

THERE'S MORE TO SCHOOL THAN JUST LESSONS

# ENRICHMENT

at Wath Academy



Wath  
Academy



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**Wath  
Academy**

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# THE WATH VISION

## Wath Academy

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



## Our Key Drivers

### World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

### The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

### No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

### Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

### Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

### Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

### Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

# Curriculum Intent



## **All students develop an inner belief and ambition to fulfil their dreams**

Students acquire the knowledge, skills and character needed to live happy, healthy and successful lives. All are included and work hard to fulfil their potential regardless of background or starting point

## **All students develop a passion for life-long learning**

An appetite for acquiring further knowledge, skills and awareness throughout their lives

## **All students gain first rate qualifications**

Qualifications that ensure all doors remain open, giving our students the platform to compete and thrive on a global stage

## **All students develop exceptional character**

Character that exemplifies a true growth mindset, a phenomenal work ethic, confidence and high levels of grit, resilience and determination; ensuring they are fully prepared to flourish in an ever-changing world

## **All students develop high levels of cultural and global awareness**

Awareness that develops through diverse experiences that enrich our students, enabling them to engage in, empathise with, challenge and debate current affairs beyond their local community

## **All students develop a love of reading**

All students become confident, invested readers who see the power of texts in fostering imagination and curiosity; driving their education, personal development and success in life

## **All students become responsible citizens**

Students that are responsible members of both the school and local community; who grow into grounded and humble adults, making a positive contribution to society

## **All students gain an array of positive school memories**

Positive school memories which last a lifetime. Memories that are created from students, staff and our community being fully invested in forging exceptional relationships based on trust, care, high expectations and a passion for genuinely making a difference

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Enrichment plays a significant part in our vision of ‘delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives’.

Enrichment allows students to create memories that last a lifetime and develop character to complement their academic achievements. It is widely acknowledged that participation in enrichment activities can provide students with the edge over competitors when applying for education or employment beyond Year 13.

Additionally, enrichment

provides both additional support and an escape from the demands of the academic curriculum in which students work so hard. Participating in an activity can be pivotal in maintaining positive mental health.

Due to the significant positive impacts of enrichment (such as the development of character, creating positive memories that last a lifetime, providing an opportunity to stand out from other candidates and the mental health benefits), we encourage all students to take part in an enrichment opportunity from the extensive range on offer.

**Mr L Ransome**  
Principal



# SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

At Wath Academy, we firmly believe that education is about much more than acquiring subject-specific knowledge to pass examinations. As the old adage goes, 'qualifications will get you an interview; character gets you the job'.

Character Education is a programme which runs each week in tutor time in order to help students develop the character and skills they will need to be successful in future life. The programme is designed to inspire students to 'dream big' and it gives practical advice about SMART goal-setting to move them towards their ambitions. Each term, students set out a number of academic and personal goals and reflect weekly on how well these are going. They are encouraged to be reflective and honest, and to consider the personal 'pains' and 'gains' if they do or don't achieve their aims.

Character Education is also designed to help students maximise their learning in the classroom. Students are given the space to reflect upon their own learning habits and try out new approaches to activities like note-taking and revision activities, skills they can then take and use in their own time.

Tutors also play an active role as role-models by sharing their own personal targets, and the programme regularly stimulates uplifting and motivational conversations about the future.



## MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER: KEVIN MINCHER

Every half term, students in every year group listen to the words of motivational speaker Kevin Mincher.

Kevin gives students advice about how they can maximise their time and their learning in order to achieve their goals, and his words reinforce the messages of the Character Education programme which runs during tutor time each week.

Examples of things Kevin has talked about include strategies for taking effective notes during lessons, the value of feedback, and revision activities to

ensure learning actually enters the long-term memory.

Every hour-long session from Kevin includes a mixture of personal anecdotes, inspirational messages and challenges for the students.

Kevin structures the sessions to help students rethink their personal misconceptions about learning in order to become more effective learners in future.



## PREFECTS

When students reach Year 11, they are able to apply for the post of a school prefect.

This title is only given to students who show outstanding commitment to the school, have a high level of integrity, are enthusiastic and dedicated learners and display the school's key drivers every day.

If selected, students wear a different tie to be easily distinguished from their peers.

As part of their new responsibilities, students are encouraged to create and run their own enrichment ideas linked to their personal interests.

Students regularly coach younger sports teams after school, lead art clubs, provide mentor support to younger students, support dance clubs, help with homework in the library at lunchtime and many more activities as part of their prefect duties.

In recent years, fifty students from Year 11 have been successful in becoming a prefect.

## VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Votes for Schools is a debate and online voting system designed to give all young people a better knowledge of current affairs.

During tutor period each week, students participate in lively debate about a topical issue, which is then followed by a class vote. This vote is registered on the national program, so students can see how their views compare to those of other young people around the country.

Recent topics have included: 'are communities strengthened in a crisis?', 'will increased awareness help end modern slavery?' and 'should male and female mental health be approached differently?'

The knowledge that students gain from Votes for Schools can be helpful for all sorts of situations. Current Year 13 student Olivia Bell talked about the issues raised in one session in her interview for a place to study Law at the University of Cambridge and subsequently received an offer.

**“ Qualifications will get you the interview; character gets you the job. ”**





## STUDENT VOICE

Student voice is a key driving force behind school-wide strategic decisions, actively working to raise standards across the whole school and ensure an outstanding school experience for all students.

Two students from each tutor group are nominated to form the school council, where they choose to be part of an action group. Each action group concerns itself with one of three key areas of student life:

- **Environment Action Group** – focuses on looking after the academy’s environment and its sustainability.
- **Community Action Group** – focuses on partnerships with the local community, such as fundraising for local charities.
- **School Experience Action Group** – focuses on creating experiences for students that create positive school memories that last a lifetime.

At the end of Year 12, students are able to apply for additional positions of responsibility, such as head boy and head girl, deputy head boy and deputy head girl, and senior student.



“ Student voice is a key driving force behind school-wide strategic decisions, actively working to raise standards across the whole school and ensure an outstanding experience for all students. ”

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

At Wath Academy, we offer the Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh's Award to our students in Year 10 and the Silver level to our students in Year 12 (who do not need to complete the Bronze award first). It is a brilliant opportunity to get active, learn some new skills and make new friends!

This enrichment rewards commitment: students complete at least an hour per week on each chosen activity and collect evidence (photos, reports, an activity log, videos) to show what they have done and how they have improved, which are uploaded for approval by the DofE charity.

There are four sections to complete for both awards: Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition. A comprehensive list of activities can be found online at [dofe.org/do/ideas](http://dofe.org/do/ideas), but here are a few ideas for inspiration: athletics, football, dance, horse riding, cheerleading, mountain biking (physical activities); playing a musical instrument, cooking, plant growing, learning to drive, creating a blog, dressmaking (skills activities); charity work, helping in the local/school library, working at an animal rescue centre, helping in a care home, Youth Parliament, conservation or litter picking (volunteering activities).

For the expedition, our Bronze students spend two days walking in the beautiful countryside around Cawthorne and Penistone, where they camp overnight at simple campsites. At Silver level, students spend three days walking in the beautiful Peak District.

At both levels, students are given the opportunity to plan their own route, navigate, overcome rain, sun and fatigue and, potentially, figure out where they went wrong to get back on track!

The benefits of achieving the DofE Award are endless. So many of our students say it's life-changing. Achieving an Award will give students skills, confidence and an edge over others when they apply for university or a job. Beyond their academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of the 'soft skills', such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. The DofE Award is a fantastic way to evidence these skills.



# THE HOUSE SYSTEM

## THE HISTORY OF WATH'S HOUSES

The house system dates back to humble beginnings of Wath Secondary School (as Wath Academy was originally known) in 1923.

The house system did much in those early years to encourage students to progress. New students would join a house rather than a tutor group and they would have a house master or mistress to guide them through their education from the day they started until the day they left school.

The houses were founded in pairs: Rome and Sparta were established when the school first opened in 1923. These were followed by Athens and Carthage in 1925 and Thebes and Troy in 1927, as the number of students grew.

The house system continued throughout World War II, though Thebes was suspended in 1942 because of the drop in student numbers. It was refounded in 1958.



Athens, 1927



Sparta, 1927

“ The house system dates back to the humble beginnings of Wath Secondary School in 1923. ”

## WATH'S HOUSES TODAY



Although the school now arranges students into tutor groups, we continue to be passionate about our house system. The aim is to build teamwork, confidence and community through competition. Every student is a member of one of the houses, and receives a house badge at the start of the year to be worn as part of their uniform. Each house also has a Year 12 house captain, and there are house representatives for each year group. These students help to promote and run events, which allows them to gain valuable experience in organisation and teamwork.

Throughout the year, the houses compete to earn the most points. Students can earn points for things such as attendance, progress, sport, poetry, games etc. We want every student to develop the character, grit and determination to enable them to

compete and experience what it feels like to be part of a successful team as well as getting first hand experiences of camaraderie and team spirit. Success and participation is celebrated in the house assemblies, which take place every half term.

House competitions are held every week, usually during Friday lunchtimes. There are a range of fun and competitive events, designed for mass participation. The winning team gets 600 points but each contestant also gets 5 points for their house, simply by participating. In addition, a fortnightly 'box task' competition is also held. These boxes, one for each house, are held in reception, where students can post their entries for the competition, such as 'write a winter poem' and 'create a piece of origami'.

## ATHENS

**Founded:** 1925 **Named after:** Athens, Greece **Badge:** the helmet of an Athenian warrior **House colour:** red **Head of house:** Mrs Cunningham **House values:** aspiration, competitiveness, loyalty, responsibility and wisdom



## CARTHAGE

**Founded:** 1925 **Named after:** Carthage, Tunisia **Badge:** a ship, as Carthage used its navy to build an empire **House colour:** purple **Head of house:** Mr Brown **House values:** candidness, honesty, kindness, perseverance and strength



*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Athens

ASPIRATION | COMPETITIVENESS | LOYALTY | RESPONSIBILITY | WISDOM



**A**thens was the largest and most influential of the Greek city-states. It had many fine buildings and was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom and warfare. The Athenians invented democracy, a new type of government where every citizen could vote on important issues, such as whether or not to declare war.

In the classical period, Athens was a centre for arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academia and Aristotle's Lyceum, Athens was also the birthplace of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Aristophanes, Sophocles and many other



Parthenon, temple dominating the hill of the Acropolis, Athens.

prominent philosophers, writers and politicians of the ancient world. It is widely referred to as the cradle of western civilisation, and the birthplace of democracy.

ASPIRATION | COMPETITIVENESS | LOYALTY | RESPONSIBILITY | WISDOM

*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Carthage

CANDIDNESS | HONESTY | KINDNESS | PERSEVERANCE | STRENGTH



**A**ccording to legend, colonists from modern-day Lebanon, led by Queen Elissa, founded Carthage c. 814 BC. The Carthaginian Empire extended over much of the coast of north west Africa as well as encompassing substantial parts of coastal Iberia and the islands of the western Mediterranean Sea.

Carthage settlers were seafaring people known as the Phoenicians. The ancient city of Carthage, located in modern-day Tunis, in Tunisia, was a major centre of trade and influence in the western Mediterranean. Carthaginians were a formidable warring nation. They fought a series of wars



Ancient ruins of Carthage, Tunisia.

against Rome, which were known as the Punic Wars. Hannibal Barca was a general and statesman from ancient Carthage who is widely considered to be one of the greatest military commanders in history.

CANDIDNESS | HONESTY | KINDNESS | PERSEVERANCE | STRENGTH

## ROME

**Founded:** 1923 **Named after:** Rome, Italy **Badge:** an aquila (eagle), which was a common symbol in ancient Rome **House colour:** green **Head of house:** Miss Majer **House values:** confidence, credibility, faithfulness, reliability and trust



## SPARTA

**Founded:** 1923 **Named after:** Sparta, Greece **Badge:** a Spartan wolf **House colour:** blue **Head of house:** Ms Ashton **House values:** consideration, courage, endurance, teamwork and vision



*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Rome

CONFIDENCE | CREDIBILITY | FAITHFULNESS | RELIABILITY | TRUST



The civilisation began as an Italic settlement in the Italian Peninsula, that grew into the city of Rome and which subsequently gave its name to the empire over which it ruled. The Roman Empire expanded to become one of the largest empires in the ancient world.

Ancient Roman civilisation has contributed to modern language, religion, society, technology, law, politics, government, warfare, art, literature, architecture and engineering. Rome professionalised and expanded its military and created a system of government called res publica, the inspiration for

modern republics such as the United States of America and France. It achieved impressive technological and architectural feats, such as the construction of an extensive system of aqueducts and roads, as well as the construction of large monuments, palaces and public facilities.



Roman Forum, Rome, Italy.

CONFIDENCE | CREDIBILITY | FAITHFULNESS | RELIABILITY | TRUST

*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Sparta

CONSIDERATION | COURAGE | ENDURANCE | TEAMWORK | VISION



Sparta was a prominent city-state in ancient Greece. Around 650 BC it rose to become a dominant military land-power. It was unique for its social system and constitution, which configured its entire society to maximise military proficiency at all costs, focusing all social institutions on military training and physical development. Spartans underwent the rigorous agoge training and education regimen. This started at the age of 7 and lasted for 11 years.

Spartan women also enjoyed considerably more rights and equality with men than elsewhere in classical society.

Spartan phalanx brigades were widely considered to be among the best in battle. The movie '300' is based on the Battle of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans held off 100,000 to 150,000 Persians. It is a true story about the victory of a few brave Spartans holding their ground against a larger adversary.



Ancient ruins of Sparta, Greece.

CONSIDERATION | COURAGE | ENDURANCE | TEAMWORK | VISION

## THEBES

**Founded:** 1927/1958 **Named after:** Thebes, Greece **Badge:** the sphinx, a mythical being with the head of a woman, body of a lion, wings of an eagle and tail of a snake **House colour:** orange **Head of house:** Miss Hodgson **House values:** ambition, determination, enthusiasm, focus and optimism



## TROY

**Founded:** 1927 **Named after:** Troy, Turkey **Badge:** the Trojan horse, a giant wooden horse used to hide soldiers **House colour:** yellow **Head of house:** Mr Woodward **House values:** curiosity, dedication, ingenuity, prudence and tolerance



*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Thebes

AMBITION | DETERMINATION | ENTHUSIASM | FOCUS | OPTIMISM



**T**hebes was a city in Boeotia, central Greece. It played an important role in Greek myths, as the site of the stories of Cadmus, Oedipus, Dionysus and Heracles. Thebes was the largest city of the ancient region of Boeotia and was the leader of the Boeotian confederacy. It was a major rival of ancient Athens, and sided with the Persians during the 480 BC invasion under Xerxes. Thebes was a major force in Greek history, and was the most dominant city-state at the time of the Macedonian conquest of Greece. During the Byzantine period, the city was famous for its silks.



Ancient Theater in Boeotia, Greece.

Thebes was, according to legend, the birthplace of the mythological pan-Hellenic hero Hercules. In classical mythology, Hercules is famous for his strength and for his numerous far-ranging adventures.

AMBITION | DETERMINATION | ENTHUSIASM | FOCUS | OPTIMISM

*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition.*



# Troy

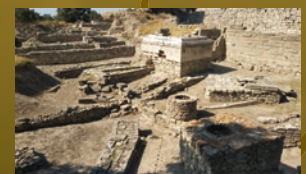
CURIOSITY | DEDICATION | INGENUITY | PRUDENCE | TOLERANCE



**T**roy was a city in the far northwest of the region known in late classical antiquity as Asia Minor, now known as Anatolia in modern Turkey. It was the setting of the famous Trojan war. During the war, the city of Troy was besieged for ten years. After the deaths of many heroes, including the Achaeans Achilles and Ajax, and the Trojans Hector and Paris, the city fell to the ruse of the Trojan Horse. Legend states that the Greeks pretended to sail away whilst leaving a large wooden horse as a gift. The horse was dragged into the city by the Trojans, but inside were hidden Greek soldiers. These soldiers let the rest of the army into the city and then the city of Troy

fell. Contrary to popular belief, Homer's "Iliad" does not end with the destruction of Troy but with a temporary truce, after which the fighting continued.

A famous Trojan is Helen of Troy. In Greek legend, she was often described as the most beautiful woman in Greece and the indirect cause of the Trojan War. She was the daughter of the god Zeus.



Ruins of ancient legendary city of Troy in Canakkale, Turkey

CURIOSITY | DEDICATION | INGENUITY | PRUDENCE | TOLERANCE

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# EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

## DRAMA CLUB

Drama Club is mainly aimed at Key Stage 3 students and runs once per week after school, leading up to a performance.

The aim of the club is to develop all of the transferable skill Drama offers and to give students an opportunity to showcase their performance skills.

It is also a great opportunity for sixth form students to support younger students.

During the summer term, we have a showcase evening, where students from across the academy can be involved. Previously, these have run as a Shakespeare festival, *Wath's Got Talent* and a showcase of Music, Dance and Drama evening.



“ We have a wide selection of activities that allow students to play games whilst putting their language skills to real use. ”

## MFL GAMES CLUB

The Modern Foreign Languages Games Club is a weekly club of fun language learning for students of all ages and abilities.

We have a wide selection of activities that allow students to play games whilst putting their language skills to real use – whether it's Uno in Spanish, Who's Who in French or Mapominoes in German.

Students come to enjoy using the language they are learning or to try something new, but everyone has fun and gains confidence by speaking and being understood in a language other than English.

## SEN LUNCHTIME CLUBS

We offer two separate lunch clubs, which are held daily.

One club is held in a computer room, where students can bring a packed lunch, eat it amongst friends and then access the computers, either to complete homework or play games.

We also offer a quiet lunch room in a non-computer room; students again can either bring a packed lunch or have something to eat in Le Rendezvous first and then come along. They can sit and chat quietly with friends, get assistance with homework or play card games.

## SEN HOMEWORK CLUB

SEN Homework Club runs each week after school.

It is a quiet and calm environment where students can use computers, or sit at a desk to complete any work or homework they may have been given.

Students are welcome to attend each week or just drop in when they need a bit of help.

There are always plenty of teaching assistants to help out with any problems and give guidance if students do not understand what they need to do.

## PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS

We have a range of peripatetic music tuition in school provided by Rotherham Music Service and private teachers.

These are charged for on a termly basis and include brass, woodwind, percussion, strings, piano, classical guitar, electric guitar and vocal tuition.

Students can opt in with parental consent via the Learning Platform online forms or from Mrs Hole in Music.

“Wath runs a number of different musical groups.”



## MUSIC GROUPS

To support musicians who have lessons, either in school or externally, Wath Academy runs a number of different musical groups, which are open for all ages. Musical groups have a lovely environment, where older students mentor younger ones.

There is a school band, which runs for all musicians who play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments, a strings group which caters to those who play string instruments, and also woodwind groups (which split into smaller ensembles and work at developing teamwork), which run for all musicians who play instruments such as saxophones, clarinets and flutes. During lunchtime rehearsals, students from all year groups work together on pieces for performances.

We also run a ukulele group for anyone who wants to have a go. Wath Academy loans the instruments and runs the weekly club after school on Thursdays. The group caters for beginners and more advanced players. All are welcome to have a go and to participate in the concerts.

In addition, the Department of Music opens the doors for students to hold drop in sessions at lunchtime twice a week. This can be for pre-arranged help with non-exam assessment or for student-lead rehearsals. Several successful bands have been created in these drop in sessions, which have performed at concerts and in the community.



## VOCAL GROUP

The vocal group is a weekly club, which runs during lunch.

Anyone is welcome to join in and students rehearse here to perform a range of genres of music for the concerts.

Wath Academy also has an advanced vocal group, which caters for vocalists who have had lessons.

It is primarily to develop ensemble skills and vocal harmony in a range of genres.

This is another lunchtime club where students rehearse in preparation for the concerts.



## THE TORCH

The Torch is Wath Academy's student newspaper. It has a long history, dating back to its first publication as *The Wath Magazine* in the 1920s.

The main difference today is that electronic copies of *The Torch* are available to download alongside the print versions, which can be accessed at [wathacademy.com/torch](http://wathacademy.com/torch) – where there is also an archive of over 100 past editions from the last century.

The newspaper editorial team meets every week, and publishes a new edition of the newspaper every half term.

All students are welcome to get involved in the production process: researching, interviewing, writing, editing, proofreading and design.

The club has a friendly atmosphere, with journalists in different years often helping each other out to deliver a 'scoop'. It is the perfect place for young writers to make their voices heard!

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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

**WATH MUSICAL SUCCESS**

This half term has witnessed the largest number of students to ever receive an ABRSM (The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) qualification for their chosen musical instrument.

A huge well done to the following pupils for all their hard work:

- Loni Graydon: Grade 4 Piano Distinction and Grade 4 Flute Distinction
- Abigail Darrell: Grade 5 Singing Pass
- Rebecca Swift: Grade 5 Clarinet Merit
- Leah Saxton: Grade 2 Singing Distinction
- James Jones: Grade 4 Acoustic Guitar Merit
- Ben Maguire: Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
- Simone Moore: Grade 7 Violin Pass
- Callie Swallow: Grade 4 Violin Pass
- Alijah Hopkin: Grade 4 Violin Pass
- Abi King: Grade 2 Violin Merit

Kate Harlow, Isabel Bayly, Niamh Hill, Holly McGeorgina, Emma McKeirin, Kirin Hoyle

Special prize to receive is also to Isabel respectively into UCAS points. It is always creative, so important to a vibrant!

**Summer Crossword**  
By Ngai Wai Yuen, Year 7

Across:

1. Help you protect your eyes from the sun (5)
3. After the last day of school, we have a summer... (7)
4. Spring... Autumn, Winter (5)
5. Help you stay cool in the sun (6)
7. A card and toy used (3, 5)
8. Near the sea (5)
10. A kind of weather that makes... (7, 7, 5, 5, 5, 5)

Down:

2. Chatter you hear when you wear the sun (5)
6. A type of shoe that lets your feet breathe (5)
8. Drive lots of this to keep hydrated (5)

Return your solved puzzle to Miss Taylor for three merits.

**Spring Word Search**  
Made by Ngai Wai Yuen

ABLOOM	BREEZY	GOAT
ACTIVE	BRIGHT	GRASS
APPLE	SUNNY	KID
AWAKENING	CHEER	SALUBRA
BLISSFUL	CHEKEN	SHEEP
BLOSSOM	CLOUD	SPRING
BLUE	EGG	WARM

Return your completed word search to Miss Taylor for a merit.

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**THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE**

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

I strongly believe that due to the current generation's seeming addiction to technology that not enough people are taking time out of their day to take a walk and enjoy their surroundings or just simply leave our bubble of internet connection. As someone who also frequently uses the internet or technology, it sometimes seems difficult to peel yourself away from screens and do something productive.

Getting enough exercise is a part of a healthy lifestyle, something that is often discounted, instead being replaced with the 'five a day'; this, however, is not that useful by itself. Imagine if you sat at home and gorged on carbohydrates, even though they are a large part of a balanced diet, without going out and

burning off more and if the digestion is not working properly, it can lead to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and thinking actually old. In conclusion, it can improve the inside production and help you

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@WathAcademy

**MANVERS LAKE SAFETY TIPS**

By Emily Rodgers, Year 8

With this warm weather, and lockdown starting to ease, many people flock to our local lake, but those that jump in to cool off are partaking in a very dangerous activity. Here is a list of some dangers associated with Manvers Lake.

Even if the weather may be warm, the lake isn't always. The sun may have warmed up the surface of the water, but the deeper you go, the colder it gets, meaning you could still go into shock, which can render you unconscious, especially if you jump into deep water. This could lead to hypothermia and possibly drowning.

The islands may look close to the edge of the lake, but they are actually quite far away, depending on where you swim to and from, it can be anywhere from 50 to over 300 meters away from shore, and just because you can swim there, doesn't mean that you can swim back.

Many people walk in the edge of the water, believing it to be risk free, as it isn't deep, but under the surface, there are freshwater mussels. These are small and razor sharp, and if you are unlucky enough to step on one, the injury can be severe enough to need a hospital visit. They grow on rocks and many other places in the lake, so if you are walking in the shallows of the water, always wear shoes!

You might be able to see the bottom of the lake in some spots, but the centre of the lake is over eight metres deep, and it can drop very suddenly, leaving you out of your depth and possibly stranded.

One of the most recent additions to the lake has been a pontoon, which is used for safety purposes and launching large boats. However, it isn't being used currently and a gate has been fitted over the entrance to try to stop people from using it. However, this has resulted in people jumping in further around the edge of the lake, then swimming up to it. Some have been attempting to swim underneath the pontoon, which is highly dangerous.

So, remember, if you are planning a trip to Manvers Lake to make the most of the summer sunshine, ensure you are responsible and treat the lake with respect. Don't do something silly that you might regret later, and remember, even if you do something without consequences, your behaviour might encourage someone else who might not be as lucky. Have a wonderful summer!



## CHESS CLUB

Chess Club is open one lunchtime each week to all year groups and all abilities, from those who haven't played before to more seasoned players.

Students can come along and bring a friend for a game of chess or can come alone to find a partner of similar ability to play with.

The club is a chance to practice and to learn but also an excellent opportunity for students to form new friendships with others from across a range of year groups and houses.

## TECH CLUB

Another lunchtime activity, Tech Club is open to all students and offers them the opportunity to work with music technology software packages as well as learning about tech in productions such as sound, lighting, stage management.

The Tech Club is an important group, because students put their skills into practice in order to help run the many productions held over the year at Wath Academy.



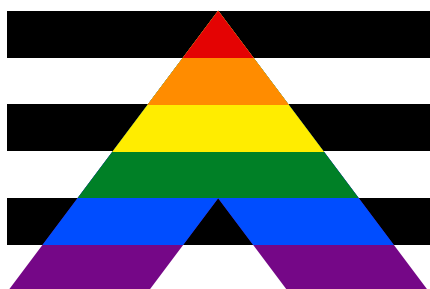
## YEAR 7 SCIENCE CLUB

Wath Academy's Science Club runs after school on a weekly basis and is open to all Year 7 students.

Students get the opportunity to be creative with a more hands-on experience of science practicals.

Students also get to see many exciting demonstrations and are able to participate in additional fun practicals that they would otherwise not get the opportunity to do during timetabled lessons.

The club is an excellent place to meet new people in a fun and friendly environment.



## LGBTQ+ ALLIES

LGBTQ+ Allies is a weekly lunchtime club open for all year groups. It is a safe space for students to chat about how they are feeling and what is happening for them in school, or simply eat lunch and listen to others. Any intolerance or bullying will not be tolerated.

“Open to all year groups.”



## ART CLUB

Art Club runs every Monday evening. It is where students can complete classwork or homework, but also explore any other creative interests they may have.

We get students working with card, drawing cartoons, illustrating books, using computer software such as Photoshop, painting and many other creative activities.

We also create artwork for the wider school such as props for the pantomime or for Movement Evening.

It is a great opportunity for students to work with other like-minded people and have fun in the process.

**“ We also create artwork for the wider school. ”**





“ Students can explore any creative interests they have. ”

# IN THE LIBRARY

## LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

The library is a friendly space, which is open for students to use every day, both before and after school, as well as at breaks and lunchtimes. All students automatically have a library account which gives access to a large selection of resources, including fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and eBooks. It also comprises of a computer suite with a printer, which means it is a popular space for students to complete homework tasks.



## FICTION ADDICTION

The Fiction Addiction book club meets in the library weekly, after school. The club gives the chance to meet other book-loving students, share thoughts and favourite stories, and take part in fun activities. All year groups are welcome.

## STUDENT LIBRARIANS

The Student Librarian Scheme is an exciting opportunity for students to volunteer and get involved in the running of the library. Student librarians can share their ideas whilst developing their skills and gaining experience; this is recorded on their own achievement card and rewarded with a badge and certificate.

## CAREERS TEAM

Based in the library, Wath Academy has a dedicated careers team who work hard to provide careers advice, information and guidance for all students from Year 7 through to Year 13.

All students learn about careers education in their Life Skills lessons, where students use a programme called 'Start' to create their own careers profile based on their skills, qualities and interests. We have an annual careers fair with a range of local employers, colleges, sixth forms and universities, and students can also take part in lots of careers activities such as visits, mock interview days, careers speed networking and work shadowing days. National Careers Week is also celebrated with lots of exciting activities and visitors to the school.

## READING INITIATIVES

Targeted reading programmes like Accelerated Reader take advantage of the library in order to help boost students' literacy levels.

Small groups are invited to take part in tutor reading groups, either one-on-one with a member of staff, in small groups or independently.

All books in the library have been coded with Accelerated Reader reading scores, which means students can easily find books that will help them improve their literacy skills.

Students can take quizzes on books they have read to check their understanding and help give target areas to improve their reading comprehension skills.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day, on the first Thursday in March, is one of many special events celebrated in the library.

Last year was marked by a 'Big Booky Breakfast'. Students were welcomed to join us to start their day with a buffet breakfast and their favourite book.

Elsewhere in school, the Faculty of English has their own World Book Day Treasure Hunt to celebrate, as well as a series of quizzes and other activities in lessons.



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Twice a year, the library hosts a Scholastic Book Fair: a pop-up book shop, which gives students the opportunity to purchase their own copies of the most popular books at bargain prices – all half their retail price.

In addition to books, students can also purchase items like bookmarks, stationery and glossy A2 posters – again, all at half the marked price. Students are able to browse and reserve items and pay later.

Students are invited to volunteer their time to assist with the preparation and running of the book fair, developing their customer service skills.

“ A pop-up book shop. ”



# SCIENCE WEEK

## PLANETARIUM

A planetarium was brought into Wath Academy to celebrate Science Week. Students went on a journey of awe and wonder through our solar system. They visited all the different planets and learnt many things along the way, including why we know the moon landing definitely happened, how scientists are looking for life on a moon of Jupiter and how to spot star constellations in their garden. They also got the chance to ask a space expert about black holes, time travel, space suits and life elsewhere in the universe.



“ Students went on a journey of awe and wonder through the solar system. ”

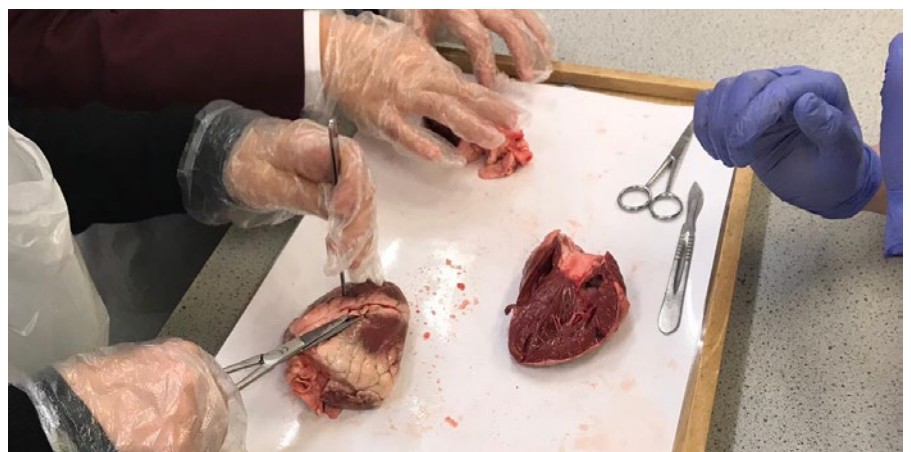
## SCIENCE WEEK ASSEMBLIES

Science Week was also a great opportunity for Science staff to talk about our diverse planet in assemblies. One topic was the diversity of people, how our fingerprints and DNA make us all individually unique. The diverse range of STEM jobs available to our students and the demand for these jobs in the coming years was another well-received assembly. Finally, how we can all do our bit to help the diverse wildlife and plant life on our planet survive was a third important message.



## DISSECTIONS

Students were also able to observe a series of fascinating dissections of heart and lungs, where they were talked through the anatomy and physiology of major organs and how they work in the human body.



## ENGINEERING EXTRAVAGANZA

Our Year 9 students were able to visit the Engineering Extravaganza at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Rotherham during Science Week. During the day, they were able to meet with leading engineering companies from around the borough, and discuss different STEM career opportunities available to students in Rotherham and surrounding areas. The students took part in several hands-on lectures where they were able to use hand held 3D printers to build and design bridges, explore the properties of gases using liquid nitrogen and actually extract oxygen from a mixture of gases in the air, as well as streamline cars to make them faster and more aerodynamic. It was a fantastic opportunity.

“ Students were able to use 3D printers to build and design bridges. ”





## STEM ACTIVITIES & CAREERS

Another guest speaker at Wath Academy was an electrical engineering student from the University of Bath.

Students learnt about all the different types of engineering and the importance of Science and Maths in engineering.

Students also took part in a variety of STEM challenges during the day, including bridge building with midgem and toothpicks for Year 9 and Year 10. The winning design held 1.4 kg – quite impressive!

Year 12 physicists were challenged to build and design a contraption that would allow an egg to survive being dropped from the social area balcony to the ground, using only regular household items.

## REACH FOR THE STARS

A group of Year 8 students were given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut in space.

Students listened to her fascinating talk at Sheffield Cathedral, which included details about how she became an astronaut after hearing an advert on the radio and how she had to learn Russian as part of her training as she

eventually worked with a Soviet crew. She spoke with enthusiasm about the experiments she (a Chemistry graduate) was able to conduct in space, as well as giving lots of interesting details about the take-off, living in space and the return to Earth.

Her talk ended with a focus on the students, how the first person to land on the planet Mars at some point in

the future could be sitting in the room listening to her speak. She encouraged students to dream big and to work hard, just as she had.

“It was an interesting and empowering talk,” said Emily Rodgers in Year 8. “It was amazing to have the chance to ask such an inspirational figure a question.”

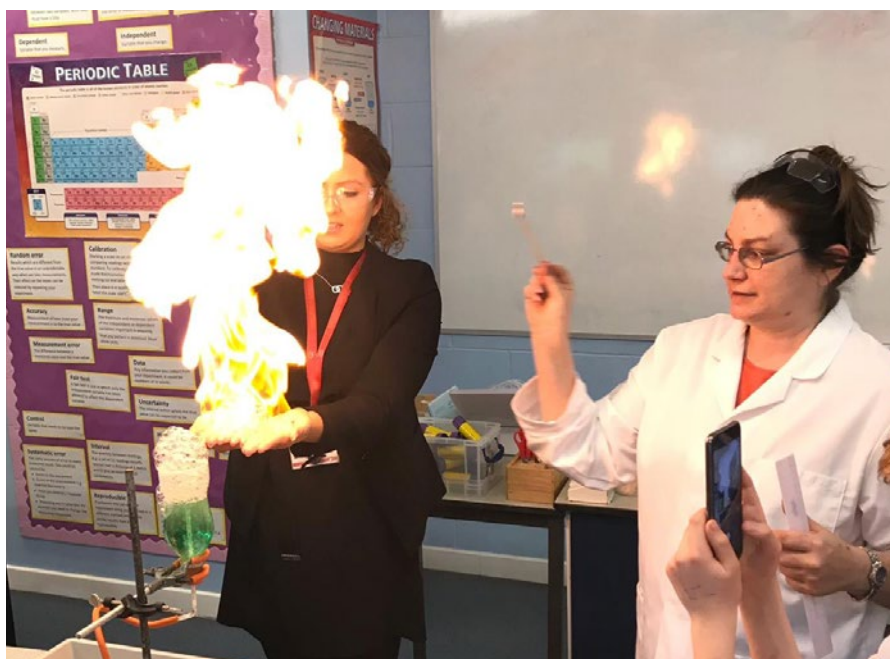


Photo: NASA

## FIZZES & BANGS EXTRAVAGANZA

Year 7 students were in awe as they watched Science teachers conduct exciting practical demonstrations in the 'Fizzes and Bangs' extravaganza for Science Week.

The following experiments were demonstrated: thermite reaction, elephant's toothpaste, copper sulphate in aluminium case displacement reaction, cannon fire, whoosh bottle and methane bubbles.



“ Year 7 students were in awe as they watched practical demonstrations, including cannon fire, whoosh bottle and methane bubbles. ”



## YEAR 9 PLANT CSI

A most heinous act had occurred in the dead of night. Mr Brown's most beloved ash tree, Ash, had succumbed to a dangerous, unknown and invisible threat.

It was down to Wath's team of DEFRA-style field agents to find out how Ash had died, and how to prevent further deaths from this mysterious killer.

To do this they had to exercise their powers of deduction, logical questioning and critical thinking – combining their expertise in Science with their inner detective.

Mr Brown was keen to blame his neighbour for the death, but the field agents had other thoughts; could this case point to something more sinister?

## GUEST SPEAKER: MARTIN ROBINSON

Almost two hundred Year 7 and Year 8 students were lucky to hear a presentation from Martin Robinson of Sheffield Hallam University.

Martin gave a fascinating talk about the solar system and how scientific research is enhancing our understanding of it.

# PERFORMING ARTS

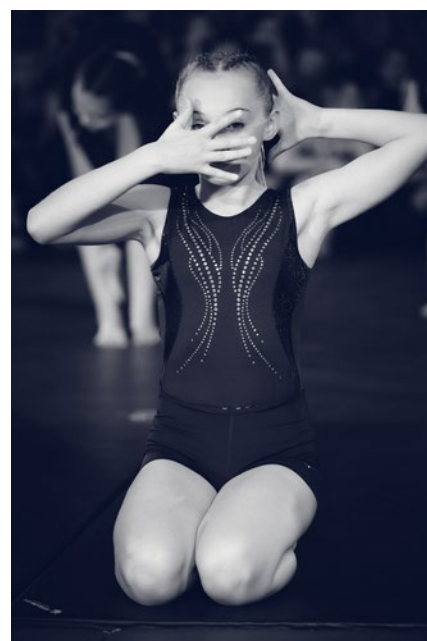
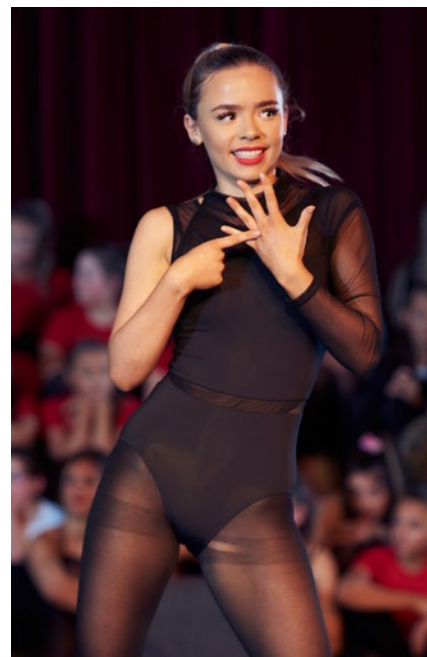
## MOVEMENT EVENING

Movement Evening is our annual dance show, which takes place in February. It is definitely one of the highlights of our school calendar. This is a chance for all students to showcase their talents and be involved in dance performances (whether they study dance or not).

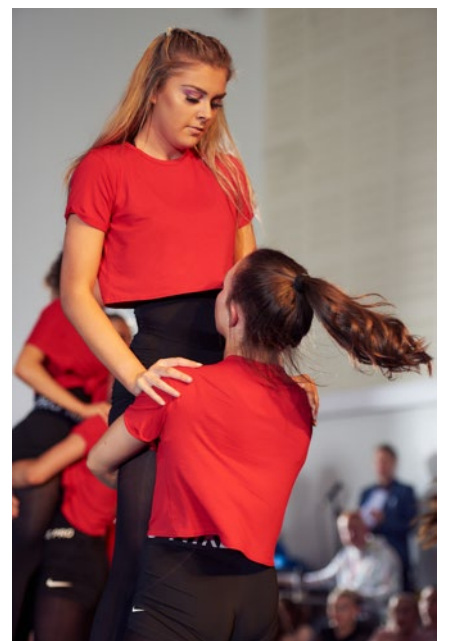
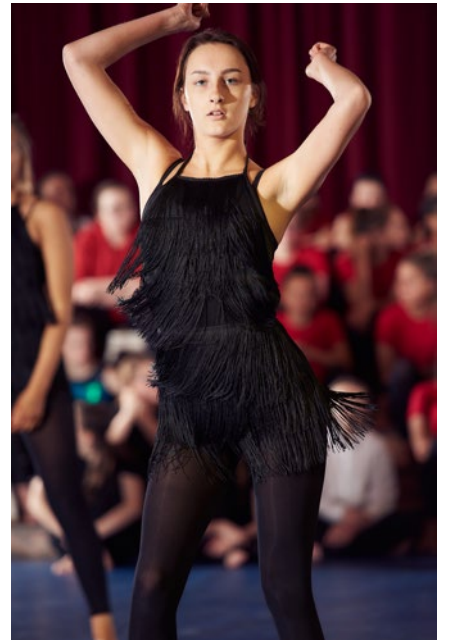
We have acts from all different genres and styles including kamikaze, street, break, contemporary and musical theatre, meaning there really is something for everyone. There are three sell-out shows, which means students perform to an audience of over 900 people across the three nights.

Every year, we have a different theme – this year was *Top of the Pops*, where performers danced to songs that had been a part of the iconic TV show. Next year's theme will be announced in December, so keep an eye out for it.

Everyone is welcome to get involved in Movement Evening; our enrichment dances are always a highlight.









“ Movement Evening is a chance for all students to showcase their talents. ”



## MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Every year, the Year 13 Drama group works alongside Drama staff to write, produce and perform a fantastic evening's entertainment in the shape of a murder mystery.

Last year's production was titled *'Till Death Do Us Part* and was set at a wedding reception where the bride had been killed. Featuring food, drinks and twists and turns aplenty, this evening is always a great way to celebrate the end of the first half term.

“ Students write, produce and perform a murder mystery. ”



## MUSIC CONCERTS & EVENTS

The Department of Music has a busy schedule of opportunities for performance throughout the year, where parents and the school community are invited to come and support budding musicians. These include Vocal Evening, Christmas Concert, Piano Recital Evening, RSL performances and the

Summer Showcase.

Further to this, Wath Academy holds a monthly lunchtime production called Buskers on the Balcony, which is free for all students to watch. Anybody can audition for a slot on the programme and auditions take place at lunchtimes. This ongoing programme gives anyone

the opportunity to perform as soloists or in groups in front of their friends!

We encourage all students to take part, regardless of whether they have lessons in school or privately. We are very proud to showcase the talent of the students at Wath Academy!



“ We are proud to showcase the talents of Wath Academy. ”



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## THEATRE TRIPS

Over the years, the Department of Drama has run many theatre trips to see a range of professional productions.

Recent trips have included the National Theatre performance of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and the touring production of *The Woman in Black* at Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre. We also embrace live-streaming to allow even more students to experience a professional theatre company at work: we set up a big screen at least once a year to make a live-streamed production free to all students.

## SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL IN LONDON

Year 9 Triple Science students joined students from other schools such as Maltby and Wales at a Summer Science School in London set up by Lord Andrew Mawson. Students stayed overnight at the Queen Mary University Campus, and the summer school was held at St Paul's Trust School.

Students attended a variety of lectures by notable celebrities, such as Professor Brian Cox, who talked about black holes and how simulations could predict what they would look like compared to our first real image of one, and Andrew Smith (a finalist from 2016 *Bake Off*), who delivered a lecture called 'Bakengineering' about how he has mixed his background and passion of aerospace engineering to his other passion – baking.

Students also took part in a series of workshops such as meteorology and alien autopsy. On their final day, they planned how they would organise an event for next year's summer school, allowing them to apply their learning to many factors such as publicity, logistics, workshops and budgeting. During their stay, they were also able to visit many popular tourist destinations such as the Natural History Museum, Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Harrods, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

"The alien autopsy workshop was my particular favourite as we were able to dissect and diagnose a variety of organs," said Ellisia Bowman in Year 9.



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Filling two coaches, over a hundred Year 7 students went to the temporary theatre at Leeds Playhouse to see Deborah McAndrew's adaptation of the famous novella, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Inside the theatre, Wath students took up half of the seats in the audience and waited in anticipation for the play to begin.

Students thought the actor playing Scrooge (Robert Pickavance) was excellent. They also thought the set was really good, especially the machine that made fake snow.

"It was a really great experience," said Year 7 student Candice Brammer. "I'd never been to that theatre before."

## YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK

Every summer, the Faculty of Science takes a large group of KS3 students to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park – a trip which is always popular! This year proved to be no different. All of the students who attended were a credit to Wath Academy: not only did they show great interest throughout the day, they were very mature and respectful to other schools visiting the park and members of the public. Highlights from the park included the only polar bears in the UK, and a chance to get up close and personal with some deadly bugs in a live show. One of our students even lent a hand to reveal the predator – the tarantula!



## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CENTRE

The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC), part of the University of Sheffield, is a network of world-leading research and innovation centres working with advanced manufacturing companies around the globe.

Year 9 Triple Science students visited the AMRC in Rotherham to learn about engineering through a day of interactive activities. Students participated in a demonstration with chemical engineers called 'The Secret World of Gases', competed to design a building after working with a civil engineer, experimented with a 3D pen, raced custom-made cars in the Blood Hound project, and had a go at virtual welding.

Throughout the day, successes in all these activities converted into points and Wath Academy came in joint first on the leader board with three other schools. Upon leaving, students were given bags full of booklets introducing them to a range of STEM-related jobs.

"The day was full of fun things and I was glad I had the chance to go," said Ellisia Bowman in Year 9.

## ENTERPRISE DAY

Tutor groups in Year 10 took part in an exciting Enterprise Day, where they competed to design the best marketing campaign to widen the appeal of Wentworth Woodhouse for young people.

The day began with a tour of Wentworth Woodhouse to give students a bit of context about the house. Next, students split into groups and decided on their roles for the day, such as managing director or social innovator – they then attended special workshops to hone their skills in their chosen area. Students used this expertise in order to design an event to bring young people to Wentworth Woodhouse.

There were all kinds of interesting ideas, such as a 12-to-12 camping experience, a headless hunt and YGT (Yorkshire's Got Talent).

Students developed promotional materials to aid their pitch, such as flyers, posters and display boards.

After listening to pitches and providing feedback, volunteers from Wentworth Woodhouse selected the winners and individual prizes (boxes of sweets) were awarded.



## ROMEO & JULIET RSC SCHOOLS' BROADCAST

From the comfort of Wath Academy's school hall, Year 11 students were privileged to attend a live-screening of the play *Romeo and Juliet*, performed in Stratford-upon-Avon by the Royal Shakespeare Company. It was a brilliant chance for students to experience Shakespeare on stage, with the minimalist environment evoking a modern urban space. Watching the performance also served as excellent revision for students' forthcoming English Literature examination. They were given revision booklets at the start of the performance, and many took the opportunity to carefully record key points and ideas as they watched the performance.

“Successes in the activities converted into points and Wath Academy came in joint first.”



## HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Politics and History students in Year 13 combined forces on a trip to the Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament in London, with a stop-off at the British Museum as well. At the Supreme Court, which was not in session, students were able to sit in the seats where justices such as Lady Hale have sat to make the landmark decisions that affect all of our lives. Students then took a tour of the Palace of Westminster, where they entered both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. A workshop about voting systems concluded the trip, where students were able to form their own political parties.

# SPORTING ACTIVITIES

## SPONSORED WALK

An annual summer tradition at Wath Academy is the sponsored walk, which gets everyone in Years 7 to 10 (and many in Year 12) out into the countryside on a circular loop from the school gates to Hooper Stand.

Accompanied by many members of staff, the 6.1 mile walk sees them weaving through fields, negotiating roads (with police lending a hand to control traffic), hiking up steep inclines and passing various checkpoints in an endeavour to raise money for the school.

The sponsorship money raised goes towards prizes, awards and trips for the next academic year.

## RUGBY

Rugby is played across the school.

There are weekly one-hour rugby training sessions for Years 7 to 9, where students can come along and join in some rugby drills and training sessions with their friends.

Students can also play in numerous different tournaments and game days throughout the county, as well as friendlies against other local schools.

Years 10 and 11 form a combined team, which has the same game opportunities as the younger team; their training is less frequent to prioritise exam revision sessions which take place after school.

## NETBALL

Our female staff offer an extensive netball program for all year groups, including a senior sixth form side.

Each side has the chance to practice one day a week after school, and a lunchtime, to harness their skills and tactics for friendlies or competitions.

Games are very frequent against other local schools in South Yorkshire, as well as each year having a dedicated Rotherham tournament building up to the highly anticipated finals day.

The Faculty of PE also runs a netball tour every two years, travelling overseas and working with international coaches and netball teams.



## GYMNASTICS

Gymnasts train and prepare to showcase their skills in a number of different events.

A 'kamikaze' team, which traverses over and off various equipment, opens Movement Evening, the annual dance showcase at Wath Academy.

Students also demonstrate skills in floor-based gymnastics at this popular evening event.

Each year, students can also perform in the British Schools Gymnastics Association 'Gymfest' event.

“ Students can perform in the British Schools Gymnastics 'Gymfest' Event. ”





“Football teams at under-12, under-14, under-16 and sixth form level.”

## FOOTBALL

One-hour boys' and girls' football training sessions are offered weekly to each year group, where students can showcase their skills in a recreational environment with their friends.

With teams at under-12, under-14 and under-16 level, there is the chance for students to represent school in friendly and cup competitions, which can spread from local friendly fixtures to further afield in national and regional cup competitions.

In the sixth form, students can enrol on dedicated football scholarships and improve their skills even further.



## CRICKET

Throughout the summer term, students are given the chance to train in their year groups in preparation for friendly and cup matches.

Staff are on hand to offer guidance and support, as well as some coaching. All of these lead into competing against other schools, either in friendly or cup competitions.

## TENNIS

We offer weekly opportunities for students from all year groups to play tennis in the summer term.

Students can come and enjoy a recreational practice with their friends, playing individual or double games.

Although we do not play against other schools, we organise a number of house competitions, where students compete against each other in mini-leagues.

This club is open to boys and girls and is usually well attended.

## FITNESS SUITE

Our weekly fitness suite club allows students to use the school gym on a first-come, first-served basis.

Use of the fitness suite allows students to broaden their knowledge and experience of how the machines work safely, and the muscles they specifically use.

Using this knowledge and help from supervising staff, students can tailor their own exercise programme to suit their needs, whilst enjoying some music of their choice.

## KAYAKING

In Years 9 to 11, students studying GCSE PE get the chance to take part in kayaking lessons at Manvers Lake, five minutes away.

This is done through a combination of timetabled classes and extracurricular time.

Kayaking is also a KS3 option for the summer term each year.

**“ An after school training session allows students to improve their skills and techniques at the different events. Students also have the opportunity to compete against other schools at regular Rotherham school events. ”**





## BASKETBALL

In the winter months, basketball club is available for Years 7 to 10 to attend

With help from some of our sixth form enthusiasts, who take the role of aspiring leaders, a recreational rotatory game session allows students to either harness their skills or develop new skills and technique with their friends.

“ With help from our sixth form enthusiasts, students harness their skills or develop new techniques with their friends. ”





## TRAMPOLINING

Trampolining club runs from October to December and is open to boys and girls across all year groups.

Students have the opportunity to learn skills for the first time or develop their current ability levels – whether that be learning to seat drop for the first time, or perfecting that front tuck somersault that they have been practising in their back garden!

## ROUNDERS

Rounders forms an integral part of the summer extracurricular programme, offering students the chance to play an excellent team sport. With training opportunities after school or at lunch, students can enjoy a recreational practice with friends. Rounders also presents students with the chance to play against other schools in competitions, testing the ability and tactics they have learnt in lessons.

## ATHLETICS

Another integral part of the summer extracurricular programme is athletics. This gives the opportunity to both boys and girls from Years 7 to 10 to compete individually as well as part of a team at a series of different events. An after school training session allows students to improve their skills and techniques at the different events. Students also have the opportunity to compete against other schools at regular Rotherham school events, as well as taking part in South Yorkshire events.

## CLIMBING

We offer popular climbing lessons for GCSE PE students in Years 10 and 11, which take place after school in six week blocks.

In response to the excellent take up of climbing, we are installing a wall in the academy to further develop climbing as an extracurricular activity across key stages.



## CHEERLEADING

The Wath Warriors cheerleading club is a fantastic way to keep fit while having fun.

Practice begins after the autumn half term, where students come together weekly to create and perfect illustrious routines.

Their efforts are always a highlight of Movement Evening, the school's annual dance show.

Students also work towards a performance at the Rotherham School Games competition.



# CHRISTMAS AT WATH

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch is a notable date on the calendar at Wath Academy. The hall is transformed with long tables to accommodate two entire year groups (with several dining sessions throughout the day), and features all the usual Christmas paraphernalia, such as crackers, jokes and prizes. Students are treated to a delicious main course of turkey with all the trimmings (with a vegetarian and vegan option available, of course!) and a Christmas pudding or ice cream for dessert. Live reindeer and snow machines also make it a truly unforgettable experience.





## PANTO

Wath Academy puts on an annual Christmas pantomime that is open for participation from all year groups. Students work hard each year to prepare for this showcase of talent, with rehearsals running twice per week after school in addition to a number of lunch time meetings and extra sessions required.

Behind the scenes, student participation is just as important: other students use this opportunity to take on advertising and backstage supporting roles.

Previous productions have included *Cinderella* and, possibly setting a record for the longest title: *Dick Whittington, His Cat and the Mysterious Case of the Three Little Pigs* – a hilarious blending of two fairy tales.

“Wath Academy puts on an annual Christmas pantomime that is open to all year groups.”





## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert is an annual tradition, which showcases the range of musical talent from the students of Wath Academy.

It is a social event with a relaxed atmosphere and refreshments, where family and friends, including former students, meet to enjoy an evening of seasonal music, to kick-start the Christmas spirit.

The audience enjoys seasonal refreshments and, of course, participates in the singing of the carols – alongside our talented students, who perform in a range of ensembles and solo performances.



## HAMPERS

Every year at Christmas time, tutor groups across the school design and make hampers to be donated to members of our local community. This is a house competition and the staff and students work really hard to design creative and thoughtful hampers. Examples in the past have included hampers in the shape of snowmen, Santa's sledge, baubles – just to give a few examples.

Last year, we delivered over 80 hampers, which were gratefully received by vulnerable members of the community, such as elderly people on their own and care home residents.







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