

Torch

SKI VISIT TO ITALY

Plus:

- Schools in the Netherlands
- Evolution of Football
- Valentine's Day
- Shrove Tuesday



Wath
Academy



Torch

Volume 100 Number 3
January/February 2023

wathacademy.com/torch



Torch is Wath Academy's student-produced magazine, published every half term

You can contribute to *Torch* by attending the enrichment club on Tuesday afternoons at 2:50 pm in G20 or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

Published by Wath Academy,
Sandygate, Wath-upon-Dearne,
Rotherham, S63 7NW

Wath Academy is part of
Maltby Learning Trust



Wath
Academy

CONTENTS

- 3** House Update
- 4** Schools: UK v Netherlands
- 6** Skiing in Italy
- 9** From the Archives
- 10** Valentine's Day Expense
- 11** Shrove Tuesday
- 12** Evolution of Football
- 13** Reviews
- 15** Puzzles

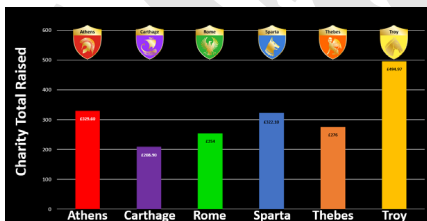


HOUSE UPDATE



Happy New Year from the House Team! A new year means a fresh start, especially for Rome who have a new Head of House. Mr Gibson said an emotional goodbye to Team Athens, and joined Rome in order to lead them to victory.

We finished last half term with an amazing Wath Christmas Day, which included wearing Christmas jumpers and bringing in £1 for your house charity. This raised hundreds of pounds for our six chosen charities. Check out the bar chart below to see how your house total is doing:



Troy are continuing at the top of league table, winning two department challenges and two online quizzes so far this half term. Athens scored a victory in the latest department challenge, showing off their art skills in a Pictionary tournament and Carthage were victorious in the 'under-and-over' hoop race on Friday. Thebes and Sparta have seen success in the box tasks, where they've won 600 points for a holiday greeting card and sci-fi creation respectively.

As you'll have heard in the house assembly this half term, there will be challenges launched soon based on your house's recommended reading. These can be checked out from the library – they must be read in order to win bonus house points next half term!

Halfway through the academic year now and these are the current standings:

House	HT3 points	Total Points
Troy	13995	86590
Athens	12215	69575
Carthage	8775	56530
Sparta	11625	52585
Thebes	10875	51285
Rome	11625	49560

Rome is our third best house this half term

which may be a sign of better things to come for Team Rome!

They've already started scoring big on the online quizzes, so let's see if their winning streak can continue.



Check back in with the next issue of *Torch* for Half Term 4's House Update.

Miss Goulty • Head of Athens

SCHOOL SYSTEMS



THE UK



THE NETHERLANDS

As you know, Wath Academy is a typical British school with British values, but have you ever wondered what school life is like for someone who lives in another country? Well, coming from someone who has experienced the Dutch education system, my friend Thijs and I are going to compare our schooling experience.

Isobel: Just like most British schools, Wath requires their students to wear a nicely fitting uniform with a blazer of the school colour, maroon. Our blazers have several pockets with a blazing torch on the front pocket with the unforgettable motto 'Meliora Spectare' that in Latin means 'Look to Better Things'. We have a choice between skirt or trousers with a white button up shirt. Matching our blazers, we are required to wear a maroon and gold striped tie along with a lanyard in our respective colour. Sixth form students wear a black blazer with a black lanyard. Rules and regulations of the dress code are very different in the Netherlands.

Thijs: Rules are extremely different over here, that's true. First of all, we do not have to wear any type of uniform. Our school doesn't provide us with clothes, nor anything to wear throughout the day. Only on special occasions (celebrations, parties, etc.) will we get a necklace, armband, or anything along those lines. Our school has the motto 'Meer Dan een Diploma', which means 'More Than a Degree'. Dress code-wise, we don't have any strict rules. Our school just won't tolerate any clothing that shows too much skin. Rarely do they enforce anything dress code related though.

Isobel: To get to school, most students

either walk to school at 7:00–8:25 am as school begins in the morning, catch the bus, get dropped off by their parents or a combination of all three. Very rarely, a person bikes to school especially in the harsh conditions of winter and hilly terrain.

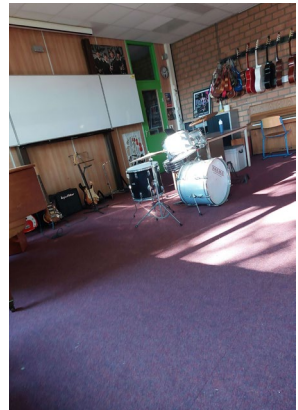
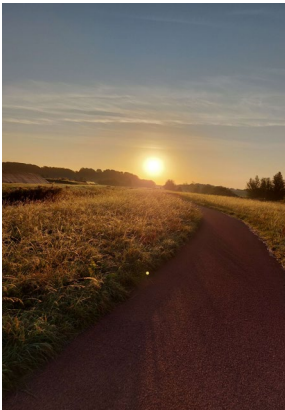
Thijs: I genuinely wish we had the option of going by bus, especially with the recent weather being horrible for the last few days. Only when going to university/college will students go by train, or bus. As for the school I go to, we cycle by bike! You can imagine that, especially in the winter, it can be a very painful journey. That's why we usually wear warm clothes, and prepare before heading to school. Dutch teens are always prepared with clothing that'll protect them from the rain and to protect their school books. In the summer, it's lovely weather and a very enjoyable trip to school.

Isobel: Due to COVID-19, our lesson lengths were altered from five 50 minute lessons to three 95 minute lessons along with a 30 minute tutor session. Our school starts at 8:25 am and ends at 2:50 pm on the dot.

Thijs: Our school has also suffered from the pandemic, although now there isn't much to notice. Our lessons are 60 minutes long, and the time we finish really depends on the amount of lessons we have. Having only 4 lessons could mean that I would finish at 12:35. If a teacher doesn't show up, we usually get our lesson cancelled. This could mean an hour of nothing, being able to go to school later, or finishing earlier than usually. The longest day we have is until 4:15 pm, and the shortest day we have is until 12:35. (This depends if any lessons get cancelled or not, as it could even be that we finish at 11:35.) School usually starts at 8:15, but this could also be 09:15, or later. Our schedule is difficult to explain, but hopefully this makes it a bit easier to understand!

As you can see, our schools are quite different but, in some ways, they aren't! For example, Wath teaches lessons mainly in English and so does Thijs's school. Despite these differences, the schooling experience offers us great education.

Isobel G • Year 10
Thijs • The Netherlands



Left: the view from Thijs's cycle to school; middle: a Dutch school corridor; right: a Dutch music room

SKIING IN ITALY

Staff and student reports on the annual ski trip.

The Staff View

During the Christmas break, 60 of our students across Years 8–13 and six members of staff travelled to Italy to take on the magnificent opportunity to ski in the Alps. During our visit, our students demonstrated personal growth as for some, it was the first time away from home; for others, it was about valuing the time building friendships or just simply being present in the beauty of snowy Naples.

Although the schedule was intense and our students tried to avoid the dreaded ‘Wath cough’, they demonstrated a ‘no excuses’ mindset and braved the challenge of skiing for six days in the mountains. Not everyone was a fan of the 6:30 am wake-ups, but we did it! All participants made significant progress across the week and everyone reached the top of the glacier (only 3,000 metres above sea level!) by the end. Although facing strong and bitter winds, the clear views were definitely

not to be missed. Hats and gloves were definitely needed – fortunately, only a few went missing during the week, along with a couple of ski boots, so we succeeded!

As well as developing their skills and techniques, everyone were also able to engage in a range of evening activities to unwind such as sledging, quizzing, karaoke and house activities – all of which created memories that will last a lifetime! The achievements across the week were then celebrated with a ‘Ski Driver’ ceremony, a wholesome evening where students rejoiced in each other’s achievements over the thrilling but arduous week.

Therefore, the journey home was very much used as an opportunity to catch up on sleep and reflect on the past 7 days; looking forward to Christmas ahead. Overall, a successful trip to the Alps.

Miss Fells • Teacher of Geography

The Student View

Recently, we had an amazing opportunity to spend a week skiing in Italy. This was an amazing experience and now we have all learnt a new skill. This is something that will last a lifetime and there have been a lot of memories made.

The first few days were exhilarating, as we were away from our parents and most of us were somewhere we had never been. On the first day of skiing, I didn't even know how to put a pair of skis on or how to move. I was standing there hoping somebody would help me. Finally, I managed to get to the ski lift, but unfortunately when I reached the top I fell flat on my face because one of my skis had come off.

One of the fear factors for me was the cable cars and pods because in the pod we had to stand up in it but it kept shaking and in the cable cars you had to take your skis off and put them on the outside the car. All I kept thinking was that my skis were

going to fall and I'll never get them back, but luckily none of that happened and we all enjoyed a little Christmas karaoke in a cable car.

The best thing about the trip was the amazing views and obviously watching people fall over. Every night we had a 'Skier of the Day' and 'Donkey of the Day'. Skier of the Day won a bag of sweets and Donkey of the Day was made to wear a donkey hat that went over their helmet whilst skiing.

We also had activities that we could take part in. The first night was bum boarding, which was really funny to watch, and we also had house activities and quizzes, which included creating a tower with a stack of cards, naming which emojis relate to what movie and a Christmas quiz. On one of the last nights was karaoke. It was amazing to see everybody dancing and singing and having a good time, including our teachers

who also got up and sung and danced to 'YMCA' and got everybody on their feet. To finish it off was a bit of ABBA, which everyone sang along too.

On the last day, we all managed to reach the glacier that was on the opposite mountain of what we had been on. This was a once-in-a-lifetime trip, which everyone who went was extremely lucky to go on.

Millie R • Year 9

“We have all learnt a new skill. This is something that will last a lifetime and there have been a lot of memories made.”



From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). This time, we travel back to the 1920s, when a proposal to build the Channel Tunnel was being heavily discussed nationally. Wath Secondary School's Literary Society held their own debate on the issue, which was reported on in the March 1929 edition of *The Wath Magazine*. Despite all the fuss, the Channel Tunnel was not built for over 60 years, opening in 1994.



Literary Society: Channel Tunnel Debate (1929)

The first general meeting of the Society this term took the form of a debate between the Upper and Lower Sixth Forms. The motion was that “The Channel Tunnel should be built.” This was proposed by the Lower Sixth and opposed by the Upper. The subject was of topical interest, and some very sound logical arguments were raised.

The debate was opened by Howse, who proved by means of statistics that had been prepared by eminent engineers that the tunnel could be built, and then went on to enumerate some of the advantages that would accrue should the building take place. Among these the one moot emphasised was that of England being brought into closer contact with the continent. The first speaker of the opposition, Wetherell, agreed that the tunnel would bring England into closer touch with France and the rest of Europe, but he asked whether that would be an advantage; whether our insularity was not a thing to be preserved rather than destroyed.

Scholey, of Lower Literary Sixth, was the next speaker, and he, also, gave a list of the benefits the tunnel would bring to England and her inhabitants. He

laid stress upon the fact that railways are much more convenient than boats, and that there are many people cannot go abroad because they are physically unable to withstand the crossing.

Tennyson, who came next, very effectively clinched the matter, and made it sure that the motion would be lost. He argued that we should not build for the present, but for the future, that travel by air liners would supersede travel by rail, but his last point was, “Who will pay?” Here he gave figures showing that, using the statistics provided by Howse, the tunnel would only be able to pay off the interest every year on the money borrowed for the building.

Cutler was the chairman, and general speakers came forward at a rapid rate from the Sixth Form, and all had something very sensible to say. It is significant to note that both Howse, Scholey, and the general speakers missed one important point, that at certain times of the year it is impossible to cross the Channel owing to climatic conditions.

The result of the voting was that the Lower Sixth lost their motion by 51 votes to 26.



HAS VALENTINE'S DAY BECOME OVER-COMMERCIALISED?

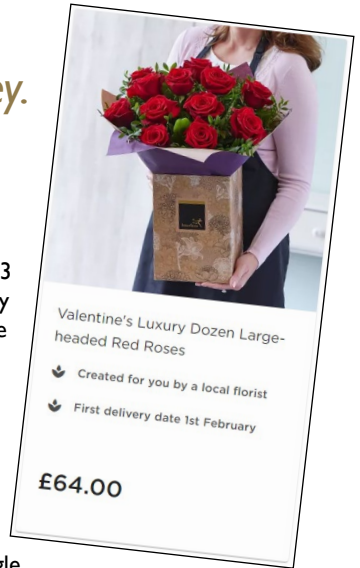
February 14th used to be about love, but now it's just about money.

Over the years, Valentine's Day has drastically changed. It used to be all about love however recently Valentine's Day isn't how it used to be. More recent traditions have made it expensive. It has turned from giving a box of chocolates and a love letter to extravagant gifts that cost thousands. If this continues it will be an upper class tradition/holiday.

Shops also make tremendous amounts of money by taking the word 'Valentine' and sticking it on a box of chocolates to sell it for double the price. This is pathetic and a scamming system.

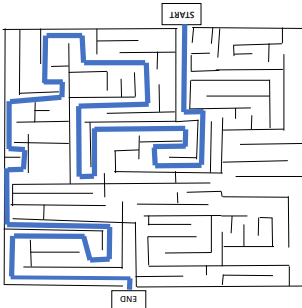
roses for an extortionate £64 – that's a shocking £5.33 per rose! Only those who are madly in love would spend this much.

It also makes it more depressing for all the single people by reminding them how lonely they are at this time.



Interflora is selling a dozen red Valentine's

O. S. • Year 9



- Valentine's Day Quiz
1. b) False
 2. b) 15%, according to Gwen Watson at GourmetGiftBaskets.com
 3. b) A wooden spoon
 4. a) California
 5. c) Purty

See right
Maze

Puzzle Solutions

SHROVE TUESDAY

As it's almost Pancake Day, Jess M in Year 8 gives a brief run down of the day's history.

Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day. The history of Shrove Tuesday is more about religion as its past is about how the Europeans confessed to sins in the Middle Ages.

'Shrove' refers to the confession of sins as a preparation for Lent. Pancakes are eaten in a number of European countries, before

people give up certain foods until Easter for Lent.

Shrove Tuesday is an event that Christians have invented. It is observed by the following Christians: Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists.

Jess M • Year 8

EVOLUTION OF FOOTBALL



Ruby R looks at how football is developing.

Since the middle of the 19th century, football has gained popularity all around the world and has seen many changes around the game.

In 2019, FIFA stated that there are approximately 3,900 professional football teams that participate across 201 countries. Additionally, there are 176 national teams in women's football. Football has grown over the years and has been made more accessible to younger people. Women are also getting recognition as recently, in 2022, the Lionesses won the Euros, which took place in England. They managed to win in extra time with Chloe Kelly's memorable goal which will be remembered for year to come. In the Women's Super League, the transfer record of £250,000 was set as Bethany England transferred to Tottenham Hotspur from Chelsea. Keira Walsh also set a record as she transferred to Barcelona at the price of £400,000. Football is the most watched sport with approximately 3.5 billion fans.

Away days are enjoyed just as much as home games however have more of an atmosphere. Some are far away which reveals the dedication of the supporters, but local derbies are always the highlight of each season. Even though the football is the important factor of this all, stadiums around the county are used each week however

some are better than others. Personally, the best stadium I have been to is Derby County's stadium best known as Pride Park. The worst stadium I have been to is Leeds United's ground also known as Elland Road. This is due to the fact that there isn't enough space in the concourse and the view from the away area is horrific.

As football is evolving, changes are happening such as more WSL games on live TV, equality in the game and more people opening up about being part of the LGBTQ+ community but one thing that hasn't change much is the pay gap between women and men in all sports, not just football. Wales have announced that they are attempting to pay women and men equal amounts by 2026. This will include the 2026 men's World Cup and the 2027 women's World Cup. This is one way of changing this problem and other countries should do the same. Cristiano Ronaldo is the best-paid footballer in the world who receives an estimated \$200 million US dollars a year while playing at the Saudi-Arabian side, Al-Nassr. Sam Kerr is the best-paid female footballer as she receives \$500,000 (£427,000) US dollars a year whilst playing for Chelsea. This displays the massive difference and how it isn't fair.

Ruby R • Year 10

REVIEWS

Hetty Feather Series by Jacqueline Wilson

The *Hetty Feather* series is a trilogy of historical fiction story books recommended for young teenagers and tweens. They were written by Jaqueline Wilson.

The novels follow a young girl called Hetty and her journey living in a Victorian orphanage. Hetty is an aspiring writer and hopes to publish her memoirs one day and be very rich, but her reality isn't so glamorous as she is forced to battle the hardships of an orphaned child training to be a housemaid in the Victorian era

Over the three books, Hetty uncovers truths about her biological parents and her home town (Monksby). As the books go on, she ages and leaves the hospital to fulfil the expectations of her by working as a house maid.

This book series gives all readers from any age an in-depth insight of the reality of Victorian children and tells a unique perspective from a fiery girl, despite her unfortunate start in life, thriving in a society that is against her.

Hetty Feather is the starting book in the series and introduces Hetty in a more childish light and is my second favourite. In my opinion, after reading all three, my favourite is *Sapphire Battersea* due to it having great descriptions and world building. It has some massive character development for Hetty and many other characters as they mature into young adults and leave the hospital for good. *Emerald Star* is also



similar to this in the fact that it gives Hetty a more developed character. It is still engaging and still is very enjoyable, despite not being my favourite.

In conclusion, these books are targeted at a younger audience however the story intriguing and even Jaqueline Wilson thinks that Hetty is the best character that she has ever written and I must say that I agree.

Hetty Feather★★★★☆
Sapphire Battersea★★★★★
Emerald Star★★★★☆

Abi G • Year 10

The SIMS 4



The Sims 4 (PC, Mac, PlayStation 4 & Xbox One)

The Sims 4 is compatible with the EA App for Windows and also available on macOS, PlayStation 4 and later (including PlayStation 5) and Xbox One and later (including Xbox Series X/S).

In addition to that, it's free on all those devices.

What Do You Do?

The Sims 4 is a virtual life simulator with many ways to make your Sims (virtual people) live their lives.

You can do whatever you want with them. You can make their aspirations and their bodies. You can watch them grow from baby to elderly. Or you can destroy their lives by making them live in a one-by-one cube. Do it your way.

Add-ons

There are many add-ons for *The Sims 4*, all with unique content. Some are about pets, food and good qualities while others are about clothes, furniture and parenthood

(no, really, it's called *The Sims 4: Parenthood* – just search it up on Google). However, most of these add-ons cost a lot of money, sometimes around £40.

The videogame also has a challenge where you can make your own business: Rags to Riches.

There is a childhood challenge where you are not only a child. You can be a child of an angel or a devil – but I don't mean that literally. It means you can choose to be good or bad.

My Opinion

My opinion is that *The Sims 4* is a mostly good game. I say 'mostly' because I enjoy it; however, my mum likes it more and she plays it a lot.

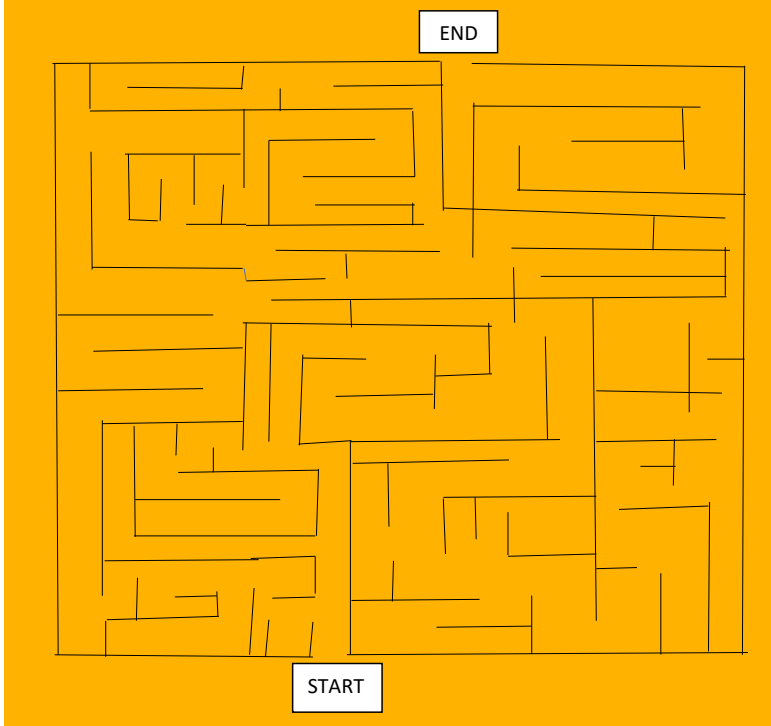
If you want to build something, though, it's a good game to play. You can build a nice house to live in or some chaos!

Noah B-G • Year 7

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 10

Maze



Noah B-G • Year 7

Valentine's Day Quiz

- Valentine's Day is a public holiday all over the world.
 - True
 - False
- How many women send roses to themselves on Valentine's Day
 - 5%
 - 15%
 - 25%
- What was traditionally carved into an old heart in Ireland?
 - Tree
 - Wooden spoon
 - Table
- Which state in the US produces the majority of roses?
 - California
 - South Carolina
 - Ohio
- What do white flowers represent?
 - Luck
 - Passion
 - Purity

Jonny F • Year 9

WATH ACADEMY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PROUDLY PRESENTS



PIANO RECITAL

TUES 28 MAR 2023
6:30 PM

TICKETS: £2 FROM MUSIC



Wath
Academy