



# THE TORCH

The Student Newspaper of Wath Academy

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Able, Active and Qualified  
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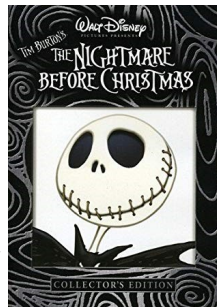
## TOP HALLOWEEN FILMS

By Ellisia Bowman, Year 9

It's getting close to Halloween and if you're not going out to a party, getting cosy under a blanket with popcorn is a great idea! I've brought together a list of different Halloween films to enjoy for the spooky season.

### The Nightmare Before Christmas

There has been an argument whether *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is a Halloween or a Christmas film; however, it is certainly creepy enough for Halloween! This film has catchy songs and a great story line. Overall, it's not scary so it's great to watch with a younger audience or if you're not a big fan of horror films.



### Hocus Pocus



A Disney film to enjoy with family and friends, *Hocus Pocus* is a film about a guy, his sister and his crush who summon three sister witches. The film has a child-friendly and fun story line. *Hocus Pocus* is a film to be enjoyed by the family.

### Corpse Bride

This film is another Tim Burton classic and is perfect for any family Halloween celebration. It is very wholesome and perfect for viewing with children of any age. The film follows Victor, who runs away from his wedding after becoming anxious about it being an arranged marriage; whilst practising his vows, he is dragged into the land of the dead.



### Paranorman



Finally, we reach *Paranorman*, a film by Laika, about a young boy called Norman who has the unfortunate 'curse' of being able to see ghosts. It follows him in his journey to save his village from zombies. Hilarious and chilling in equal measures, this is another film perfect for Halloween.

If films aren't for you, you might decide to go trick-or-treating. Remember to stay safe by staying in groups and not going into people's houses. However you choose to spend Halloween, have fun!

## Halloween Crossword

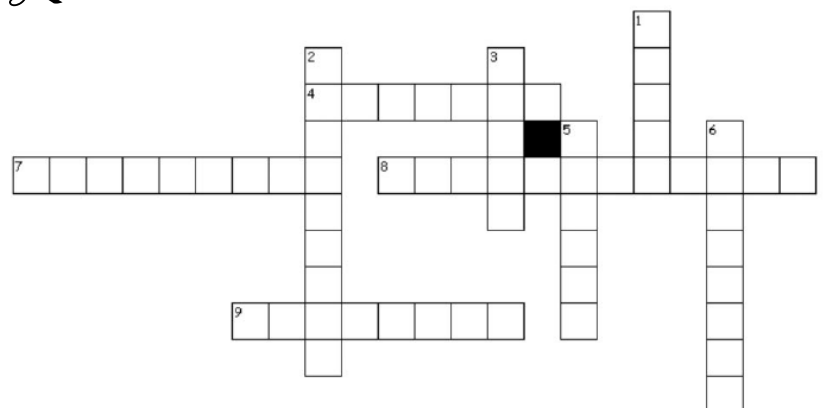
Created by Isobelle Fenton, Year 8

### Across

- great for carving (7)
- a feeling of extreme shock (9)
- fun activity at Halloween (5,2,5)
- chocolate or jelly treats, often seen at Halloween parties (8)

### Down

- spirit of a human (5)
- silk net (6,3)
- woman who learned magic (5)
- risen from the dead (6)
- transforms in the light of a full moon (8)



Solve and return to Miss Taylor for 3 ePraise points!

# Message from the Principal

Dear Parent / Carer,

## External Exam Success

I am delighted to be able to advise you of another very strong set of external examination results from last summer. We finished top in every measure across the Local Authority in our Year 13 results. 22% of A Levels were graded A\*-A, 54% A\*-B, 82% A\*-C and 100% A\*-E. Our A Level Average Points Score per entry was our highest ever, with students gaining an average of a grade B. Our applied subjects enjoyed even greater success, with 79% graded Di\*-Di, 99% Di\*-Me and 100% Di\*-Pa. These are very impressive Year 13 results, which allowed the vast majority of students to access their chosen courses at universities across the country. It is worth noting that this was against a background of extremely high retention rates, with 99.4% at A Level and 99.5% for our applied qualifications. We are very much looking forward to hearing how our students have settled into university life when they return to school for the Year 13 Presentation Evening at the end of term.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11), we are very proud of the breadth of our curriculum. The government formally measure this through entry into the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), which requires study of English Language & Literature, Mathematics, at least two Sciences, a Humanity (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language. In 2019, 34% of all students gained at least a grade 4 (standard pass) and 25% at least a grade 5 (strong pass) across this whole suite of subjects. These figures were the highest EBacc figures across the Local Authority, and against LA averages of 18% and 12% respectively. My heartfelt congratulations go to all the students and staff – a well-deserved reward for all the hard work that went in to achieving those results.

## Vision and Key Drivers

We are not complacent about the successes of last summer and we will be working very hard so that our students enjoy every opportunity for further success in the future. Across our school community, we continue to focus on raising academic standards and opportunities, remaining fully committed to our vision of delivering world-class learning which inspires every child to achieve excellence. This will be achieved through a relentless focus on six key drivers for both



students and staff:

- World-class learning  
World-class learning in every lesson, every day
- The highest expectations  
Everyone can be successful; always set and 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

## Student Voice

A new Student Council has been formed for the start of this academic year, with representatives from every year group. This is an opportunity for students to make a real difference to the school and wider community. This year, our Student Leaders will not only be part of their respective Year Councils but also belong to one of 3 action groups:

- Environment – with a focus on caring for our environment and sustainability issues
- Community – to focus on partnership working within the local community, and
- Experience – with a focus on extra-curricular

opportunities and House activities.

In addition to the action groups, I am meeting representatives from each of the Year Councils on a weekly basis to gain feedback on their progress and I have been particularly pleased with their positive reviews of the effective use we have made of tutor time each morning through the 'Votes for Schools' programme and 'Character Education'. The latter has been enhanced by regular visits for all year groups from an external motivational speaker – Kevin Mincher.

Students have also been keen to feedback that they like the new 'Show my Homework' system and that they are particularly pleased that this is providing greater opportunities for positive mentions on conduct cards.

### **Recent Events**

Following the completion of a new extension to the main school building, we had an additional capacity for 330 students in Year 7 in September 2019. I am delighted to report that, despite this increase in capacity, the school was over-subscribed again at the start of the new year. Looking forward to next September, we hosted a Year 6 Open Evening on 3 October. This was then followed up with the opportunity for parents and prospective students to join us for a guided tour during the working day. The feedback has been very pleasing. A similar event for prospective students into Year 12 in September, our 'New Sixth Evening', will be hosted at the school at 6.30pm on Thursday 14 November and, of course, our own Year 11 students are very warmly invited to attend that event—where they will find out much more about life in the sixth form and the various courses on offer. We are currently very keen to expand that range of subjects on offer.

Our new students have settled in quickly, adjusting to life and routines. In order to gain the maximum benefit from the extensive opportunities available, we encourage as many students as possible to get involved in extra-curricular opportunities and, especially, try something they haven't done before. Year 7 seem to be really stepping up to this challenge. Year 7 parents have had the opportunity in this first half term to come into school, meet the Form Tutor and hear feedback as to how students have been settling in. We also welcomed a large number of new students, from other local secondary schools, into Year 12 and hope that they also embrace the opportunities on offer. It is always particularly

pleasing when the attraction of the sixth form brings new students from across local authority boundaries, such as from Barnsley and Doncaster. In addition, I also offer our new staff a warm welcome and very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable career with us.

It is a particularly busy time for Year 11, given that their external exams begin shortly after the Easter holiday. Parents and students were invited to a Revision Evening on 10 October, where virtually every student was represented. The Y11 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with subject teachers is scheduled for 22 October. The Y11 Trial Exams in English and Mathematics then commence after the half term break on 18 November – these are vital internal preparatory exams for the later external ones.

On 17 October the Music Department hosted a very enjoyable Vocal Evening and, as I write, I am looking forward to the Performing Arts faculty hosting a Murder Mystery Evening on the final Thursday of the half term, this year set within a mansion house. I would also like to congratulate the team of Modern Foreign Language students who recently won first prize in a competition for language students across South Yorkshire, hosted this year in Doncaster.

Congratulations to our staff in the Special Educational Needs department who have been recognised by the NHS for their excellent practice in caring for our students with disabilities.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Some important forthcoming dates:

- 25 October – INSET day: school closed to students
- 28 October – half-term break begins
- 4 November – second half term begins (for students and staff)
- 14 November – New Sixth Evening (for current Year 11 students)
- 19 November – Y13 Student & Parent Consultation Evening with subject teachers
- 28 November – Y11 Presentation Evening (for last year's Year 11 students)
- 19 December – Y13 Presentation Evening (for last year's Year 13 students).

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Principal

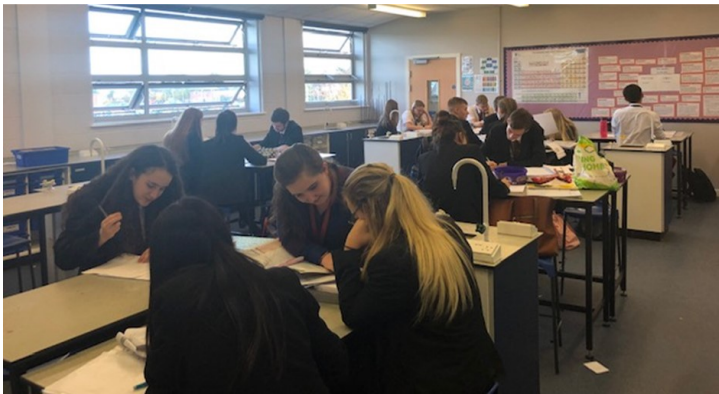
# Latest News and Updates

## Extra-Curricular Science Opportunities

No matter what age you are, there is always something extra you can do in and around school to feed your passion for science. Read on to find out more about the amazing extra-curricular activities that have been happening this half term.

### KS5

KS5 students have begun Y12 and Y13 with a fantastic approach to their learning. Attending after school revision each week on Wednesdays for Biology, Thursdays for Chemistry and Fridays for Physics, students have shown real commitment and enthusiasm. Our key drivers of 'never give up' and 'no excuses' are clear to see.



### KS4

Y11 have made a fantastic start to their after school revision programme, with 287 sessions being attended by students in the first three weeks. Revision continues every Thursday and rotates between Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Keep up the fantastic work Y11. If you haven't attended a session yet, we would love to see you there.



### KS3 Science Club

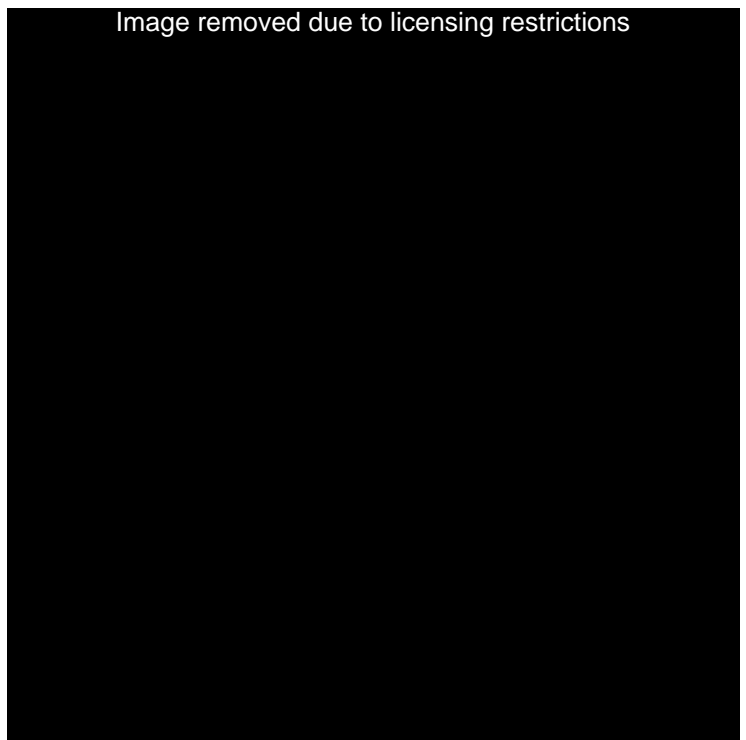
Science club has started this academic year with a bang. Students have been fascinated by a range of experiments each week. All Y7 students are welcome to attend in F41 every Thursday from 2:40-3:30.



## Apollo Moon Landing Anniversary

Wath Academy students helped to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing with a series of themed assemblies this half term. Students watched footage of the moon landing from 1969 and learnt about the team effort of thousands of professionals who worked collaboratively to make this happen. Their positive mind set of 'never give up' and having the 'highest expectations' was key!

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



# from Wath Academy

## Wath Careers Fair

By Joe Unijat, Emily Rodgers and Tom Armitage  
(Year 8)



Our annual Careers Fair was held on Tuesday 15 October and it was brilliant! A range of people came to see us including AMRC, The University of Sheffield, National Horse Riding College and so many more. We got an insight into the world of work and the chance to talk to employers about opportunities and apprenticeships. Overall 21 companies and businesses attended the day.

Here are some responses from students:

“Personally, I think it went well and we had enough time to speak to everyone. I definitely came out of my comfort zone to ask everyone there the questions I wanted to ask.” (Joe Unijat)

“I think that the Careers Fair was a great opportunity to see all pathways in work. This was interesting as I never knew the different opportunities and experiences you can have.” (Tom Armitage, Year 8)



## Read for the Stars!

The library is running a tutor group reading challenge for Year 7 students. Every month, the tutor group who have borrowed and read the most library books in total will be crowned the winners.

Keep an eye out for the display in the library to check your tutor group's progress. The table below shows the current scores for this month (from 1 October – 21 October).



As you can see in the photograph above, the tutor group in the lead at the moment is 7KPL, who have currently borrowed 38 books! Closing in on them in second place is 7MBU, with 31 books, and narrowly behind them to take third place is 7MA. Well done to these tutor groups so far!

This could all change, though! If you haven't borrowed a book yet, make sure you get to the library to have a look at the many books on offer. It's free to borrow, and you can take books for two weeks, then renew them as many times as you need. Get reading, and help your tutor group to reach the top!

# House Competitions Update



House Competitions are brilliant ways for students to take part, have fun and do something a little different. This year, at Wath, the number of competitions has increased, so there is a House Competition every Friday at lunchtime.

So far, we have tested the students' abilities in a giant battle of rock-paper-scissors, and also in the longest plank (as shown in the photograph above). All events take place on the astro turf (weather permitting!) or inside in the Main Hall.

These events are gathering popularity every week, with over a hundred students taking part in the longest plank competition on Friday 18th October. There were three joint winners:

- Mason Floodman (Carthage)
- Jake Breedon (Troy)
- Talia Peace (Athens)

Winners of each competition win points for their

respective Houses, as does everyone who attends and tries. From the two events so far, Carthage are currently in the lead with a total of 1440 points, with Athens, Sparta and Troy all fighting over second place, each of these Houses on approximately 700 points. All this could change after the next Friday event, however!

There are plenty of other ways to gain House points, even if students can't attend on a Friday lunchtime. Throughout this half term, there has also been a photography competition running, the Autumn Selfie, and the winners will be featured in the next issue. The idea is simple: take a selfie with an autumnal backdrop. If you haven't submitted a selfie yet, there is still time to do this.

Whether you choose to support your House by entering the competitions or simply cheering on your friends, make sure you get involved. The winning House at the end of the year will be the one whose students have who put in the most effort!

# Interview with Mr Jackson

By Nicole Ellis, Year 13

Mr Jackson (Executive Principal) started at Wath Academy in September after previous success as a Principal at Kingswood Academy in Hull. We caught up with him to find out more about what kinds of changes he's planning to make to the school and the reasons behind these changes.

Mr Jackson discussed how he is here to support the academy and build on some of the excellent practice which is already in place. Wath Academy has identified six key drivers which will support every student in their education and future career. These are: world-class learning, the highest expectations, no excuses, a growth mindset, never giving up, and everyone is valued. These will support the school's mission: 'All students acquire the qualifications, skills and character needed to live happy and successful lives'. He believes that by subscribing to these drivers, all students will be able to gain first rate qualifications and develop exceptional character – regardless of background or starting point.

In addition, based on his experience as a headteacher, Mr Jackson has recognised 'students tend to be more successful' when they 'genuinely believe they can improve' and both value and use the feedback that they are given by teachers. Proactively applying feedback will naturally lead to students being more successful and getting higher grades – a self-improvement concept which, according to Mr Jackson, can also be applied to everything in life. Mr Jackson also emphasises the importance of having a 'growth mindset' which he believes is achievable through recently introduced programmes such as the Character Education programme in tutor time. This focuses on developing characteristics such as determination, resilience, goal setting and personal drive, to name a few.

The new Show My Homework package is now up and running. Show My Homework ensures that homework is set consistently across school and supports learning and progress. The Academy is also working on a school app to improve the quality of communication to parents. This will be launched later in the autumn term.

Moving onto the school uniform policies; most people think this is the biggest change, but Mr Jackson hasn't actually made many changes here – he has just implemented the existing policy more effectively. Focusing on uniform is one of many school improvement strategies that the school is working on. He does firmly

believe that uniform is a strategy to benefit the learning of students, by keeping us focused on our education rather than our clothes. This will create a level playing field amongst students and reduce peer pressure.

Uniform aside, there are also some further changes Mr Jackson

intends to carry out to help improve the school, some of which we may already be aware of, such as Show My Homework and the Character Education programme mentioned above. He also intends to further improve the enrichment and extra-curricular side of the academy. This includes further developing our House system. This will help to create a sense of community, friendship and healthy competition amongst us all, adding an element of fun to everyday school learning. Sports teams and competitions between students and Houses, he also claims, will be helpful for student character building.

As important as it is for each student to achieve the best grades possible, it's also just as important to build character because Mr Jackson firmly believes that your qualifications get you the interview, but your character will get you the job. Therefore, Mr Jackson intends to improve both aspects of students school experience, the memories made and the quality of teaching and learning.



## Mr Jackson Character Fact File

<b>Favourite animal</b>	Golden eagle (or a dolphin)
<b>Favourite colour</b>	Green
<b>Pets</b>	If he had pets, it would probably be a Labrador or a Springer Spaniel.
<b>Favourite food</b>	Thai
<b>Favourite place</b>	Halong Bay in Vietnam
<b>Favourite boardgame</b>	Trivial Pursuit or The Logo Game
<b>Favourite movie</b>	<i>Shawshank Redemption</i>

# Meet the New Staff at

Curious to learn more about the new staff faces you see on the corridor?

Interviews conducted and written by: Alexandra Cook, Maxton Hutchinson, Olivia Wydell,

## Mrs Butler



We enjoyed a fun and pleasurable meeting with Mrs Butler, a new Maths teacher. If she could have any job, she would choose a different line of work: an educational psychologist, as she is interested in the psychology of students when they are learning. If she could have any superpower, she'd like the ability to teleport or fly so she could travel to Bali, a nice, warm country, which she would love to visit. Finally, if she could be any character from a book or TV show, she would be a personal assistant to a lawyer in the hit American drama, *Suits*.

## Mr Owen

Mr Owen, the new Director of English, told us he loves his job and wouldn't change to anything else. His favourite animals are

hedgehogs, because they are resilient; they are able to stay alive by curling up instead of running. He would also like the ability to shapeshift, so that he could see things from different perspectives. When asked about where in the world he would like to travel, he told us he'd choose the Arctic, because it would be nice to see polar bears—if he was lucky, he might also see a wolverine. Lastly, if given the opportunity, he would like to be in the *Star Wars* franchise as a new character, specifically a Jedi.



because they are sassy and funny. Her chosen power would be super speed, because she'd be able to get anywhere within a matter of seconds. It would also make her super fit! If she could travel anywhere, it would be to the U.S.A, mainly New York or Los Angeles, because they are popular tourist sites (maybe she could use the super speed to get there!). She would like to be in the *Harry Potter* books as Hermione, because she likes her competence at magic.

## Miss Sprack

The next new English teacher, Miss Sprack, told us she'd love to be a paid travel blogger, because she enjoys travelling. Her favourite animal is a tiger – she seems to like the orange ones most. Then she told us she would like the ability to fly, again because of the



## Mrs Clarke



Mrs Clarke is another new English teacher, but if she could do anything, she'd like to be a performer, possibly on the West End. She likes cats the most,

## Top Halloween Songs

By Emily Rodgers, Year 8

No matter who you are, we all love a good Halloween song whether they're popular, old songs such as 'Ghostbusters' or a lesser known one, you have to agree, they're all good enough to party to. So here are some of my current favourites to add to your playlist for this year:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 10. 'Hungry Like the Wolf' – Duran Duran | 5. 'Monster Mash' – Bobby Pickett                    |
| 9. 'Highway to Hell' - AC/DC             | 4. 'Werewolves of London' - Warren Zevon             |
| 8. 'Thriller' – Michael Jackson          | 3. 'I Put a Spell on You' – From Hocus Pocus         |
| 7. 'Somebody's Watching Me' Rockwell     | 2. 'This is Halloween' (cover) – Panic! At the Disco |
| 6. 'Zombie' – The Cranberries            | 1. 'Time Warp' - The Rocky Horror Picture Show       |

Well, what do you think of the list? I would definitely recommend that you listen to all the ones that you haven't heard of, as they all are amazing songs. And don't forget, Happy Halloween!



# Wath Academy

A number of journalists from *The Torch* have found out all about them!

Thomas Armitage, Ngai Wa Yuen, Grace Clowrey, Isobelle Fenton and Caitlin Martin-Smith.

fact she likes to travel, and she would love to visit India. Another fan of *Harry Potter*, she would also like to be in these books, but she would prefer to be the prodigy, Harry Potter himself.

## Miss Wilson



A fourth new English teacher is Miss Wilson. Another lover of *Harry Potter*, her dream job would involve working at Hogwarts or being an Auror (as this seems quite dangerous and thrilling!). Contrary to the risky job, her favourite animal is quite self-sufficient: lizards, apparently, seem 'cool'. Miss Wilson is quite knowledgeable when it comes to superpowers: she would choose psionic manipulation, which is the ability to move objects. When it comes to travelling, she would like to go to Antarctica: it's cold and would also be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Finally, she would be Rick from *Rick and Morty*, as she would fit into his world.

## Miss Hayes

Miss Hayes is a new Biology teacher, who wouldn't change her career for anything else. Her favourite



animals are dogs, because they are so friendly. If she could have any superpower, she would choose to be able to fly, because that would mean she could go anywhere, and in particular, she would go to Australia to see all the different

animals there, because she loves animals in general. If she could be any fictional character, she would choose to be Ron Weasley, because she thinks he is the funniest character in the *Harry Potter* universe.

## Mr Hynes



Mr Hynes is a new Physics teacher. Even if he could do absolutely anything else, he wouldn't want to change his job, because he likes working with students and loves physics. He also said he likes rabbits the most out of all animals, because they have 'funny ears'. If he could have any superpower, he would have the ability to pause time so he could do anything he wanted! India and New Zealand would be his favourite countries to visit because of India's food and New Zealand's mountains. Finally, if he could be a character in any book, film or series, he would be Legolas from *Lord of the Rings* (because he has cool hair)!

## Mr Davies

Given the chance to do anything, this new MFL teacher would like to be a firefighter, because they save lives. The animals he likes the most are cows, strangely, because they're like big dogs. Of all superpowers, he would want invisibility, due to the fact you can do anything you want without being noticed, which means you

can spy on people. He would also go to South America if he could travel anywhere, since there's the Argentinian football team and they speak Spanish. If he could be any character, he'd be Sherlock Holmes, as he'd then be able to solve devious crimes.

## Strange Phobias

By Emily Rodgers, Year 8

You may have heard of things such as arachnophobia, claustrophobia or agoraphobia but here are some weirder ones you may not have heard of:

- Arachibutyrophobia - fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of your mouth.
- Barophobia - fear of gravity.
- Chronomentrophobia - fear of clocks.
- Genophobia - fear of knees.
- Hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia - fear of long words.
- Koumpounophobia - fear of buttons.
- Microphobia - fear of small things.
- Papyrophobia - fear of paper.
- Sociophobia - fear of social evaluation.
- Trypophobia - fear of holes.



# Media and Review:

## Netflix Original – *Abyss* K-Drama Review

By Molly Hammerton, Year 12

I've recently started getting into all sorts of Korean pop culture, for example, I've begun listening to more K-Pop other than BTS, like EXO, NCT and Taemin (who I highly recommend), but this is the first K-Drama I've ever watched; I was pleasantly surprised! For a person who is used to watching American and British TV shows (as well as the tropes that come with them), I was unsure what to expect when watching this show, but to tell the truth, it wasn't too far from what I'm used to.

The show is set in the capital of South Korea, Seoul, and revolves around our main characters tracking down the Eomsan-dong serial killer. Sounds pretty basic, right? Well, add in a supernatural orb which can revive the dead (seriously) and can change people's faces to match their soul and, well, you have a series full of twists, turns and infuriating 'almosts' between all the characters for so many different reasons. This may sound negative, but these irritating cliffhangers are actually part of the appeal.

Throughout the series, we have two consistent main protagonists (their physical appearances less so), who are called Cha Min (played by Ahn Hyo-seop) and Go Se-yeon (played by Park Bo-young). Cha Min, at the beginning of the series, is not the most aesthetically attractive; however, it is very clear that he has a beautiful soul and personality from the start. Nonetheless, after he is revived using the mystical orb 'Abyss', he becomes incredibly handsome. The downside is that nobody recognises him and, as a result, it becomes difficult for him to prove who he is. Furthermore, he is the rich heir of a famous and popular cosmetic company (and is my favourite character because of how frankly hilarious he is). Go Se-yeon, the female protagonist, is initially seen as being extremely beautiful and is very successful as a prosecutor who has taken on the Eomsan-dong serial killer case. Yet, after being murdered by the serial killer and then revived by Cha Min (her best friend) using 'Abyss', she becomes plainer in appearance, though by no means is she unattractive. Together, they attempt to hunt down Se-

yeon's killer and bring them to justice.

Personally, I really enjoyed watching this series as it felt much more familiar than I was expecting to the TV shows that we get over here in the UK and USA. The humour is, in my opinion, sparkling and offset wonderfully by the show's ability to be deadly serious at the right times. The characters are fabulous and are acted extraordinarily well. I commend all the actors in *Abyss*. Overall, if you are new to K-Dramas, I highly recommend *Abyss* to get you started as you are introduced to tropes through a familiar story line. Therefore, my verdict is that *Abyss* is anything but abysmal (ba-dum tshh).

## iPhone 11

By Ellisia Bowman, Year 8

September 10th, 2019 marks the launch date for the new iPhone 11. The new phone can be pre-ordered on the 13th September and fully bought on September 20th at the price of £729 for 64GB, £779 for the 128GB and £879 for 256GB. It comes in six different colours: red, black, white, yellow, green, purple. If you buy the phone in red, it will contribute to the HIV and AIDs fight.

On the back of the phone, there is 2 cameras (or 3 on the iPhone 11 Pro Max). The two (or 3) cameras provides a better, wider photo with good quality. The camera comes with a night mode to brighten the photo and the added slofie.

## *Spiderman Far From Home* Review

By Ellisia Bowan and Grace Clowrey, Year 9

WARNING SPOILERS!!!

The newest movie in the Spiderman franchise has been celebrated across the world – it has become Sony Pictures' highest grossing film of all time after its release on July 2nd! It was a rollercoaster of emotional torment and a ride to enjoy.

Set after the traumatic events of *Avengers: Endgame*, Peter Parker and his classmates embark on an exciting school trip, taking them to Prague, France, Venice and many other countries around the globe. However, his holiday is interrupted when Nick Fury comes calling,

asking for his help to fight the elementals! Peter is introduced to the new pop up 'hero', Mysterio. Mysterio 'helps' Peter defeat the Water elemental in Venice and the Fire elemental in Prague. Peter soon figures out that all the elementals were illusions and that Mysterio is the real villain! Confusing battles commence, as Spiderman battles this master of illusions! We won't spoil the after-scene credit scenes (there are two), but the wait is definitely worth it!

## Toy Story 4 Review

By Chloe Smith (Year 10)

If you loved the original *Toy Story* and you have seen numbers 2 and 3, then you are going to love *Toy Story 4*. In the film, Woody and the gang go to a funfair and with the toys' brand new owner Bonnie (who was in *Toy Story 3*), who is on a road trip with her family. Along with the usual gang is a brand-new toy called Forkie (who Bonnie created in preschool), and other amazing new characters which I think that you are going to love. They go on lots of different adventures and it is an amazing emotional film.

I recommend this film if you love to watch family-fun and friendly films. Overall, my opinion of the film is that it is an incredible film and one of my favourite films of all time to watch. It is a very funny and amazing film and I think that Disney Pixar have created an amazing sequel.

## Marvel Turns 80!

By Grace Clowrey, Year 9

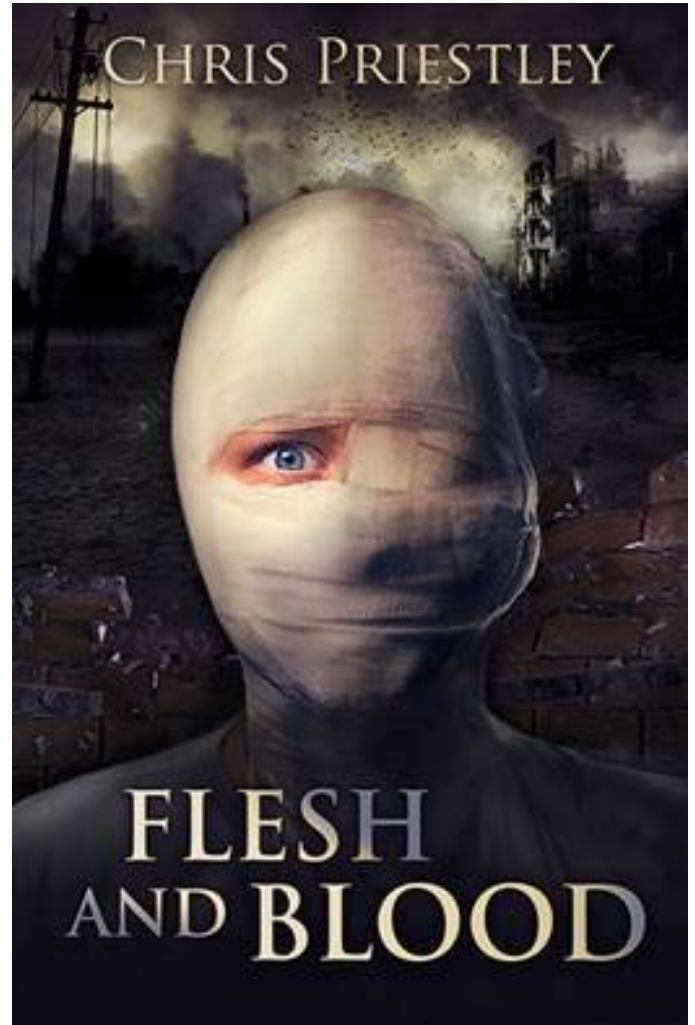
On 31st August 2019, Marvel comics turned 80! For the anniversary, an 89-page massive comic featuring all of Marvel's characters. It is issue #1000 and was created by 80 creative teams from the company's history. Every page of the issue tells a story of an important event in Marvel's past.

The first story in the comic is about the creation of the Human Torch in 1939 - who appeared in the very first Marvel comic, when Marvel was first created. There are other stories, for example, Captain America explaining why he fights and one about Iron Man's suit in 2008, the year the first film in the recent Marvel adaptations came out.

## Book of the Month

*Flesh and Blood* – by Chris Priestley

Reviewed by Lily Broadhurst, Year 7



In my opinion, this book was great to read, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in horror.

This story is about a small boy called Bill, living in regular home during World War 2. He lives with his sister (who he hates) and mother, while his father is away. After one final bomb raid, his mother sends him and his sister away to the countryside by train. Two cruel wishes lead to a mysterious boy turning up at their doorway. The boy's face is covered in bandages due to burn injuries and he never speaks. As time passes, the boy becomes stranger and stranger, and Bill soon learns how dangerous thoughtless wishes can be...

# News, Politics and Current Affairs:

## Can we live without single used plastic?

By Lily Broadhurst, Year 7

Single use plastic is any type of plastic that we get, use once and then immediately throw away (or possibly recycle).

I think we can live without single use plastic. I think this because most single used plastic have an environmentally friendly or reusable alternative. Most people are not aware of how plastic is affecting the world. Most people will change their way of using plastic if aware of the damage they are causing. Commonly used plastic such as plastic straws are proved to be dangerous to animals and sea life such as turtles.

Plastic bags are also one of the extremely common single used plastics that effects the health of sea life. Therefore, plastic bags currently cost 5p to purchase at any supermarket. 86% of people have now brought their own reusable bag because of this.

As well as plastic affecting sea life, it also affects the ocean. Most plastic waste ends up in the sea; therefore, many fish digest the plastic and end up dying because of it. This means that the amount of fish that we eat are decreasing at a rapid rate.

However, using plastic is quick and easy, therefore being the common choice. But by going through a small amount of struggle, our oceans will be a cleaner and a safer place in this world.

### THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Lily Broadhurst, Isobel Clowrey, Thomas Armitage, Maxton Hutchinson, Emily Rodgers, Alexandra Cook, Isobelle Fenton, Lola Billingham, Grace Clowrey, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Olivia Wydell, Caitlin Martin-Smith, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Emily Balaiss, Nicole Ellis and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Joe Unijat, Mrs Laite, Mrs Frith, Miss Taylor, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

## Student Strikes For The Climate Crisis

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Swedish teenager, Greta Thunberg, has recently gained plenty of publicity over her protests for action against climate change. Her blunt approach to speaking about the climate crisis has appealed to many, particularly teenagers, sparking worldwide protests.

Greta says: "Adults keep saying: 'we owe it to the young people to give them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

Thunberg has also claimed politicians "are acting like children" about the climate crisis. And can we blame her when they make constant, unfulfilled promises about solving it? On June 1st 2017, US President, Donald Trump, pulled out of the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. After listening to her speech, Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, admitted that "[his generation has] not done nearly enough to address climate change."

At only sixteen, she has been named one of the 100 most influential people of 2019 and the most important woman of the year in Sweden this International Women's Day. She has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and will be the youngest Nobel Laureate if

# Wath Students Speak Out

she wins.

However, she does face critics, those who refuse to believe in her actions. Many find her nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize controversial, arguing she hasn't accomplished anything specific but has only created a sense of panic among youth, while not invoking any real change. They believe she encourages truanting, as she started striking during school, asking "why spend a lot of effort to become educated, when our governments are not listening to the educated?"

Despite it all, Thunberg continues the fight for her cause and shows no sign of stopping soon.

## What Happened to Thomas Cook?

Olivia Wydell, Year 10

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Thomas Cook, a popular travel agency, went into liquidation after negotiations to save the firm came to no avail. This collapse put 9,000 jobs at risk and stranded over 155,000 UK tourists in foreign countries, who were on holiday using Thomas Cook at the time.

But what is liquidation? It is a process where a company's assets – anything of economic value to a company – are sold to repay creditors. The business is shut down and its name is removed from a register of companies called the Companies House.

This collapse caused many disturbances for people who booked holidays with Thomas Cook, with many people missing important events. One woman, Michelle Burch, told the BBC that she had missed her son's wedding as a result of a thirty-five hour delay for their flight home.

At the Torch, one student's relative had been locked in the hotel that she was staying at while the news was coming out of Thomas Cook's collapse.

Within the first few hours, 60,000 refund forms were submitted to them and the CAA – Civil Aviation Authority – responded that it would take approximately sixty days for customers to get their

money back.

Although it might not have been Thomas Cook's fault that they were in this situation, it was handled unprofessionally; an unfortunate end to a once-popular company.

## Ketchup Controversy

By Anonymous

Tomato sauce/ketchup is one of the most popular condiments in England. However, have you ever considered where you store it? This may seem obvious, but you might find that your friend has a surprisingly different answer. On the bottle, it suggests keeping refrigerated, but many people prefer to keep it in a cupboard.

Where do you keep your tomato sauce/ketchup?

Here are some arguments for each side:

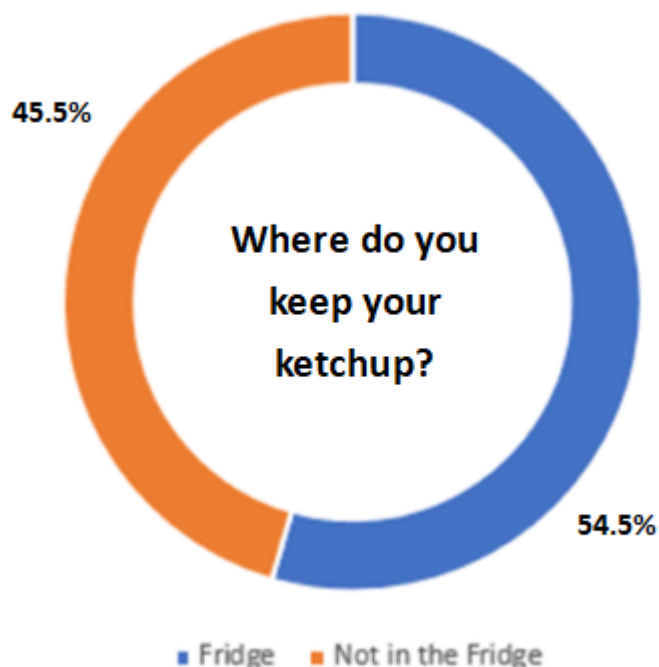
### Fridge

- It says it on the bottle.
- It can expire if not in the fridge.

### Not in the Fridge

- It gets too thick and lumpy when in the fridge, so is difficult to work with when cooking.
- It would make hot food cold when dipped into.

These are the results from a survey I did:



# Wath Students Get Creative:

## Greek Gods

A collection of poems by Alexandra Cook, Year 8

### Artemis

I walk up to the woman shrouded in moonlight,  
And ask, "Why do you not love?  
Love is a wonderful thing  
Why deny yourself pleasure?"  
She replied with a sad smile,  
"Because, my dear, once upon a time  
A man broke my heart  
And I swore to never love again."

### Hades and Persephone

"How do you love me?  
I am the dark cruel creature of the night  
And you are the swan of the brightest day.  
Aren't you afraid of my darkness, my love?"  
Hades asked with mischief in his eyes,  
"No", Persephone replied,  
"You haven't even seen mine yet."

### Poseidon

The sea rocks the boat,  
Back and forth,  
Back and forth,  
A pain only the sea could feel,  
Throbs beneath the skin,  
Of the old sea God.

## Shattered Glass

Part one of a serialised story  
by Alexandra Cook, Year 8

Nick cautiously investigates the bathroom. Perfect. It was free of his annoying sister. He walked in and looked into the mirror and gasped. His shirt. He knew the words should be backwards, yet it was correct. A smile flickered onto the other boy's face as a grizzled hand reached toward him. It grasped him by the shirt and pulled him into the mirror. Nick tumbled into a dark void, the glass shattering behind him, sealing any means of escape.

"Well, well, well. What in the world do we have here?" a clipped voice drawled from the shadows.

"Who- who are you?" He mentally cursed himself for stuttering. The boy stepped into the light. He had deathly pale skin, in contrast with his bright green eyes and dark hair.

"You got trapped here too? Yeah, of course you did. Now how about helping me get out of here?"

Nick gave a bright-eyed smirk. "Let's go."

## Precious

A short story by Isobelle Fenton, Year 8

"9-9-9, what is the emergency?"

She called the police when she noticed how different her bracelet was. The difference was; she couldn't find it. She had looked everywhere, but it was nowhere to be seen.

"My precious bracelet! I can't find it!"

"When did you last see it? Where did you last see it?" The officer asked, when he arrived at her house.

"It was in my box; I kept the exact one that I was given; it meant a lot to me." The officer wrote down some notes, comforting her every so often.

"Do you know who might want to do this?" The officer asked her.

"No? But there was this?" Handing the officer a note, she added: "It was where the bracelet was supposed to be; I think it is supposed to be a riddle?"

It read:

*sorrow—joy—a girl—a boy—silver—gold—the secret can never be told*

"Does this mean anything to you?" Asked the friendly officer.

Gina shook her head. "I don't remember it. Angel told me about a story with it in?" As she said this, she began folding the note, and noticed that it had a tab attached to it. Reading it aloud, she said, "Hold on,

# Poems, Short Stories and More

this says, 'I never really could say goodbye'."

Both were confused.

"Is there anyone who you never said goodbye to, who might wish you could have?" Suggested the officer. They thought until Gina said, "Maybe Angel again?"

Smiling, the officer said, "Then that could be it, where did you last see Angel?"

Gina's heart dropped again as she replied, "The hospital. Angel was ill, the bracelet was the last gift I ever got from her before she—" Her voice stopped working properly, as she recalled the last time they saw each other.

"Oh, I'm so sorry," The police officer sympathised. "Does anyone else know about this? Anyone who might do this to help?"

"No..." Just then, Gina had an idea, "Why don't we try going to her bed, or her grave?"

So they both took a trip to the hospital, where they searched everywhere, but found nothing. When they went to the graveyard, though, they found a note on the headstone.

The note said:

*strangers—thieves—anger—grief—followers—  
friend—seeking—sad end—falling—flying—living  
still—she died*

Gina instantly knew what this meant. These words were part of a riddle from the last film they saw together. They had to go to the cinema, so she told the police, who agreed to do that with her. When they reached the cinema, they looked everywhere, and found nothing.

"Looking for something?" Came a voice from behind them. Before Gina had spun around, she was shouting "Angel." She was there, silver hair seemingly glistening in the light. Gina ran to her long-lost girlfriend, and as she made contact, and felt the warm embrace of her love consume her like a

comforting wave washing over her, tears streamed down her face as if the heavens had opened.

When she blinked, however, she realised that she was just standing there, staring at a cleaner, crying profusely. When the cleaner asked the same question again, Gina broke down and ran away from them as fast as she could. When she turned a corner, she ran straight into someone. After the last daydream, she didn't get her hopes up.

A soft hand drifted into her vision, willing her to hoist herself up, so she did. As she brushed herself off, and looked up, she saw a bewildered Angel. They both stood there and blinked twice.

"Is it you, my angel?" asked Gina, as they held each other tight, unwilling to let go, for fear of losing each other again.

"Yes, it's me."

## The Angel's Tear

A poem by Lola Billingham, Year 9

Like the scarlet night veiling the dark,  
You can hide your fear,  
Can lie my dear,

Lie here in your sleep,  
In an endless dream,  
Where I hope you can,  
Outstretch bloodstained wings ...

Like a fallen angel!  
Carried off by the wind,  
Time erasing-all that had ever been,

Into the starry night,  
Falling back into the sky,

Like a goddess please,  
Keep holding me, and

Fly to heaven ...

# Sport and House Update

## History behind the Houses at Wath



Most people are familiar with the Houses at Wath, but do you know why they were chosen? Each issue, *The Torch* will feature one of the Houses, starting with Athens. Read on to learn about the history and values upon which the House system at Wath is based!

### Athens

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

### Athens House Today

The Head of House for Athens is Mrs Cunningham. She has led the House to success for many years. Last year, after a close-fought battle, Athens won the House competition, so they are certainly the House to beat this year!

### Athens House Values

Each of the Houses has its own set of values, which everyone in the House should strive to live by. People in Athens can be summed up by their:

- Aspiration**
- Competitiveness**
- Loyalty**
- Responsibility**
- Wisdom**

Check out the next issue to learn all about Carthage!

