



STAYING SAFE IN THE SUN

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

Summer 'fun in the sun' is a well-known phrase that basically means that in the summer, when the sun is out, people like to go outside and have fun, such as playing on the beach.

We all enjoy going outside to play, but we do not like the sunburn afterwards. To avoid this, just follow these simple steps to be happy after the sun:

1. Wear sun cream – especially SPF 50 to protect

from the sun's harmful UV rays.

2. Drink lots – the sweat on your forehead is your body's way of cooling you down, using all the moisture in your body, so drink to replenish it.
3. No makeup – this can lead to your skin being damaged by heat.

Make the most of the lucky few warm days we get in England – we don't get many here, and follow these rules to be safe in the sun. Have fun!



Summer Word Search

Feeling bored over the summer?
Complete the word search and
return to Miss Taylor in September
for your first ePraise point of
the new academic year!

Made by *Ellisia Bowman, Year 8*

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| SUN | FUN |
| BEACH | HEAT |
| SAND | WAVE |
| SUNBATHE | POOL |
| ICECREAM | HOTEL |
| OCEAN | SORBET |
| HOLIDAY | SUMMER |

T B K J V H T S U N Z T U Y E
 N X I V X B O H Z K W J S F W
 I L Z C G H E B Q Z D K P V Y
 T W A V E I C I F E S H V K L
 B A V N U C E E H T A B N U S
 X Y E Z H H R X R A K E G X X
 D N A H H C A E B T Z P O O L
 Z A V D E N J C A J D P O C G
 H E Q P I N X R E M M U S B T
 N C M H U L X L O E V B D V H
 U O B D W C O J E G O N C V K
 F L Y A R E H H N T A R C N I
 G O Y O V U L H O S O R B E T
 R K G U J G G R Q B Y H K I T
 M A B V C L Z K Z W Q N O Q U

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the end of the school year is almost upon us, it is an appropriate time to reflect on our achievements this year. We are, of course, proud of all of our students' successes and, throughout the year, the concerts, Movement Evening, dance shows, drama productions, sports successes, Sports Awards Evening and DoE expeditions have given us the opportunity to celebrate the wealth of talent of our students, as evidenced in the recent end of year assemblies.

The last few weeks of term have been very busy and the recent Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Summer Ball were certainly among the highlights of the year. Both were a huge success, enjoyed by students and the many staff who attended. Of course, none of the extra activities that do occur in the school could occur without a very committed group of staff.

As always, the end of year brings some sadness as we say goodbye to staff who are leaving to take up new posts elsewhere, for promotion and also to pursue other avenues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for the positive contributions they have made to Wath Academy and wish them every success in the future. In particular, Mrs Hardwick is retiring from the Drama Department, Mrs Schofield from Maths and Mr & Mrs Harrison from English and MFL respectively, after many years' service to the school. In addition, I would like to wish the Deputy Head Teacher, Mr McIntosh, well as he moves to King James's School in Knaresborough to take up a deputy headship there. From our Associate Professional staff, both Mrs Orr and Mrs Hirst are retiring after many years of service to the Finance team. We very much appreciate all they have done for the school and wish them well for the future.

The school has made a number of new appointments for September and I am delighted to report that we are fully staffed in preparation for the new year, with subject specialists in every area, which is an advantageous position to be in, in comparison to many schools across the country.

As we fast approach the summer holiday, I would like to mention some slight changes to the school day from the start of next year and further details to enhance our 'Standards for Success'. We formally joined the Maltby Learning Trust on 1 April 2019 and, together with the new appointment of Mr Jackson as Executive Principal at Wath from 1 September, we are looking forward to the next academic year and to continuing the exciting journey of further school improvement, committing to many new ways of working both inside and outside the classroom.

Next year, we will continue with two lessons between tutor time and mid-morning break, but then will have two further



lessons between break and lunch, and one lesson in the afternoon. This will provide kitchen staff with time to adequately prepare for lunch servings after their very popular break time menu. The afternoon session will start at 1.40pm, which will mean it will end at 2.40pm. We will have a variety of serveries at lunchtime for students to purchase a lunch. In addition, we will continue to have a variety of other options for students to eat their own lunch, such as that brought from home. We are continuing to look at a variety of further updates to our facilities for sixth form students which will include further options for having lunch in their own areas rather than the need to use the main dining room.

The additional time at the end of the school day will provide the school with further opportunities for the richly varied extra-curricular menu we already offer for students, especially in winter with the shortened amount of light. We are also conscious as a school that we are now attracting more students, from a much wider catchment area than ever before, and we need to ensure that students have the opportunity to get home safely.

I am delighted to report that the number of instances of disruptive behaviour in lessons has halved this academic year. However, all of our detentions will continue to be after school and these will continue to be up to an hour in length. It is very pleasing that the greater immediacy of our detention system is having a very positive impact in following up issues rapidly. Attendance has shown a three year trend of improvement and we now exceed the national average. The punctuality of students to sessions and lessons have also both significantly improved this year. This has been positively reinforced by our same day detentions for lates at the start of the day. This will continue to remain a focus – it is vital that we get students into the habit of arriving on time in preparation for their life beyond school.

As we have now become part of Maltby Learning Trust, this is an appropriate time for the school to look again at its uniform policy. I am sure parents will agree that it is very important to students that we are consistent in our application of the uniform policy. To that end, we have improved the clarity of the detail in the policy. I would appreciate your full support in ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for their return in September. To help ensure this consistency, there will be a single point of entry for all students on their return to school, via the main reception. Staff will be on duty to direct students to this single point of entry so that we can check uniform on arrival. Any student who does not meet the requirements of the updated uniform policy will be required to go home and change, or change into one of the spare items of uniform that the school will provide for the day. If this is fully addressed in advance, it will avoid issues arising on the first day of the new year.

Over the final week of the year, your child will attend an assembly to support them to understand the changes that will be made to our continued work towards our standards for success. We have spent a significant amount of time reviewing other schools locally and nationally, and how they have addressed uniform, behaviour and standards. We believe that, by making small changes to our existing systems for September, we are best placed to further support our students to be successful learners.

Outlined below are some key elements of our 'Standards for Success' from September:

1. We are committed to recognising students who go 'above and beyond' in terms of their learning, through a process of positive recognition. Students will be awarded E-praise points for going 'above and beyond' in lessons and around the school. In addition, we will communicate with parents on a regular basis when we believe students deserve recognition.
2. We are committed to further reviewing our existing rewards programme with students from September, to ensure it is fit for purpose and acts as a continued motivator for effective learning. As such, student voice panels will expand when we return in September to explore potential further developments in this area.
3. It is our expectation that all students will come to school each day fully prepared for learning: this will include having all the correct equipment, including the school planner.
4. We have reviewed our uniform policy and we have been very specific in our descriptions to ensure parents are supported to make the correct purchases over the summer period. We appreciate how stressful this can be and want to ensure that students begin the year

with the correct uniform and footwear. I would particularly draw your attention to the sections on skirts, trousers and overall appearance, including such as make-up, nails and hair.

5. All students in September will be provided with a lanyard and ID badge that they will be required to wear at all times in school. This will increase still further the safety of all our students.

Thank you in anticipation for your support in relation to these continued improvements. We believe that by making these changes we can support teachers and students to engage in conversations that focus upon learning and progress, and not compliance with standards, that in most schools and workplaces are basic expectations.

End of Term Arrangements (Friday 19 July 2019)

The school will close for students on Friday 19 July at the usual time of 2.45pm.

First Day Arrangements (Tuesday 3 September 2019)

The school will open for the new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Tuesday 3 September at 8.20am.

Students in Years 8-11 & Year 13 should arrive at 9.50am and go to their tutor bases at the beginning of period 2. We would ask you ensure that your son/daughter does not arrive on site before 9.45am.

Please note that from September, the Rotherham LA catering team are increasing slightly the price of a two course freshly prepared school meal to £2.35, to cover the cost of increased food and transport costs.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school as we work together to ensure the best education for all of our students, both now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor
Headteacher

School Day from September 2019

8:30–8:50	Registration/Assembly
8:50–9:50	Period 1
9:50–10:50	Period 2
10:50–11:05	Break
11:05–12:05	Period 3
12:05–1:05	Period 4
1:05–1:40	Lunch
1:40–2:40	Period 5

Trips Out and About and Latest

Y9 Science Summer School – London

By Hannah Musa, Keira Duce, Abigail Wycherley, Emily Hays, Jack Sowden, Joe Parks, Kai Smith and Harrison Niland, Year 9

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

As Year 9 Separate Science students, we were lucky to be given the opportunity to attend a Summer Science School set up by Lord Andrew Mawson.

The start of our trip began with a short train journey from Rotherham Interchange to Doncaster train station where we embarked on our journey to Kings Cross, London. We travelled to Camden where we took a lunch break before heading onto the Natural History Museum. We explored the museum in small groups and found out many interesting facts; for example, there are 8 super volcanoes in the world and two of which are in Japan, ants hear through vibrations which reach them via their legs. We were extremely lucky to be able to complete many educational activities around the museum such as learning how certain colours can affect your vision.

We were able to see some of the popular tourist sites in the city such as Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Harrods, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament – they were big! After a busy day of sight-seeing, we headed to our accommodation at Queen Mary's University where we were able to relax and socialise with the Maltby and Wales students who also accompanied us on our trip.

Our Thursday began with a Starbucks on the Queen Mary University Campus. We made our way to St. Paul's Trust School where we were greeted to the Science Summer School. We attended a variety of lectures and workshops such as 'meteorology' and 'alien autopsy' which was a particular favourite as we were able to

dissect and diagnose a variety of organs.

Our first lecture was delivered by Professor Brian Cox. He talked about black holes and how simulations could predict what they would look like compared to our first real image of one. They turned out to be surprisingly similar. The second lecture was titled 'Murder is Easy' and was based around Agatha Christie from the perspective of a Chemist. In this lecture we learned about how the use of arsenic was used through history. Another enjoyable lecture was 'Bakengineering' delivered by Andrew Smith (a finalist from 2016 Bake Off). He described how he has mixed his background and passion of aerospace engineering to his other passion – baking.

Our day was brought to a close with a final series of lectures hosted by Professor Brian Cox as well as attending the grand opening of a state of the art pharmacy that had been set up by Lord Mawson in a community that had faced difficulty and been brought together by him and his sponsors.

Our final day involved planning how we would organise an event for next year's Summer School. We had to think about many factors such as publicity, logistics, workshops and budgeting. Our trip drew to an end after we paid a visit to the Science Museum where we explored how planes and train engines work as well as the impacts of climate change. We especially enjoyed the games in the space engineering section. After an interesting few hours spent in the museum, we sadly got the train and headed back to Rotherham. We all thoroughly enjoyed this trip and are extremely thankful for this amazing opportunity.

The Diamond

By Ryan Ackroyd, Year 12

In July, a group of Y12 Physics students travelled to The Diamond in Sheffield. The Diamond is a STEM based higher education centre at Sheffield University. (Science Technology Engineering and Maths).

We went specifically on an Aerospace Engineering taster day. The day involved studying a jet engine,

News from Wath Academy

engineering model planes and using the very advanced flight simulator systems. To conclude the day, we finished with a careers talk about STEM courses and careers.

I thought the most interesting part of the day was learning how a jet engine works. It was fascinating to see how they manage to compress 1200kg of air per second to create enough thrust to propel a tonne aircraft up to speeds of over 550mph, 80 at an altitude of 12,000 metres. (At that height it is 50 degrees Celsius).

Later on in the day, we got the chance to see how the shape of the wings affected the flight path of an aeroplane. However, we discovered it is not just the shape of the wings but the centre of mass that is important. The planes we made were gliders and some flew up to distances of 30m, Joel Wheeler was the champion designer.



Subsequently it was only fair to have a go on the flight simulators. It isn't just trainee pilots that use them to practice, Engineers use special programmes to modify the shape of a plane in seconds to see how it affects it. The flight simulator was of particular interests to student Jai Barber, a budding pilot.

To draw the day to a close we went back into the lecture theatre to hear a talk from HEPPSY about careers in STEM and specifically Physics. I was amazed about the astronomical number of careers that relate to physics.

It was a really great day which helped us all to understand better the breadth of careers and courses available in Engineering and Physics.



Yorkshire Wildlife Park Trip 2019

The science department took a group of 48 KS3 students to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park this July. Not only did they see the only polar bears in the UK, but got to meet some deadly bugs in a live show too! One of our students even lent a hand to reveal the predator – the tarantula! All of the students who attended were a credit to Wath Academy whilst at the park: their behaviour was remarkable. All of the students acted very maturely and were very respectful to both other schools visiting the park and members of the public. The trip was very successful, with all of the students being thoroughly involved and showing great interest throughout the day. Thanks to all students who came along to the park, it was a pleasure for all the members of staff who attended the trip to see such well-mannered and engaged students.



Our students enjoyed petting the wallabies in the walk-through enclosure.

News, Current Affairs and Opinion:

The Legacy of the Lionesses

By Daniel Nutley, Year 10

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

As I am sure you are all aware, last summer was the Men's Football World Cup and the England men's team did considerably well. In fact, they reached the semi-final, where they were unfortunately beaten by Croatia, but it remained their best tournament in 20 years, and it was only the third ever time they have reached the semi-final.

Looking to follow in this success this summer was the England women's team, in their respective World Cup. Managed by Phil Neville, the women headed off to France for an unforgettable summer of football.

In the group stage, the Lionesses were placed in a group containing Scotland, Argentina and Japan. The first hurdle was Scotland. Neighbours by geography, there was certainly no love lost when the two sides went head to head: England buried an early penalty and then doubled their lead through Ellen White before the first half was up. The Scots came out fighting, however, and got a goal back late in the second half, but it was too little too late as the Lionesses took a 2-1 win from their first match.

Five days later, England turned their attention to their next opponents: Argentina. Phil Neville's side dominated the match but only took a 1-0 win from the game, where you would feel they could have won more comfortably. In the final match of the groups, England were to face Japan. Ellen White grabbed a double to send England through to the knockout stages in winning form, 2-0.

Then it was time for business. The round of sixteen. Lose and England are going home. Win and their stay in France was prolonged. The opponents they were to face - Cameroon. And what a game it turned out to be! Not long into the first half, there was already controversy when England scored through Captain Steph Houghton. The goal came from an indirect free kick in the box after a Cameroon back-pass, which made the African nation's team very angry. The second goal also had its fair share of controversy—which further angered Cameroon. Ellen White (who else?) put the ball into the back of the net with a tidy finish, but initially the referee's assistant flagged for offside. Then, however, after protests from the England side that Ellen White was in fact in an onside position, the decision went to video assistant replay, where the goal was awarded correctly.

Later in the game, Cameroon scored to pull it back to 2-1, or so they thought. Their goal also went to a video assistant replay review, where a very close offside call ruled out their goal. They were furious! After the restart, some of the players even refused to carry on playing, claiming that the decisions were biased against them. Once the game finally got underway, however, the England ladies grabbed a third through a well worked corner routine, sending them through to the quarters after an eventful first taste of knockout football in 2019.

Their next fixture, against Norway, was more straight forward. They won 3-0 with Ellen White grabbing another and Jill Scott and Lucy Bronze also scoring.

So it was that they followed in the men's footsteps and reach the semi-final, where they faced the best ranked team in the world, the USA. Coming to the semi-final off the back of two successive World Cup wins, the USA were favourites and proved to be too much for the Lionesses. England held their own, though, and the defeat came to a 2-1 score line.

So, it wasn't to be. Just like the men, it didn't come home this time, but the fact still stands that the Lionesses can be incredibly proud of themselves. They did fantastically well and have inspired a new generation of female footballers due to their class and the increased coverage of the female game.

Wath Students Speak Out!

Pride Month

By Ellisia Bowman and Grace Clowrey, Year 8

The month of June marked the remembrance of the Stonewall Riots, which we now know as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. The Stonewall riots (June 28th, 1969) happened as the LGBTQ+ community didn't want to be discriminated against and wanted to be welcomed without the fear of being attacked.

LGBTQ+ stands for:

L - Lesbian

G - Gay

B - Bisexual

T - Transgender

Q - Queer/Questioning



+ - Non-Binary, Pansexual, Asexual, Polysexual, etc.

Each category has its own flag. The gay pride flag is a rainbow and is the most common one we see. Transgender is blue, pink and white.

Most laws have been removed against the community here in the UK, although 71 countries still criminalize being a member of the LGBTQ+ community. In 2002, the law in the UK was changed to allow gay people to adopt children and in 2013, gay marriage was made legal in England and Wales and later in Scotland; however, in Northern Ireland, gay marriage is still not legal. Today, it is illegal to discriminate against somebody because they are LGBTQ+. However, many face discriminations still. If you treat someone differently because of their race, religion, gender or sexuality, you are discriminating.

Turtle Travesty

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7 and Ellisia Bowman, Year 8

Single use plastic is the most common material in house-holds and is also the most common waste in oceans. This plastic gets in the ocean from being carried down streams or dropping from ships transporting rubbish to other countries. Plastics take years to biodegrade and even then, it exists as microplastics, floating around and doing harm.

Single use plastics are causing animals to die or become ill and later lead to death. For example,

turtles are in danger as they eat plastic waste. To turtles, there isn't much difference between a jellyfish and a plastic bag, so they end up in the turtle's system and they cannot digest it. This leads to the turtle not being able to eat as the bag uses the space for food, so it dies of starvation.

We are always told to recycle plastics, but do we really? The answer is, no. When we get home, we just forget about it and throw it in the general waste bin. This is bad for the environment as this waste is burnt and toxins are released into the air.

This is also a reminder to NOT litter and there are lots of other things you could do, for example, instead of buying plastic bottles, have a re-usable water bottle. You could look online for more ideas. So, make sure you don't waste plastic unnecessarily.

The Future Of Television

By Emily Rodgers Year 7

Think back—when was the last time when you actually watched live television, not recorded or on catch-up? Even if it was been recently, I doubt that it was many episodes, probably just the one-off.

With the recent advancements in technology, streaming your favourite TV programmes and films has become more and more popular. Disney have recently announced that they are going to release a streaming platform, but by far the most prominent and well-known streaming platform is Netflix.

Some people adore Netflix because it is simple to use and has many different shows. However, some might find it more challenging to use, especially without a smart TV and Wi-Fi connection. Also, most shows are released on television at a later date anyway (with the exception of the Netflix Originals).

Some complain that we don't have access to all programmes, which is true; people in the UK get different access to those in America but that's probably because they have been blocked in your country. Some also say it's quite expensive, which is true, but you pay once monthly and you get access for it on all devices.

So, what do you think? Is Netflix the future of TV?

Year 11 Bow Out in Style at Prom



By Emily Balaiss, Year 11

After over twenty stressful GCSE exams, Year 11 gathered at New York Stadium in Rotherham to celebrate together one last time before they go off in their own directions. All that's left is possibly the longest summer of their lives, before starting another two years of college, sixth form or an apprenticeship, and while all the students in Year 11 are looking forward to this long holiday, the Year 11 prom is always tinged with a hint of sadness and emotion, as we say goodbye to the departing students who will not be returning for the Sixth Form at Wath next academic year.

Alongside the modes of quirky transportation (most notable were the motorcycle motorcade and on horseback), the Year 11s were treated to a few surprises at the prom, including the unexpected presence of their previous Academic Year Leader Miss Sheldon, and current Academic Year Leader Mrs Eyre also made an appearance (after going on maternity leave before the exams started). Also, the other surprises came when Pastoral Year Leader Mr Lines announced two new awards to be voted for by students and staff on the night: 'Most Inspiring' and 'Most Improved' joined the tradition 'Prom Queen', 'Prom King', 'Best Dressed Female', 'Best Dressed Male', and 'Top Joker'.



The night was ended with the DJ playing a lot of well known songs, getting everyone on their feet and having fun, making this one of the most unforgettable night for Year 11.

Wath Performance Showcase

By Amy Renwick, Year 12

On Thursday 11th July, the stars of Wath Academy shone bright. With 124 stellar musicians, actors, and dancers producing 28 unique acts, a crowd of over 200 people, including proud parents, was drawn to the Wath Performance Showcase. Performers were well

rewarded with a hearty round of applause – especially the efforts of well-loved Drama teacher Mrs Hardwick, for whom this was her final show in the director's chair before retirement. Many congratulations on a successful show to all those that participated.

Year 13 Celebrate at Summer Ball

With their A Level and vocational exams behind them, Wath Sixth Form's departing Year 13s gathered on Friday, 12th July to celebrate past successes and toast the future at the Year 13 Summer Ball.

The venue was Sheffield's oldest hotel, the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria, which was still sparkling from its recent £3 million refurbishment.

After a drinks reception, the glamorously-dressed attendees took their seats in the ball room and were touched to discover individual messages hidden within each place-card. The three-course meal was followed by dancing and plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories, care of the professional photographer.

Head Boy Mitchel Green presented the evening's awards to students. He also offered a special thanks to the sixth form team – Mr Shaw, Ms Shaw, Mrs Potts and Mrs Parker – who have been so supportive over the last two years.

The Summer Ball is part of a series of traditional leavers' events held by Wath Sixth Form, which also include a formal portrait (below), a final assembly and, still to come, the presentation evening where students receive their exam certificates.

With students holding university offers or other post-18 opportunities, the future is bright for the Class of 2019 and we wish them every success.

News in Brief

Musical Success

Congratulations to the following on their recent ABRSM exam success:

- Nathan Hazlewood Grade 3 French Horn with Distinction
- Emma Walters Grade 2 Flute with Distinction
- Hari Sukumar Grade 2 Saxophone with Distinction
- Hannah Sleight Grade 5 Piano with Distinction

This is really impressive work from all four students, the largest number of distinctions the school has ever had in such short succession!

Lost Property

If you have lost something this year, please come to student reception to see whether it has turned up. All lost property will be cleared out over the school holidays and the images below show some of the lost items (there are also plenty of coats as well). Anything not claimed by next Friday will be donated to charity.



Wath Students Get Creative:

Are you scared yet?

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

Five Spine-Tingling Short Stories

Story #1

I stepped into the cabin. It was a nice place with a wooden bed, chairs and a table. It was night time and I looked across the cabin and almost had a heart attack. There was a portrait of the most gruesome face. I shuddered and lay down to go to sleep. The painting's eyes bore into mine. I turned over and captured sleep.

Getting out of bed, I yawned and stumbled over to the painting. A cold dread settled at the pit of my stomach. The painting was actually a window...

Story #2

I turned the light on in my room and threw myself onto the bed. I'd had the most terrible day and was sobbing violently into my pillow. Drowsiness came over me and I took my shoes off and lay my tear streaked cheeks on the pillow. In the few moments before sleep I saw a face in the window through the glass, so I took my phone and shot a picture, promising myself that it was just my eyes playing tricks on me.

In the morning, I rose and reached for my phone. I glanced at the picture and screamed. There was the image... with the caption 'You're next.' Only then did it hit me. There is no balcony and I live on the 23rd floor.

Story #3

I woke in a cold sweat. My demon came to me again in my dreams. Usually I ran but this time I couldn't. It was like running up an escalator going down. As soon as he touched me, I woke up. Moving toward the mirror in the bathroom, I heard a knock. I opened my bedroom door, but there was no one there. I heard the tap again and only then I realised it was coming from the mirror...

Story #4

My mum called my name from downstairs. I got up and walked over my cluttered floor to the door. Passing my

mum's room, a hand grabbed me, the other muffling my screams of protest. I turned to see my mother, wide-eyed, shaking. She pulled me close and whispered, "I heard that too."

Story #5

Growing up with cats and dogs, I was used to scratching at my door while I slept. Now I live alone, it's much more unsettling...

Santa's Chronicles

A Short Story

By Maxton Hutchinson, Year 7

It is close to Christmas day, and a magical crisis has occurred. Now Santa must resort to an ancient technique used by humans and magical creatures.

"You have to be kidding me, I am sure I ordered enough for the year," Santa said in confusion.

The head elf shook his head.

"The last bit has been all used up!" shouted one of the worker elves.

"I'm sorry to inform you that the golden dust fairies refused to give us any more, sir," said the head elf. '2 days' it read on the monitor. "Where are you going, sir?"

"It is decided. There is no other option. We must act now, or we will not be ready before Christmas!" Santa readied the reindeer and rushed to Smyths.

As soon as they arrived, Santa ordered Dasher and Prancer to kick down the doors. The reindeer began to kick but as they were about to make contact, the doors shot open. Santa walked closer and saw the sign 'automatic doors'.

He waked in and collected what he needed. He ran for the exit as the manager screamed, "Stop!"

Santa ignored him and threw the toys in the sleigh. The manager grinded to a halt and thought, "It's no use."

"WHOO," Santa cried out, as they rushed back to the

Short Stories and Riddles

North Pole. "That was close!"

Poisonous Love

A Short Story

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

Amber looked at Nik. The one who broke her heart, the one who hurt her, the one who lied.

"Spare- spare me, please!" Nik begged.

She smiled. A smile of someone who was betrayed, broken and cold. "I know you can beg better than that," she stated in a sickly, sweet voice. Her eyes froze and she added, "Time's up..." Amber raised her hands and clicked her fingers together.

He dropped and begged no more.

You see, Amber is not like other girls; when she found out her boyfriend was cheating on her... she kissed him. Her lips are pure poison to anyone on her bad side, so she would become... Woman of Poison.

The Aftereffect

A follow-up to a short story in the Valentine edition of the newspaper, where a mix-up with names results in Iris dating Wes Irran instead of Wes Xandre.

By Isabelle Fenton, Year 7

Since Wes Irran had found a Valentine's day card and given it to Iris Debblay, his life had seriously changed. Wherever Wes and Iris walked, everyone turned and stared. As they both moved to find each other's hands, Wes Xandre walked out of the crowd, his face showing no mercy. Iris winced, and glanced at Irran, to see his stern look. He only wanted to protect Iris, like Xandre wouldn't.

Finally, letting go of Iris' hand, Wes was charged at by his hater. Luckily, he could dodge in time.

"Wes! Stop, please!" cried Iris. Irran froze for a second, before Xandre took advantage of the situation, and pounced on him. Wes wrestled him off, before running over to Iris, who now had tears

streaming down her cheeks.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hurt you," explained Wes, "I didn't start it, and I didn't want to be involved in it."

"Well, that's irrelevant, isn't it," she retorted, "it's his fault!" she shouted, as Wes Xandre stood, furious.

"YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY VALENTINE'S DAY CARD!" he yelled, as he began to charge at the person he loathed the most.

This time, he succeeded.

*

That afternoon, Iris received a call from the hospital, asking: "Is this Iris Debblay?"

"Yes, why are you calling me?" she replied.

"We have your boyfriend, Wes Irran, and he would like to talk to you."

"Oh, my go- yes, why is he there?" she questioned.

The conversation that followed was distressing. She learned that he would be in a plaster cast for at least three months, because Xandre had broken his leg.

Furious with Wes Xandre, she was determined to make him to understand. Either that or she would get her revenge...

That could wait, though; right now, she just wanted to spend time with Irran. She found a permanent marker and headed for the hospital.

Can you work out the meaning?

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

She

Is

Broken

Because

She

believed



Media and Review:

Fallout 4: Fantastic or Failure?

By Aidan Jennings, Year 8

So Bethesda decided to remind us that *Fallout 76* exists by releasing what can only be described as a *Fortnite* mode at E3. Since I'm not wasting my money on that game, I decided to go back and play *Fallout 4* and this is my review. I have only played about 5 hours so far so take this with a pinch of salt. There will be spoilers but I will do my best to avoid them. *Fallout 4* was released on 10th November 2015 after many years of spoilers and trailers.

As soon as you start the game, you are greeted with a cut scene. Long story short, scientists use nuclear energy to make numerous advances in science. America and China are on the brink of war. You make and customise your character and get a look at the in-game graphics (which unfortunately aren't as good as *Black Ops 3*, another 2015 release). The game was released in 2015 and uses the same engine as *Skyrim*, a 2011 game (*Fallout 76*, a 2018 game, also uses this engine). This is why the graphics are unimpressive compared to other new releases at the time. If you can live with bad graphics, you get to experience a subpar journey at best. You will wander round the wasteland, finding very few interesting quests, but when you do, it will be worth it because they are really good. You will also find hundreds of great characters and companions. I will not say any more about these things because I don't want to spoil it but if you commit to the game, you will have a good time.

A massive problem about the game that once again occurs comes from the old engine. The game is incredibly "glitchy". Sometimes it's funny, other times it's just infuriating. Lots of *Fallout* fans say, "It's a good game but not a good *Fallout* game." Most fans agree that *Fallout 3* or *New Vegas* are the best so if you are a newcomer to the series it might be a good idea to start with them. There is one massive thing I haven't mentioned that will probably fix all the problems and

that's mods. Mods can fix problems with the game, make it easier or just add something weird or crazy just for fun.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

In conclusion, *Fallout* is a good game but not as good as people say. I don't think it is deserving of a 9/10 or 9.5/10 which everyone gives it. Personally, I think it's a 7/10 because it can be good but there are a lot of problems. To be fair to Bethesda, a lot of the problems can be solved by mods, but I think they relied too much on these when making this game. The addition of some more interesting quests would be appreciated, and probably very successful.

Good Omens

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Good Omens is a six part one-off series, that follows the story of a 'fast living' demon and a 'somewhat fussy' angel who have been friends for over 6,000 years, the beginning of time, and must fight together to, yes, stop the apocalypse. Overall, I think that the directors did an

Films, Games and More



amazing job of transforming the source material (the novel *Good Omens* co-written by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, and also well worth a read!) into a television programme and I would seriously recommend watching it.

Another great thing about it is how it manages to develop such a dark plotline (the end of the world) yet still remains light-hearted and funny, like how there were comments on Noah's Ark with a single unicorn running away from it, or how demons created the M25. It is very well-balanced, and the relationship between the two central characters (angel Aziraphale and demon Crowley) really brings it to life.

It is currently only available on Amazon Prime but in a few months, it will be airing on the BBC for everyone to watch, so I would look out for it. I feel like it is a fantastic adaptation of an incredible book by two wonderful authors. The best thing is that it was so true to the book, as it was a dedication to the late Terry Pratchett.

Trench From Twenty One Pilots has Just Scored Their Third 'Trench'-Era Gold Certified Single

By Lucille Lowrey, Year 8

Twenty One Pilots have just got their third gold single and that is 'Chlorine'. First, it was 'My Blood' and 'Jumpsuit' and now 'Chlorine' has been certified. Well-deserved for Josh, Tyler and Ned.

A gold certification in the USA is 500,000 units sold, so with half a million sales of 'Chlorine', we could say we're sippin' on straight chlorine. While we are talking about Twenty One Pilots, they are about to get their second certified gold album. 'Blurryface' has all certified gold songs and on 'Vessels', Truce has yet to be given a gold certification.

This is history since they'll be the first to get every song on 2 albums certified gold!

When Pokémon gets too real!

By Maxton Hutchinson, Year 7

Pokémon was created by Satoshi Tajiri in February 27, 1996 with the first starters being Charmander, Bulbasaur and Squirtle. Since then, there have been many more, the most recent being 8th gen with Grookey, Scorbunny and Sobble. Many Pokémon are inspired by real animals so I am going to talk about two that are easily recognisable.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The first is Miltank, a cow Pokémon. It only comes as a female. Miltank is used to collect Moo-Moo milk to heal Pokémon which can be made into a sweet treat for trainers.

The second is Wooloo. Wooloo has thick wool that, after being completely sheared off, grows back in 3 months. Wooloo live in herds and mimics the actions of their trainers or herd leader. They dislike conflict so if it is caught in conflict it will roll away until it is safe.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Top 5 feel good songs

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

These are the top 5 songs to get you on your feet!

5. 'Born This Way' by Lady Gaga. For all those with pride. I believe in you!
4. 'Walk Me Home' by P!nk. This is an upbeat song that can get anyone dancing.
3. 'Téir Abhaile Riu' by Celtic Woman. This is a bright, bubbly song.
2. 'So Am I' by Ava Max. This song shows you shouldn't care what other people think of you!
1. 'Cannibal' by Kesha. I love this song and it is upbeat and all about girl power!

You should listen to these songs and they are guaranteed to get you on your feet dancing.



Six Summer Scorchers:

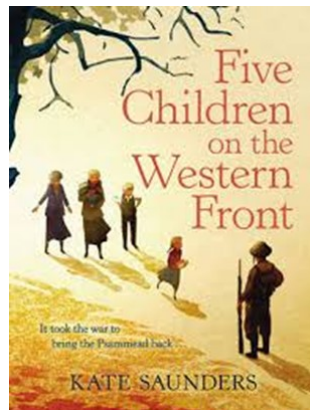
Feeling bored over the long six-week holiday? Need something to do when you're by the pool?

Five Children on the Western Front by

Kate Saunders

Reviewed by Ellisia Bowman,
Year 8

Five Children on the Western Front is a modern continuation of E. Nesbit's iconic *Five Children* book series. This update is written by Kate Saunders.



The book is about five children and the two youngest find a grumpy sand fairy. The other three children remember the old days when they went on adventures. Once the eldest got sent off to war and the other two eldest were sent to school where'd they have to stay, the two youngest start to find the sand fairy's way back home.

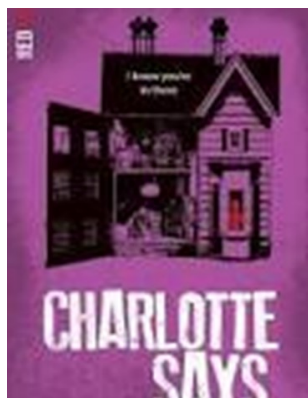
This book blends fairytale with adventure to create an intriguing mystery, perfect for the adventurous kind of reader.

Charlotte Says by Alex Bell

Reviewed by Alexandra Cook,
Year 7

Recently, I have read a book called *Charlotte Says*. It is about a girl called Jemima who had recently escaped Whiteladies (a manor) and started a new life at an all-girls' boarding school. Weird things begin to happen once a box of dolls are delivered to her after surviving the accident at the manor. The girls start getting suspicious of their new house lady and Jemima has to go to extremes to survive the time at the school. Will she fight or flight?

I enjoyed this, as it is a spine-chilling book. I, for one,



love it and I would recommend it to anyone who likes mild horror.

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Reviewed by Grace Clowrey,
Year 8

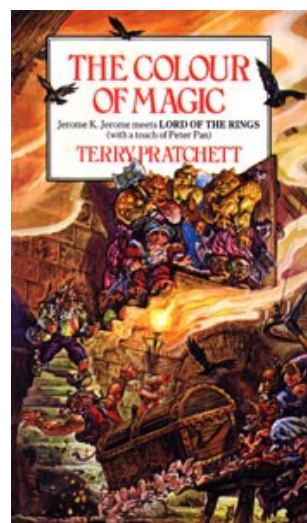
In a dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five 'factions', where each values a certain trait: Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Like all 16-year-olds,

Beatrice Prior must choose which faction she wants to stay in for the rest of her life – meaning she has to figure out who she really is – even if it means leaving her family behind. As she struggles to live with the choices she has made, Beatrice must determine who her friends really are – and her enemies. For she has a secret that could help save – or destroy – her.



Discworld by Terry Pratchett

By Isobelle Fenton, Year 7



Terry Pratchett was a genius when writing books. He could handle writing children's books, and making them interesting, in the same way that he made his adult books, the Discworld series, interesting.

The Discworld can be confusing, if not read properly. The concept itself mimics the thoughts of 'Flat Earthers' by saying that the world is a disc shape, balanced on four elephants that stand on the back of the turtle Great A'Tuin. The books are the best I've ever read, because of the way Terry Pratchett

Books for the Summer



Why not dive into one of these good reads, all recommended by journalists at *The Torch*?

wrote them. They are a perfect blend of fantasy and Terry Pratchett's unique humour.

I recommend you read them yourselves, as I can't really explain how good they are in words. The first of the series is *The Colour Of Magic* and there are forty in total to get stuck into!

Slay by Kim Curran

Reviewed by Grace Clowrey,
Year 8



Meet Slay – playing killer gigs, and slaying killer demons.

Milly is the daughter of a famous opera singer. When she arrives home, she discovers that her mother has been taken over by something evil – but the last

people she expects to save her are the hottest boy band on the planet! Soon, she is racing across the world with Slay, a 'killer' boy band, JD, Tom, Connor, Zek and Niv, trying to stop the demons who took her mum – before they end civilisation forever.

This book is very exciting with lots of plot twists and turns, and I highly recommend it. There is also a sequel – *Slay On Tour*, which is now available.

Feminists Don't Wear Pink and Other Lies

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

This book is one of a kind, as I have never read or seen anything else like it. It focuses on topics of women's rights and is crammed full of short stories, anecdotes and poetry from famous female celebrities. It was all compiled

by the organization 'Girl Up' and contains work from Emma Watson (famous for playing Hermione Granger and Belle in the new *Beauty and the Beast* film), Jodie Whittiker (famous as the first female Doctor for the BBC series *Doctor Who*) amongst others.

It is also different from other books as 10% of all profits go to the charity 'Girl Up', which is helping to educate the world about the all-important topic of feminism. Every story is funny, personal and relatable to all women.

This book is very necessary in order to empower young women who might be afraid of the word 'feminism'. Many girls feel like it is too big of a label to fill, as people constantly ask questions and don't quite understand the outcomes we want feminism to bring to the world—people often assume that feminists want men to be worse off than women, when really, this isn't true. Feminism is about striving to have equal rights for everyone in the world, which will benefit men as well as women.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by: Isobelle Fenton, Emily Rodgers, Alexandra Cook, Maxton Hutchinson, Ngai Wa Yuen, Grace Clowrey, Ellisia Bowman, Daniel Nutley and Miss Taylor (editing).

Thanks also to Aidan Jennings, Lucille Lowrey, Hannah Musa, Keira Duce, Abigail Wycherley, Emily Hays, Jack Sowden, Joe Parks, Kai Smith and Harrison Niland, Ryan Ackroyd, Amy Renwick, Mr Bishop (online content), Miss Perry (proofreading) and Miss Taylor (proofreading). Also to all other staff who helped support *The Torch* throughout the year: Mr Austin, Mrs Chan, Mrs Cuckson, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Cartwright, Miss Cooke, Mrs Hole, Mrs Frith, Mrs Laite, Mr McHale, Mr Thompson, Mr Flowers, Mrs Pritchard and Mr Taylor.

If you are have an interest in writing or journalism and would like to help to produce *The Torch* next year, please see Miss Taylor for more information.

LIKE MEN GET
MAKE JOKES
HAVE FUN LIKE M
WEAR MAKE-UP
FEMINISTS HAVE
DON'T MAKE JO
WEAR LIKE MEN

PINK
and other lies

AMAZING WOMEN ON WHAT
THE F-WORD MEANS TO THEM
CREATED BY
scarlett curtis



Sport Update

Sports and House Day 2019



By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 8 and Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

On 11th July, chosen students from each year group represented their houses in Wath's annual Sports Day, to see which house's athletic prowess would triumph.

Students gathered in the Sports Hall after tutor time and were split into two groups, Years 7 and 8 together and 9 and 10 together. The younger students began the day with rounders, where each house went head-to-head in a morning competition, whereas the older students started with the athletic activities: shot put, discus, multiple length races (100m, 200m, 300/400m, 800m, 1500m), relay, javelin, high jump and long jump. After lunch, the

groups swapped so that the younger group moved to athletics and the older group began the rounders competition.

After worries about rain in the forecast threatened to cancel the event, conditions on the day were fine: a little overcast and cool, but ideal for energetic activities.

Meanwhile, in school, other students were also helping to represent their houses in a range of house activities and competitions.

Overall winners are yet to be announced, but it was a brilliant day, where all students worked hard, whether they were out on the sports field or in classrooms.

