

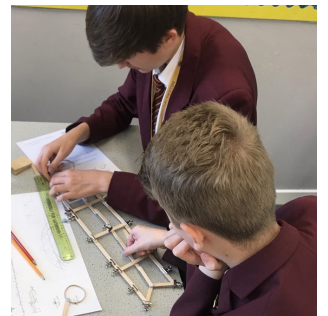
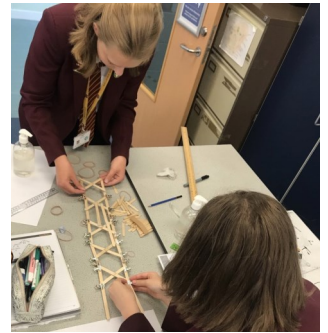
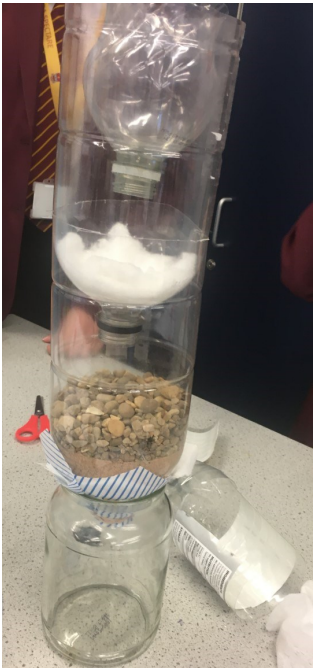


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SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA



By Mya McVeigh-Judd, Year 9

On Thursday 8th July, 10 students from both 9L1 and 9T1 (bearing in mind those who were isolating unfortunately could not attend) took part in Engineering Extravaganza, giving a couple of science-driven students a chance to take part in a variety of STEM related activities.

Over Microsoft Teams, Engineers from Tetra Tech, University of Hull and other great engineering-based institutions came together to inform these pupils about a range of careers within the engineering category and what you can achieve. Pupils learnt many valuable skills by working in teams to solve challenges organised by the Extravaganza—as well as independence, critical thinking and being creative!

In teams of six, the Year 9s competed against each other in five activities: building a motor, bridge construction, a working model of a breathing ventilator, designing a sustainable water filtration and a crash helmet for eggs.

With perseverance and determination, just about all

teams managed to accomplish all set challenges. From collapsing and withholding bridges, spinning motors and many broken eggs, it is safe to say these Wath students thoroughly enjoyed themselves in this great opportunity. After tallying up our points earned from best design, efficiency and weight—Miles Hobson and Antoni Cusworth, the scientific duo—had the most points by far, our reigning champions and future engineers.

The Engineering Extravaganza has brought understanding and fun into many careers involving engineering, design, technology, maths and science—and providing personal experiences from the mentors in gaining qualifications through university or going down the apprenticeship route and what to expect from both aspects.

A big thank you to Mr Brown and Miss Hayes for organising this event and providing the equipment to do so- hopefully this will be an annual reoccurrence for all students!

Message from the Principal

14 July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

This year has been like no other: never before has the educational sector experienced such upheaval. Despite this being a difficult year, I believe the pandemic has brought the school community closer together. The staff body has been galvanised and the students have stepped up to the challenge. I've written on a number of occasions how proud we have been of the students; their resilience, determination and flexibility has allowed us to continue to make significant progress towards our vision of 'delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives'. Our Key Drivers have become daily habits of both staff and students, acting as reminders and guiding principles in challenging times.

We have tried to provide as much normality to students as possible; however, we have missed out on some of the things that make the academy great. We have had to provide a restricted enrichment programme which is a fraction of our planned offer, so we cannot wait to get after school clubs, sports teams, the pantomime, the murder mystery evening and many more exciting opportunities back in September. We also look forward to the return of the Academy Christmas Dinner, an Easter Extravaganza and the first ever Wath Academy Awards which will be held to celebrate the fantastic performing arts talent as well as the achievements of students at the academy. We see these as a vital part of our curriculum offer, particularly the final section: 'All students gain an array of positive school memories.'

We are incredibly pleased with our recruitment for next year: we have appointed 13 new teachers and have internally promoted some exceptional staff. We feel the staff body has significant strength next year and we are excited to see them take us to the next level again. We are also looking forward to the newly decorated corridors, stairwells, canteen, reception and new



seating in the social areas. These areas will provide students with an improved school environment which we feel will have a positive impact on their experience at the academy.

On a personal note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome I received and your continued support throughout the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the first of what I hope to be many years at the academy. I see the job of Principal at Wath Academy to be an absolute privilege; there is certainly something special about working here. With this in mind, we see it as our duty to provide an education establishment which the local community is proud of, and we will continue to work tirelessly to achieve this.

Finally, in preparation for students' return next academic year, the government has provided 'Step 4' guidance from 19th July. This can be found at <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/>

system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf.

Prior to their return to school on Monday 6th September, students (where consent is given) should receive two onsite lateral flow tests. We are planning to test all students who have given consent onsite on Tuesday 31st August and Friday 3rd September. This will enable all students to return to the academy, without delay, on Monday 6th September, as originally planned. We will send out a more detailed communication outlining the logistics of the two testing days, including a 'Microsoft Form' link for consent, following the Government's next announcement on schools on Monday 16th August. Following the students' return on Monday 6th September, twice weekly home testing, where consent is given, will continue until the end of September.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome
Principal



News in Brief

Splendid Productions



The Year 10 Drama students took part in a Brecht workshop delivered by a member of the professional theatre company Splendid Productions.

They looked at a range of techniques and used teamwork, communication and performance skills to create work in the style of the German theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht.

The workshop was high intensity and demanded that students worked collaboratively in their groups to produce some excellent pieces.

Well done to all Year 10 Drama students who participated and thanks to the theatre company Splendid Productions for sharing their time and expertise.



Latest Updates from Wath Academy

Biology Challenge



Years 9 and 10

120 Y9 and Y10 students competed in the Biology Challenge in May, run by the British Biology Olympiad. 26,828 students competed from 348 schools worldwide. All students performed superbly, showing the highest expectations and a true growth mindset. Students from the academy achieved the following:

- 3 gold medals
- 4 silver medals
- 13 bronze medals
- 21 highly commended
- 14 commended

Gold	Mollie S, Jess K, Abi K
Silver	Charlie T, Alyssa W, Natalie C, William S
Bronze	Amy G, Matthew C, Abigail W, Jenny H, Jacob V, Sidney C, Amy A, Kathryn E, Chloe H, Darcey W, Mya M, Antoni C, Harry S
Highly Commended	Bobby C, Charlie B, Natalie M, Alex B, Robben B, Brayden T, Hollie M, Willow R, Archi T, Holly M, Alexandra C, Daniel W, Lissy B, Megan L, Hari S, Grace C, Isobelle F, Evie M, Sarah W, Jack A, Ben N
Commended	Anshdip S, Ashley B, Megan J, Lola R, Alfie G, Jasmine D, Lilly H, Emily S, Eliana S, Ngai Wa Y, Abigail G, Ellie W, Shannon B, Reece L

Year 12

29 Y12 students competed in the Biology Intermediate Olympiad in May, run by the British Biology Olympiad. 8873 students competed from 449 schools worldwide.

All students performed superbly, showing the highest expectations and a true growth mindset. Biology students will be able to use this experience as part of their UCAS applications when they begin this process, well done to all. Students from the academy achieved the following:

- 4 bronze medals
- 5 highly commended
- 4 commended

Bronze	Harold C, Lucy R, Joshua H, Joe P
Highly Commended	Emma W, Scott T, Sharon-Rose M, Lucianne M, Lucy L
Commended	Megan H, Sophie Anne B, Benjamin N

Kevin Mincher:

Conquer Your Fears!

By Abigail Germany and Mya McVeigh-Judd, Year 9

On Tuesday 8th June, KS3 attended an assembly with the esteemed motivational speaker, Kevin Mincher. This time, the topic was: 'Conquer your fears.'

To begin, Mincher asked us to make a list of common fears in our notes and, then, for our class teachers to input some of these into the chat. The most popular choices were: heights, spiders, public speaking, failure, death and clowns. Next, we were required to do a more personal activity; to write our personal fears and contemplate how these could hold us back from achieving our goals. Moving on from barriers, we were asked to write down a goal has been unachievable due to fear, share with the class (if willing to) and examine how our fears could prevent us from achieving our goal.

Kevin Mincher then taught us the 'comfort zone' concept. He explained that we all have an invisible bubble around us; the things we feel secure about are inside of this bubble. However, when something that we are uncomfortable with edges towards our comfort zone, we avoid it, or run away, because this 'something' makes us fearful. This is why we must remind ourselves what fear really is: False Evidence Appearing Real. Kevin

Latest Updates from Wath Academy

then equipped us with the inspirational quote:

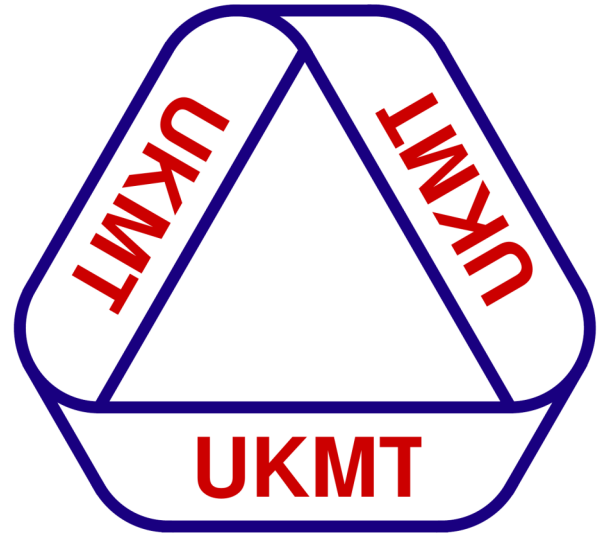
“Feel the fear, and do it anyway.”

Applying this knowledge to real life, we wrote five behaviours and habits that will ensure we can achieve our most grandiose ambition and then one example of a time when we ‘felt the fear’... and did it anyway. This could have been completing an exam, partaking in the school concert or even simply talking to somebody you were afraid to previously!

Many of us find it difficult to overcome this barrier, however Kevin Mincher has provided us with multiple techniques to do the things out of our comfort zone! How may we do that? Kevin informed us pupils that we have to envision a goal, it can be as small as completing a game or as big as getting your dream job, this will help us stay resilient in life and maintain a focus on what we desire. Yet many of us do not do the things we should do. This is simply because we are stuck in our comfort zone once again, things that are slightly different to our norm frightens us; it sparks our FEAR. Ask yourself this, “Is my life at risk?” if not...do it! You do not want to regret great opportunities that you have missed out on! More techniques to achieve goals includes having an epiphany, sudden realisations help you progress forward with fresh ideas. Change your environment, your behaviours and habits will change if you are in a suitable distraction-free zone as ‘when we are stressed our brains persistently mis-predict what will make us happy’ (a quote by Kelly McGonigal). Finally, take baby steps! You will not be the next best football player in the world by tomorrow, set small tasks that push you bit by bit. Smaller and generally easier techniques for mental strengthening includes the Power of Visualisation, this is creating mental images of what your outcome would look like or the use of Star Wars quotes as running mantras.

In summary, all things considered, Kevin Mincher has once again inspired us to accomplish our goals with encouraging affirmations and straightforward, useful techniques that we can also use later in life. He has urged us to see the positives, even if the situation can be a little scary, but feel the fear and do it anyways; remember, “Your focus determines your reality”- Episode I, The Phantom Menace.

Maths Challenge



Congratulations to all the students in Y7 and Y8 that took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge in June.

From the students that sat this, 4 students were awarded a Bronze certificate and 4 students a silver certificate.

A special mention and congratulations goes to Daniel Redfern who secured a Gold certificate!

Not only a successful Junior Maths Challenge but this qualified Daniel for the Kangaroo Challenge!

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) invite several thousand UK based students to take part in the Junior Kangaroo based on a qualifying score from the junior challenge.

The paper consists of 25 multiple choice problems to be completed in 60 minutes.

You may be wondering why it is called the Kangaroo –

The UKMT is the UK member of the Association Kangourou sans Frontières, a collaborative association whose purpose is to promote mathematics among young people around the world. Around six million young people take Kangaroo competitions each year.

The name Kangaroo acknowledges the contribution made by Australia to establishing large-scale mathematics contests.

Well done to all participants! A fantastic experience and effort by all.

News, Politics and Opinion

The G7 Summit

Isobel Clowrey, Year 8

What is it?

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The G7 Summit is an event located at Caris Bay, near St. Ives, from the 11-13th of June. The event was hosted by Boris Johnson, and it comprises of world leaders from seven different countries, including: Canada (Justin Trudeau), France (Emmanuel Macron), Germany (Angela Merkel), Italy (Mario Draghi), Japan (Yoshihide Suga), United Kingdom (Boris Johnson) and the United States (Joe Biden). Other leaders had been invited, as guests, such as Australia, India, South Africa and South Korea.

The EU (rep. Ursula von der Leyen) is not a member of the G7 but it usually part of G7 summits.

Within this year's summit, the different finance ministers have collected to agree to make multinational companies pay more tax, and to talk about lots of the biggest issues of today.

Why Now?

Numerous reasons factored into why the G7 summit has happened when it did; for example, it is an annual meeting and so will have had to be help then to uphold the 'tradition' of the summit. Another reason may be due to Covid and as it is usually to discuss important and prominent world issues at the time of the summit, and so they may need to discuss the consequences, outcomes and 'plan' what will happen next.

Why is it in Cornwall (in the UK)?

The specific region helps show off the country's green credentials, which is important to the government for other conferences in the future (COP26 climate conference). Since regular Covid-19 testing took place, the UK government said it was 'important for world leaders to meet in person'.

Security in Cornwall:

Security had definitely been tight around this certain occasion. Around 5,000 aid officers have been called and arrived in from forces all over the UK, joining the 1,500 Devon and Cornwall police force who had already set up stations. The final bill for the policing summit was estimated at £70 million, which could be exceeded depending on certain situations¹.

It has been described as the "largest security operation in its history", including ten-foot-high steel fences set up on the Cornish seaside (there to protect any overseas travellers).

Roads have been closed and numerous security checkpoints have been placed.

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Covid Precautions:

Officers and the leaders in the G7 summit (and others) have taken numerous Covid tests throughout the event, to make sure that there are no outbreaks.

Few officers have tested positive in their ranks, but in comparison to the large amount there the cases were not too prominent.

News, Politics and Opinion

Protesters:

The police force had set up four 'designated protest sites' that were fully out of the way of the occurrence. A spokesperson had stated, "As part of its operation, Devon and Cornwall police created four 'designated protest' sites that were out of the way, with no relevance to the G7. Resist G7 and other protest groups made it clear we would boycott these sites."

Resist G7 Coalition (the name of an umbrella group for protesters) argues that some of the of the estimated £70 million could've been better spent on

helping alleviating poverty nearby, since 1 in 3 children in St. Ives (near the lavish and expensive coastal Carbis Bay Hotel) live in poverty, yet another reason for local residents to question the extreme expense of the G7 Summit.

After Party:

Numerous outcomes of the G7 summit meeting have included: global taxation, new commitments towards climate action, girls' education, pandemic recovery, vaccine distribution and WTO reform.

¹ Johnson had managed to get through £70m in policing for the three-day event.

Photograph of the Month

Voted most popular by members of the *Torch*, this month's photograph was taken by Isobelle Fenton in Year 9.



Feature: Pilot Mystery

Year 10 Grace Clowrey considers Amelia Earhart, the record-breaking pilot who disappeared without a trace...

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On 20th May 1937, Amelia Earhart, a US pilot, and her navigator, Fred Noonan, set off on a flight of unparalleled proportions – to circle around the centre of the globe. Her legendary journey inspired no less than two museums dedicated to her life and achievements, and a club of female pilots she helped to start, back in 1929, has expanded across the world.

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She had set many records previously: in 1922, she set a new record for a female pilot by flying to a height of 4,267m; in 1928, she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean (even though she was just a passenger on the 20-hour flight). However, she complained that this was just 'like [being] a sack of potatoes' and so, on the 20th of May 1932, she flew it herself, taking her bright-red plane all the way from

Canada to Northern Ireland in 14 hours and 56 minutes.

They flew first to South America, then across the Atlantic to Africa, and over Asia to Australia. They were then heading to Howland Island, in the Pacific, but never arrived. On 2nd July, they disappeared – and they still had 7000 more miles to go. Searches of the area found no sign of the pair or the plane, leading some people to believe that they died in a crash, whilst others think that they could have survived, and lived out the rest of their lives secretly.

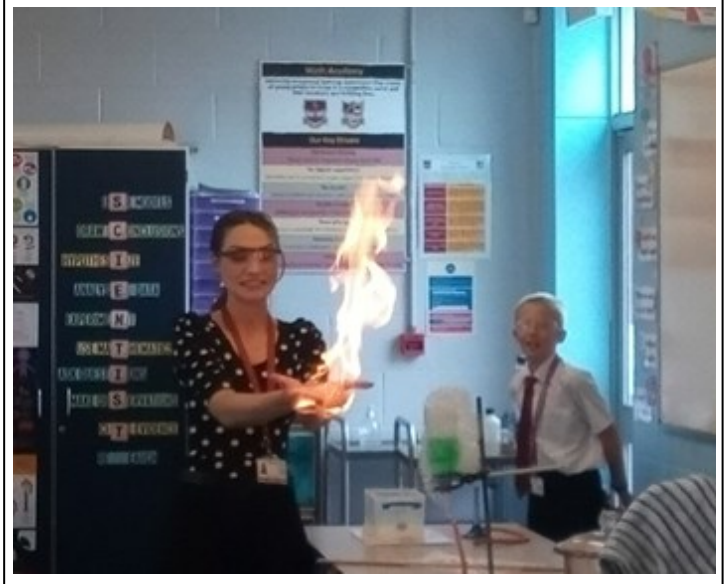
What do you think – did they survive? Or was this just another tragic ending?

STEM Club Updates

On Wednesday 30th June, Year 7s participated in an end of year science Fizz Bang Extravaganza! During this, they explored many of the most exciting practicals science has to offer!

This included: Whoosh Bottle, Elephant's Toothpaste, Canon Fire, Golden Rain, Flame Tests and even watched as Miss Powell and Miss Thacker got their hands set on fire using Methane Bubbles (no teacher was harmed)!

The excitement was just as high in the Year 8 even on Wednesday (7th July), where there was also cake!



Feature: Our Green Spaces

Year 12 Liv Smith considers our green spaces and asks a simple question: where are they going?

There is no doubt that millions of us across the country have discovered a love for nature, especially in the past year. But there is a growing problem. Why are the beautiful fields and woodland areas disappearing?

The answer lies within government and local council plans for urbanisation. The building of industrial eyesores and housing developments are encroaching ever faster on our green spaces. The argument is that it will create jobs and provide affordable homes. However, the cost of this happening nationwide is detrimental to our environment and quality of life. The harsh reality is that these non-renewable spaces have been torn apart by infrastructure and housing developments up to twice the size of Liverpool in only six years.

Not only does this urbanisation entirely change the character of the areas they are built in, but it also takes away the biodiversity and beauty of the places. The colossal Hermes development in Hoyland Common (Barnsley), for example, will create around 2500 jobs, but will decimate the field it is being built on. It is being built on brownfield (areas that have been previously developed), but some of the land is used for agriculture which has benefits in itself. There are similar developments across South Yorkshire, including the proposed housing development off Moor Lane South, Ravenfield (Rotherham). This is in addition to the controversial HS2, which had plans to storm through numerous fields and livelihoods. There are very loose restrictions on developers when it comes to “sustainable development”, which only makes it easier to override the numerous protests from residents and nature-lovers when plans arise. Moreover, the goal for profit puts more and more of the greenbelt at risk. Despite the government’s soft attempts to secure some of this green space, it is simply too easy to create an “exceptional circumstance” that circumnavigates their protection

in order to build on it. It is easier to build on green spaces than brownfield. Councils, already stretched to the limit on resources and many park management services being defunded, are keen to remove protected land in order to meet housing quotas. The government will provide them with more funds under the ‘New Homes Bonus’ with each development, so local authorities have an incentive to neglect the green spaces around them.

The true benefits of the green spaces around the UK are limitless. When 1 in 6 of Britain’s wild species are at risk of extinction, the trees, grassland, woods and ponds that support the wildlife of our country are integral to saving these animals. The benefits of agriculture also stem from access to the greenbelt. Pollination of plants and crops from the insects it attracts is vital to the survival of our climate. Additionally, when the land is sown in spring, it provides ground nesting birds - like skylark - the perfect home to nest. Green space also has benefits for humans. It has been proven to improve overall public health, both mentally and physically, as well as creating cohesion within communities around it. With these benefits, and many more, there is no doubt that our green spaces need protecting from urbanisation.

But how can we move forward to solve the issues of unemployment, a lack of affordable housing and saving our green spaces? One solution, suggested by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), is the increased use of brownfield land. They say that “there is space for at least one million homes on brownfield land in England” and that “the Government needs to invest in brownfield development to encourage house-builders to use these sites - rather than cherry-pick green fields in the Green Belt”. I believe that this is certainly a viable answer to our problems, but I also believe that the primary focus should always be on protecting our greenbelt in order to improve quality of life for the environment, our wildlife and for everybody.

Feature: Nine Things to Fear More...

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...More Than Great Whites. Isobelle Fenton, Year 9 aims to offer a bit of perspective about the predator of the ocean.

As the toothy jaws of the infamous grey and white shark approaches you, and your heartbeat rises, fearing the worst, you fight instincts to freeze and stay as calm as possible. It doesn't want to eat a human, it has bitten you exploratively or accidentally – thinking you're food – and if you just get its sensitive gills, or poke it in the eye, it will likely let go.

But this scenario is not what you should be most fearful of, not to scare you too much myself. Here's a list of the things I believe you should fear too, more than curious Cartilaginous Fish.

Being Scared To Death By A Great White. That's right, you read that right. You're more likely to die from a heart attack caused by seeing the fish than being bitten. These fearsome creatures are not purposely killing humans, most of the time, so maybe you should tell that to your heart, and convince it not to stop on you if you see one.

Tiger Sharks

These striped beauties are one of the 'Big Three' top sharks to fear, along with Bull sharks, and the aforementioned Great Whites. All three of which are not to be taken lightly, but the Tiger sharks are more purposely aggressive to humans and are very dangerous.

Inland Taipan

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If you travel to the semi-arid areas of Central East Australia, watch out for these venomous vertebrates. With a bite containing enough venom to kill 100 people, which acts fast enough to kill in as little as 30-45 minutes. They strike 2-5 times each attack, after all, go big or go home. It has the most toxic venom we know of. Thankfully, they do prefer not to attack a human, but if handled, they are likely to attack. Consensus: don't handle snakes unless you know them well, and they trust you.

Botulinum Toxin

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Otherwise known commercially as Botox, even just to inhale 13billionths of a gram could kill someone. And some of us decide to use this cosmetically! Though, the amount used in these circumstances is precisely measured out by trained professionals, to ensure the smallest likelihood possible of adverse effects.

Naegleria Fowleri – The Brain Eating Amoeba

Believe it or not, a common tourist site, Kerosene Creek, New Zealand, is not only a warm pool which

Feature: Nine Things to Fear More...

people gather to swim in, but it also houses a deadly amoeba called *Naegleria Fowleri*. These microscopic protozoa love the naturally warm waters of this creek, and love to find their way through your olfactory nerves in your nose and to your brain. Once they have arrived, they enjoy nothing more than to eat neurons and cause inflammation, and the utmost unsavoury symptoms of an amoeboid disease. These begin with a change in smell and taste, then to headaches, fever, and, at the end of the day, seizures, and death. With a 97% mortality rate, why would people choose to swim with these killer organisms? Because, as is made clear by the government warnings, under no circumstances should you put your head under the water.

Orcas

Killer whales, the majestic monochromatic dolphins, are one of my favourite creatures in the animal kingdom; they are cunning predators, adapted to be ruthless, unstoppable killers. Their trademark black and white patterns, and streamlined bodies are known globally. These murder machines are accustomed to taking on a wide variety of prey, from sea otters to octopi – from shoaling fish to whales and even dolphins. They have even been known to kill great whites, only to eat their liver and tongue, and are considered widely as the top marine predator. Documentaries have shown them to be rather sadistic too, in which they have been filmed throwing their victims around, playing with them. They hunt in organized pods and use well-developed tactics and techniques to ensure an efficient feast.

Crocodiles

Reptilians growing up to 20 feet long, with a 3700lb/in² bite force, the ability to swim at 25mph, and even launch themselves out of the water. To put their jaws into perspective, if it got a hold of your arm, your bones would not break, they would completely shatter; a hippo has a bite force of about 2000 PSI, and the fierce grizzly bear has an, in comparison, meagre 1200 PSI bite force. Humans' bite force is about 75 PSI. To add to the collection, they have

good hearing and sight, and are opportunistic

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predators, meaning if you go splashing about near one big enough to confidently tear you up, you might want to consider other ways of getting an adrenaline rush than tempting a hungry croc.

Death Cap Mushrooms

For you foragers reading this, remember that this mushroom, responsible for more deaths than all other poisonous mushrooms combined, bears a striking resemblance to the edible Straw mushrooms and Caesar's mushrooms. Its heat-resistant amatoxins can withstand cooking, so don't even try to escape them that way, as they will begin to damage cells in the body. The mortality rate is from 25%-50%, with only .1 mg per kg of body weight needed to be lethal, meaning that a single mushroom can kill the average person. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, then seizures, coma, then finally death. The symptoms, however, are delayed, and by the time you show them, your organs could have been damaged beyond repair.

Gympie-Gympie

Nicknamed the 'Suicide Plant', its painful sting has been known to drive horses to throw themselves off cliffs, just to escape the unbearable pain. It grows up to 10 feet tall, with heart shaped leaves that deal this neurotoxin. The pain is so excruciating that it had driven humans mad, and can last years, with no antidote. There is a chance that it can kill you by itself, and, compared with the alternative, you likely will hope it does if you accidentally find its toxins in your body.

Feature: Covid Debate

The new Health Secretary, Sajid Javid has confirmed that school bubbles will end on July 19th, with many mixed opinions following. He stated that, "On July 19th, it is our plan to remove bubbles and to end the requirement for early years settings, schools and colleges to routinely carry out contact tracing. The Education Secretary has yet to comment on this, but considering the backlash he has faced throughout the pandemic, regarding the shameful handling of education with the exams last summer, will people agree with what he and the government are saying, or will they once again, as we have seen many times over the last year, voice their disagreement? Caitie Swallow in Year 12 and Ruby Leach in Year 7 debate the argument...

Caitie's View: YES

It is my opinion that bubbles should be disbanded for school students as the country cannot continue in the haze that it has been for the past year. 641,200 pupils have been forced to self-isolate in England as a result of someone testing positive within their bubble: be it someone who sat a couple of desks away has tested positive, or a teacher. In a recent case of a positive test for coronavirus, a pupil who sat a desk away had to be taken out of a lesson, in order for a teacher to measure how far away the desk is, from the seat of the person who had contracted COVID. However, someone who the person regularly talked to, and who was with them at every break and lunchtime, did not have to be asked how close they were to this person, or self-isolate. This does not make sense, because the friend of the person who had COVID, was more in contact with them, than the other pupil. Surely they would have had to self-isolate as well, but clearly not. The bubbles, although arguably doing their job (to help lessen the spread of coronavirus within school, separate many people, this could be brother and sister, who are in the same household but separate years, or a person who has friends in the year above, or below. Year bubbles do also not extend to outside school, and it is more than likely that someone would mix, with their friends, outside of school. This could easily spread COVID, and the domino effect here would be that people in contact of someone who has got coronavirus would have to self-isolate, and if they contracted it, others would have to self-isolate as well. It would possibly go on and on. For example, a Year 9 girl meets her friend from Y10, and she contracts coronavirus. She would have to self-isolate, as would her friend and anyone who had been in contact with

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the girl from Y9. This would cause people to self-isolate in Y9. If the Y10 then began with symptoms, they would have to let others know who had been around them in the last 48 hours, thus leading to the possibility of students from both Year 9 and Year 10 self-isolating.

The official NHS guidance is to self isolate immediately if "someone in your childcare or support bubble has tested positive and you've been in close contact with them since they had the test or in the 48 hours before their test." In a primary school setting, where teachers are within bubbles as well, more so than in secondary, if a teacher receives a positive test, the entire bubble has to be 'closed'. This has caused chaos throughout the country, with a prime example of a class in a nearby school. Their teacher tested positive on Monday 5th, and although the children had not been in contact with her since the Friday, 96 hours before she tested positive, the bubble had to be 'closed', and the pupils had to self-isolate, causing upset because many could not go ahead with holidays, or pre-arranged activities outside of school. The NHS say to self-isolate if you have been in close proximity within 48 hours, but these children had not, it had been longer, so should they have had to self-isolate? I think not. In another nearby school, numerous bubbles 'closed,' leading to Public Health closing the entire school. This caused more pupils to be off school, something that although work is set, is not the same as actually being at school, and as a result of the lockdowns, children are 3.5 months behind where they should be, according to teachers. So the self isolation that the 641,200 children are in could possibly push back this even further, then who knows what will help these regain this lost time, not only education, but lack of time around others, which could easily lead to children being too anxious to be around other children, and this is already occurring in some places. For

Feature: Covid Debate

the entire school to be closed, in my view, is awful, as it is causing issues in classes where there has not been any contact with someone with coronavirus.

In conclusion, too many children are missing out on valuable time in class, being taught at home affects the child as they no longer become used to a classroom setting. This is clear evidence that bubbles should be disbanded as it is clearly impacting on the education of students, with so many having to self isolate when someone tests positive. In the wider world, there are no bubbles, and mixing with other age groups is inevitable. It's inevitable when Y11s and Sixth Formers are sent to go to lessons at the same time, thus mixing bubbles.

Ruby's View: NO

I think that schools should not disband bubbles because it is part of what is keeping students safe and many more reasons.

Firstly, schools shouldn't disband bubbles because it keeps everyone isolated in that year group, which means students won't mix with other years. This means that if there is an outbreak in one year, other years won't get Covid cases, but if the bubbles are disbanded, then so many more people will be isolating and missing valuable education.

Secondly, we have seen the success of bubbles: it isn't a high percentage that children get Covid because they are in the bubbles. As other restrictions ease, and numbers of transmissions in other age groups increase (especially with the new more transmissible Delta variant), this could just make the need for bubbles even more essential.

Furthermore, I think they shouldn't be removed because their removal could possibly lead to more death. If we are with someone who is positive from another household, we could take that back home to our family and babies. Even though we now have vaccines and most young people don't suffer from Covid strongly, there is always the possibility someone could die and no one would ever want that because it will be a heart-breaking tragedy.

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Plants over summer?

Maxton Hutchinson, Year 9

If you or someone you know is thinking of getting some plants over summer here are some of my recommendations for the easiest plants to care for.

At number 5, a spider plant. These plants are relatively easy plants to keep alive due to the warning signs you are doing something wrong such as over/under watering: the leaf tips will begin to go golden brown. They can also be propagated meaning to take specimens of a plant from the parent plant. Although these plants are hardy and can be left outside at your choosing, any long periods without water or light will indeed kill this plant. Other struggles of this plant include the need to repot often due to the large root system contains.

At 4, we have an air plant. This plant can grow with no soil at all but is optional to be planted in soil. By placing these plants roots in water every 10 days this plant should thrive anywhere with enough light.

Moving on to number 3, devil's ivy... this plant's true name would be Pothos but has been nicknamed due to its ability to withstand almost pitch-black conditions and over and under watering, making this plant one of the easiest to care for if you struggle with caring for plant kind.

And number 2, a tie of both succulent and aloe or more known as aloe vera. Both these plants can easily survive low watering as it will drain its leaves of water and nutrients but over watering can cause root rot to not just this plant but other plants such as the spider plant. Other than this, these plants are very hardy and can be propagated and succulents seeds can be harvested after a bloom in summer. This means you can have many in no time of both these plants.

At 1, I have chosen a cactus. These plants can withstand direct, strong rays of light and severe under watering such as in our very own Miss Hodgson's case; she has not watered hers and fears death of this plant: she should not fret as this plant should do fine with a watering in the near future. But if you care for cacti right, they can also propagate and bloom during summer and can be lovely plants to care for.



Cruella Film Review

By Ruby Leach, Year 7

WARNING - SPOILERS

Cruella is a new film that came out on May 28th, 2021. It is about how Cruella became so evil because she wasn't all evil at the start. Her actual name was not Cruella at the start of the movie; it was actually Estella, until the events of the film led her to adopt a new identity.

At the start of the movie, it showed Estella at a school but later in the movie the person who looked after Cruella was found out to be Catherine. Catherine unfortunately dies after the Baroness (Cruella's birth mother) used a dog whistle to attack her and fell back on the cliff after this she thought she made her mother die until she changed her name and became a fashion designer. She first showed up as Cruella at the black and white ball.

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Estella was playing Cruella. Then the Baroness - AKA her mother - burns down the compound that Cruella was staying in. So, after her mother thinks she killed her, everyone was dressed up in Cruella's hair style like white and black as the original. Until Cruella came into the party and blended in with the others.

In my opinion, the best part for me was all of it - but if I had to choose a part, it would be the black and white ball as you get to see everyone dress up, and I love the Cruella dress.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Ruby Leach, Alex Evans, Isobel Clowrey, Em Rodgers, Mya Mcveigh-Judd, Isobelle Fenton, Abigail Germany, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Grace Clowrey, Liv Smith and Miss Taylor.

Thanks also to Miss Taylor, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry and all the other unsung staff members (Mr Ransome, Mr Brown, Miss Hayes, Mrs Boyd, Mr McHale, Mr Moore, Mr Grayel, Mrs Pritchard, Miss Slasor, Mrs Platt, Miss Hodgson, Mrs Gillatt, Miss Majer and Mrs Kerr) and anyone missed!

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH next year, please email Miss Taylor at: etaylor@wathacademy.com.

Cruella's real birth mother is Baroness von Hellman but she doesn't know this. Instead, she thinks the Baroness is the murderer of her mother, Catherine. So, throughout the film, every impression her mother tried to make, Cruella would always be there to make another impression or sabotage it - for example, Cruella made a dress but stood on top of her mother's car.

Close enough to the end, the baroness finds out that

What To Do With Risotto

Looking for a delicious way to cut down the meat in your diet or simply increase the five-a-day you have? Try out this yummy recipe suggested by Isobelle Fenton, Year 9.

Big Oven's Wild Rice, Mushroom, And Squash Risotto

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Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp butter
- ½ oz dried morel mushrooms
- ¼ oz dried porcini mushrooms
- 1 portobello mushroom
- 6 white mushrooms
- 2/3 cup wild rice
- 1 small butternut squash
- 1 spring onion, chopped finely
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp fresh minced garlic, minced
- 1 cup arborio rice
- 5 cups light chicken stock (2:3 cups stock : water) (or vegetable)
- 2 tbsp parmesan cheese*
- Add optional extras to taste, e.g. peas, spinach

Method:

1. Cook the wild rice and set aside.
2. Soak the dried mushrooms in 2 cups of boiled water for 30 minutes. Drain and keep the soaking water for later. Rinse the dried mushrooms and chop them coarsely.
3. Cut the portobello mushroom into bite-sized pieces and slice the white mushrooms.
4. Sauté the mushrooms in 1 tbsp butter and then simmer in ½ cup of the reserved soaking water.
5. Peel and deseed the butternut squash, and cut into small pieces. Boil ¼ until tender. Drain and purée (about 1 cup).
6. Mix the remaining mushroom water with the stock in a pan to make a broth, and bring to a simmer, while sautéing the onions and garlic in another pan with the oil, until soft but not browning.
7. Add the remaining diced squash, spring onions, and stir. Add arborio rice, optional peas, and 2 ladles of the broth. Once it has soaked in, add two more, until all broth is used (about 25 minutes in total).
8. When the rice is almost done, stir in the squash purée, wild rice, and the mushrooms, and mix.
9. Remove from the heat, grate the parmesan, and stir in with the spinach. Season to taste.

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* You can swap out parmesan for a vegetarian alternative like vegetable rennet to make this completely meat-free.

The Mystery of the Murdered Roses

A short story by Abigail Germany, Year 9

The Leafatton Fair was never something to miss; it was the one day of the year that the villagers left their homes to, quite simply, show-off. Stalls stocked with cakes and cheese and ciders and pies piled to the sky. The aroma of hog-roast filled the noses of those already there, at the early hour of 7:00am, who wished to put the final embellishments on their cupcakes or make the last tweaks to their petunias. However, this year was different; it was not just a fair; it was the setting of the English Rose Competition. It was not every year that a small village, such as Leafatton, could host an event so prestigious and desired by every rose grower who ever lived. This year was also contrasting because, being their generous selves, Leafatton had donated a whopping ten-thousand pounds, the largest sum of prize money to ever be awarded at the event.

At a desk, typing away manically, was a strict-looking woman, who sat with perfect posture and metal frames perched on the end of her pointed nose. The sign in front of her read 'Judge Jane'. As a woman who believed in the old-fashioned standards of the Victorian Era (even though she was only fifty-two), Jane found it incredibly cheeky for the creator of that sign to call her by her first name. Slouched on a comfortable chair in the corner of the room sat her grandson, James, who was, like every teenager of the 21st century, tapping away at his phone.

Reading a newspaper behind a large tomato plant in one of the fair's many greenhouses, was an elderly man with a disgusted expression on his face. This gesture was almost certainly generated by the fact that Susie Maguire, a Scottish gardener, was stood nattering in her strong accent beside him.

"Al, matey, yer rose is absolutely amazing," she remarked, reminiscing on the beautiful sights she saw yesterday. "Tae say ye'r gaun oan one-hundred; it pure is remarkable that ye'r sae nimble."

"My name is Alan, to you, and, in fact I am sixty-three years young!" He retorted haughtily, throwing his newspaper down.

"Al, hauld yer horses!" Susie exclaimed, trying to catch up with his limping strides as he exited the greenhouse.

"Oh. My. Giddy. Aunt." Vera gawped, frozen with shock.

A shabby Yorkshire gardener, who was at least three times smaller than her, looked up at her horrified face.

"Well," he said, looking straight ahead. "Someone did this and I believe it is our job to find out who."

"Freddy!" Vera cried. "But who would do such a thing? Who would murder our babies like this?"

"Vera, your rose is not a human being," a grumpy voice, which belonged to Alan, muttered.

Alan and Susie stopped dead in their tracks.

"Freddy- you coward!" Alan insulted, his face turning as red as his rose. Well, that was, before the criminal chopped the head off of it.

"What makes you think it was me?" Freddy shouted back, standing tall to make him seem a little more intimidating than a bunny in a tutu. "If anything it was Vera; you all know how desperate she is to win!"

"Hey! What happened to 'Someone did this and I believe it is our job to find out'?" Vera retorted angrily, baring her knuckles. "I believe it was Susie; you all know you can never trust the Scottish!"

Susie laughed. "Oi, keep me oot o' this ye pathetic creatures. We all know wha did this. Am ah richt, Al?"

The shed's door flew open, abruptly, revealing the stature of Judge Jane and James who was, not at all surprisingly, still on his phone.

"What is all of this commotion about?" Jane demanded.

Meeting the Judge's expectations, everyone began talking at the same time. After letting them at each other's throats for a few minutes, she finally decided she had, definitely, had enough.

"SILENCE," she screamed, her voice cracking with the tension. "I've heard enough. The solution really is quite simple. You all go home: Susie back to Scotland, Vera to her garden, Alan to his cottage and Freddy back to... whichever bin you live in." Jane smiled at their gawping

The Mystery of the Murdered Roses

faces. "Don't be so shocked. What do you expect me to do? Pour some pixie dust on your plants and revive them from the dead? Don't be so stupid. Goodbye."

Ushering James out before anybody had a chance to object, Judge Jane left, closing the door behind her.

Sat in the dark, with only a torch between them, in the tomato greenhouse, the four gardeners sat there in silence. However, we must not forget that this quiet could not last more than at least five seconds due to the presence of Miss Maguire.

"Sae ur we juist goin' tae sit 'ere, lookin' lik' deers goupin' intae headlights, or ur we actually goin' tae expose that wicked witch o' th' wast?"

"How exactly are we going to do that?" Alan grumbled.

"Weel, tis simple. We juist need tae pretend we're detectives, fin' some clues 'n' chuck it a' th'gither."

Vera laughed. "I suppose it wouldn't hurt to have a little look at the crime scene."

Susie jumped up immediately and made her way out into the darkness, without a word.

"Wait!" Vera shouted after her. "I didn't mean now!"

Freddy grinned: "I suppose we better go after her."

A full examination was made of the crime scene. After much insistence, the more sane three gardeners let Susie corner off the location with yellow tape which she supposedly carried everywhere. Fortunately, they found a torch each (though some were on the edge of running out) which allowed them to investigate their own sections and be assigned a personal role.

Susie checked the plant pots and did some quick tests on the soil (apparently tasting it was necessary), Alan examined the types of destructive cuts made on each rose, Freddy looked around the area for evidence of weapons and Vera asked around to see if there were any potential witnesses. At midnight, they met up inside the greenhouse again with their findings.

"Al," Susie said, nodding in his direction. "What did yer find, matey?"

Alan pulled a notebook from his pockets and stated, "I have discovered that these cuts were almost certainly made by zigzag scissors. According to my research, these are very popular tools, used by young children."

"Gey interesting." Susie scratched her head. "Freddy?"

"Unfortunately, I did not find any potential weapons, such as zigzag scissors, but I did find these." Freddy laid some objects before them. "Chewing gum and an empty can of coke."

Susie nodded slowly, wanting to appear intellectual. "Vera, wha did yer find?"

"I talked to the owners of all of the stalls and it was only the cake sellers who saw anything. Old Mrs Jones was robbed yesterday night. Her picket fence was unlocked and her weed killer had disappeared," Vera stated.

"Everything ye hae reported supports mah beliefs," Susie smiled, suddenly unveiling a board covered in red pins and string. Pictures of all of them, including Judge Jane, James and the other gardeners were on it.

"Wait..." Alan mumbled, studying the board carefully. "I have two questions. How in God's name did you manage to make that when we've been with you this whole time and what makes you think the criminal is James?"

"Not just James, Al, Judge Jane Picket too." Susie smiled.

"I don't get what you're getting at here, Susie," Freddy said.

"Oh, let me explain," Susie replied. "So, James wis th' one who cut th' heids aff o' yer roses. He did that wi' th' zigzag scissors 'n' teuk th' coke 'n' gum wi' him tae entertain him while he did th' job. Meanwhile, Jane Potts, who is also known as Jane Pick-It or Picket due tae her talent fur picking th' locks oan picket fences, robbed Mrs Jones an' her weed killer tae mak' sure yer plants wur definitely gaen. Ah tasted some o' that whin ah tried th' soil. Due tae James' new iPhone 'n' Jane's designer clothing 'n' teeth-whitening, it now appears obvious that oor roses wur murdered fur th' Judge cuid nae afford tae reward us; she had spent that herself."

Grins spread across the rose-growers' faces. They had found their murderers and they would've gotten away for it too, if it weren't for those meddling gardeners.

Creative Writing

Event in My Life – Getting Braces

Benjamin Rogers, Year 7

I woke up with butterflies fluttering in my stomach. My mind was racing, and I didn't know what to expect; today was the day I was getting my braces.

As I brushed my teeth, I remembered that this would be the last time I would brush them this way for a long while.

It started as a normal school day, Life Skills and then Maths but I already knew that I wouldn't make it to History. The continuous claustrophobia of wearing a face mask made my hay fever run wild. What a day to have to deal with this!

As expected, Mum was waiting at the gates. Why did I have to hit my head on the way out of school? Mum drove like a Formula One driver to get us to the appointment on time – we made it, phew!

The Orthodontist was waiting for me. I could hear drills going off in the background and smell the disinfectant of the cleaning products. Walking up those steep stairs felt like I was walking up to the gates of hell.

To my surprise, it was empty. Just me, the Orthodontist and my new brace. As lay down on the chair I remember thinking, "Am I in the Demon Dentist?"

Over the next forty minutes, the taste of the dental glue was unbearable. The glare of the light shone right into my soul. My teeth as I knew them had gone, and I was left with a mouth full of metal. A million questions flew through my mind as I was informed about what I could and couldn't eat, how to brush my teeth and my life for the next two years. Their parting words were a warning about bruised teeth and possible pain.

The Orthodontist couldn't have been more right. I would describe the pain as comparable to my teeth being ripped out with pliers. The throbbing was so strong I couldn't see that it would ever stop.

Afternoon turned into night time. As the storm howled outside my bedroom window, so did I. I couldn't eat solid food without it feeling like my teeth were about to fall out. I thought to myself, "It's going to be a fun week,

isn't it?"

I know this is the best thing for me. In two years, I'll have perfect teeth. Until then, I'll cope and miss the taste of sweets.

Mister Amur

By Abigail Germany, Year 9

Mister Amur stalks his prey,
His amber eyes making their way,
Across the forest of bright green,
To meet a piece of lovely lean
Meat disguised as tender deer,
And then without the slightest fear,
He pounces at his frantic feast,
Hoping it will bring him peace,
For what a week this one had been,
Forever hunted for his skin,
And fur of patterns most supreme,
Every poacher's finest dream,
In the end it doesn't matter,
If that deer managed to scatter,
As Amur's fate was absolute,
For even if he wore a suit,
And went to work with men like you,
And made you tea and cooked you stew,
You still would throw him in a zoo,
Or show him off like a brand new
Trophy on your proudest wall,
For you don't care, no not at all,
No one does...
And that's why the buzz
Of honeybees will disappear,
And all our forests will soon be clear,
And Mister Amur will be caught,
And killed then skinned then timely brought
To your home upon foundation,
Of flesh and bone and cruel predation,
To lay there- right by the fire,
Another part of your attire.

Feature: Urban Legends

Every edition, Isabelle Fenton (Year 9) unpicks the story behind a common urban legend. This month is the turn of the Wendigos.

Next time you're adventuring in a local forest, just remember this tale...

The legend of the Wendigo began in North America, as a product of cannibalism, or dark magic. They possess their victims, turning them into cannibals.

Wendigos are vicious and will stop at nothing to feast on human flesh. With a heightened sense of hearing and supernatural speed, they can hear the rushed heartbeat of a lost human, and speed over on their long legs, where they will begin their trickery.

They can taunt the victim with a deep growl, or mimic the voices of loved ones, to trick you into coming closer.

According to legend, it is near enough impossible to escape a Wendigo; if it makes you its target, you can count yourself dead.

However, there are stories of some lucky few who managed to escape the deathly grasp of these demons. One is of a 6-year-old girl, who lived in the mountains of Colorado, with no internet, in complete isolation from the rest of the world, and that's how they liked it.

She loved to explore the woods around her house with her two St. Bernards, when one day, while playing with them, she noticed she had gone further than usual. She could no longer see her house behind her, and found herself in a clearing, with little piles of sticks around.

Huge clouds had formed, and the wind was picking up – a storm was brewing, and she had no idea how far she was from home. She started off in one direction which she thought was home, and the wind started to howl.

After a while, she stopped, hearing rustling from the trees in front of her, and became extremely uneasy. She felt like someone – or something – was

watching her. The dogs started to growl into the forest, and stood in front of her protectively, until a twig snapped. The dogs began to bark and snarl wildly, and she had never seen them behave this way before. Frozen with fear and confused, she then heard her mother's voice call from the trees.

'Come here.'

She should have felt comforted by this, and she wanted to, but something was off. The words were slow and mumbled: drunken sounding. The voice continued to shout the same words, ordering her to come closer.

It was not her mother, and she took off in the other direction, her dogs kept barking all the way. But when she saw those same sticks, she realized she had run the wrong way. But she saw now that they were in fact not sticks, but human bones. The voice had followed her, and seemingly came from everywhere at once, but also nowhere.

She ran the opposite direction, and did not stop until she saw her house, and ran inside. After catching her breath, she told her mother what happened, but her mother passed it off as the wind rustling and assured her it was nothing more.

Only years later, after they moved house, had she found out the truth. She mentioned that day to her mother, who considered what to say, deciding she was old enough now to know.

She explained that she didn't want to scare the young child, and that the house was built on Native American land. After calling someone to cleanse the property, they told her that the child was extremely lucky to have survived. She had only just escaped a Wendigo.

If you hear voices in the woods, be wary, for it could be a Wendigo hoping to take over your consciousness and turn you into a bloodthirsty cannibal. Do you think you could escape this beast?

Sport and House Update

A MATCH TO BE REMEMBERED!

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Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Alex Evans, Year 7

Arguably one of the best matches in English history was watched by over 30.95 million viewers on Sunday 11th July, seeing star performances from key players such as Luke Shaw and Jordan Pickford as fans watched in awe of what Gareth Southgate had achieved in his relatively short time of being manager.

One of the most spectacular moments of the game was at just 1 minute, 57 seconds into the match where Shaw blasted away and set a record for the quickest goal in Euro final history.

The team had showed brilliant performances and teamwork usually seen only by league teams throughout the competition, but one can't ignore the skill displayed by the mature Italian squad such as Bonucci's goal on the 67th minute that somewhat

lowered the morale of the England team for the rest of the late second half.

After a long (and scary) extra time, the dreaded penalties began. Both teams scored twice until Rashford hit the post and Bernardeschi hits the ball down the middle, putting Italy in front. Sancho's penalty was saved, keeping the score at 3-2 when Pickford pulled off an amazing save on Jorginho. At the end, 19 year old Saka missed the net (only seven years older than the Year 7s here at our school). England's dreams of the Euro 2020 trophy were shattered as Italy claimed victory!

But don't lose heart; this is merely a warm up for the World Cup in 2022.