to grow and recent student voice has informed our next purchase of books. Graphic novels are still proving to be very popular with series such as 'Heartstoppers', 'Five Night at Freddy's' and 'The Sad Ghost Club' and non-fiction books are additionally on the rise- interest in footballer's autobiographies and YouTube stars are in high demand.



We encourage parents and carers to follow our two Instagram pages:

@wath_academy_loves_reading

Here you will find recommended reading books, reading events and what our students are currently reading.

@wathacademyenglish

Here you will find weekly shout outs of praise, English enrichment opportunities and revision material.