



# THE TORCH

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"Meliora Spectare"  
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## LOCKED IN QUARANTINE

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Sienna Marsh, Year 7

The "new normal" could be with us for a long time yet. While scientists are working hard to find a vaccine for COVID-19, and there have been promising breakthroughs in laboratories, there have also been warnings that we might never find a vaccine that works for humans.

Even when quarantine eases, you won't be able to play out with your friends without social distancing (meaning you will need to stay at least two metres apart). You can, however, play with your immediate family in your household and now is a perfect time to spend time with your loved ones. Thanks to the marvels of technology, it's also easy to stay in touch with the people who it might be safer to not see in person. Call or video message your grandparents or family you don't see. You can even play games while on the phone; general knowledge quizzes have never been as popular.

During the quarantine, we have seen how not everything has needed to be done in person; you can

complete lots of tasks over the phone or online. Many adults have been working from home, and it will be interesting to see how many more jobs will be completed remotely from home in future, even after the crisis is over. Not all adults have been able to 'stay at home' however, as some people have important jobs which cannot be done remotely, such as doctors and nurses caring for sick COVID-19 patients. Schools have also been open to some students, who have continued to attend because of their parents being key workers.

There are many activities to do while in quarantine and as the lockdown starts to ease. You could learn a new trick like an aerial or a backflip, you can play games with family members either out in the garden/patio (if you have one) or in the house. You could challenge yourself to something for a long period of time, try something new to do. You could learn to paint, or you could colour something in. Try a jigsaw with family members, or maybe help clean up.

This edition of *The Torch* is full of ideas about how you can make the most of quarantine time. Stay safe!

# Message from the Principal

## Dear Parent / Carer,

Although the school has remained physically closed during this coronavirus outbreak, for all except the most vulnerable students and for those whose parents are keyworkers and for whom no alternative arrangements could be put in place, the staff have been endeavouring to support students as much as possible through the remote learning opportunity provided by 'Show My Homework'.

### 'Show My Homework' (SMHW) – Satchel One

All of our students have been using [SMHW \(Satchel One\)](#) on a weekly basis since September to complete their homework and therefore it is familiar to them. SMHW is an online and mobile app where students can receive resources, activities and messages and which parents can also access. Students/Parents are able to message teachers directly within the app if they have any work-related questions. Teachers are setting lessons and activities in line with students' usual timetables and this should allow students to follow their normal timetable at home. This will also include tutor time activities around 'Character Education' and 'Votes for Schools'. Students should access SMHW on a daily basis. Hard copy packs of work are available via Reception, if students don't have Internet access.

It's been great to hear how so many students have been completing the activities set, but please don't worry if not everything is completed. We do appreciate the competing pressures at home at the moment, on both time and resources. This situation has, of course, been unique to us all and we continue to refine our approach. Based on feedback received so far, we have changed the tasks so that they don't require a submission date. Students can send in work via the digital drop box and – just a reminder – there is a messaging service within SMHW so students and parents can message teachers directly. Please see our website for additional email addresses that you can use to contact different staff and departments regarding any specific queries. We are also posting regular updates from staff on social media to give students extra challenges to keep them engaged and motivated each week. Thank you for your ongoing support through these testing times.



I am very pleased to report that, for example, 87.2% of all Year 9 students used SMHW last week, 89.6% of all Year 10 students and 91.3% of Year 12 students. Of course, both Year 12 and Year 10 students continue to prepare for external exams in the summer of 2021. The average use across all year groups is 85.3%. Academic and Pastoral Year Leaders are contacting home for students in all year groups where work is not being accessed on a regular basis. Alternative arrangements have been made for Year 13 and Year 11 students, where taught courses have been completed. In Year 13, we have made available packs of material for students for them to pursue their chosen course / subject beyond the sixth form and, for Year 11, materials in subjects they might wish to pursue in Year 12. I am delighted to report that these are proving very popular with students, and the academy has shared its resources with other schools across the Trust and South Yorkshire.

### Free School Meals

Since the Easter holiday, parents of students entitled to a free school meal have been eligible for a £15 electronic voucher per week. The intention is to email this to parents by the middle of each week. If you wish to check or update your email address with the Academy, please send an email with the subject of 'FSM Voucher' along with your 'child's name(s)' to: [enquiries@wathacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@wathacademy.com). Your email address will then be updated. Last week, 250 vouchers were emailed out to parents and a further 16 sent through the post. The vouchers can be redeemed for food in many of the local supermarkets, including Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Aldi.

If you receive any of the following you may qualify for Free School Meals: Income Support; Employment Support Allowance (Income Related); Income based Job Seekers Allowance; Guaranteed Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit and your annual income (as calculated by Inland Revenue) is less than £16,190; Universal Credit; Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act of 1999; working in the Armed Forces. Please do contact the school if you would like a copy of the application form.

### **Hegarty Maths**

[Hegarty Maths](#) is a vehicle that the Mathematics Faculty use to provide practice in answering Maths questions. Last week saw students making great advances in their use of this opportunity. We have sailed past the 550,000 questions mark for this academic year, answering a total of 39,571 questions last week. This placed us in the top 3% of all the 1,664 Hegarty schools. Half of all students accessed Hegarty Maths during the course of last week.

### **National Share a Story Month**

Calling all Year 7 and Year 8 students: this month is 'National Share A Story Month' and The Federation of Children's Book Groups has launched a story competition for all 9-12 year olds, to win the opportunity for them and their classmates to meet a successful author. The theme for the story must be 'travelling tales'; it must involve any sort of travel, from the usual trains, boats and planes, to journeys through time and space. The story must also mention a home in some form – this could be their own home, or an imaginary home of a different person or creature. Stories may be written as prose or poetry, but mustn't exceed more than 500 words. The closing date is 30 June 2020 and all entries must be e-mailed to [nssm@fcbg.org.uk](mailto:nssm@fcbg.org.uk). More information is available at [fcbg.org.uk/national-share-a-story-month](http://fcbg.org.uk/national-share-a-story-month).

### **Information on the cancellation of the 2020 external examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 students**

The government has cancelled all of this summer's external exams. Instead, the Department for Education has outlined that students will be awarded a calculated grade. This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. Ofqual is working with the

exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.

To produce this grade, schools will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on trial/mock/preliminary exams and non-exam assessment. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student in each subject, which will be a best assessment of the work students have put in.

In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in previous years. Ofqual will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

The government has further announced that they recognise that some students may nevertheless feel disappointed that they haven't been able to sit their exams and therefore may be able to appeal the grade the exam board awards. In addition, if students do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

There is a very wide range of different academic, vocational and technical qualifications for which students were expecting to sit exams this summer. These are offered by a large number of awarding organisations and have differing assessment approaches – in some cases students will already have completed modules or non-exam assessment which could provide evidence to award a grade. The government is encouraging these organisations to show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged.

### **Year 11 Prom & Year 13 Summer Ball**

Although the initial bookings for these events had to be cancelled because of the continued uncertainty over when social distancing measures might be relaxed, please be aware that we have every intention of celebrating with our two respective 'leaving' year

groups, who will be finishing their latest key stage with us, as soon as we possibly can.

### **Appointment of New Principal**

As I have previously advised, I am retiring at the end of this academic year. I am delighted to advise that, following a rigorous interview process, Mr Liam Ransome has been appointed as the new Principal of Wath Academy from 1 September 2020. Mr Ransome comes with a wealth of experience from his role as Vice Principal at Kingswood Academy in Hull. He was part of a senior leadership team that led Kingswood from Ofsted 'Special Measures' to 'Good', seeing it become one of the highest performing schools in the country. Mr Ransome will be communicating with parents over the summer, as his start date approaches. Of course Mr Jackson will also continue to support the school in his role as Executive Principal.

### **School Gateway**

I have recently written to you about the launch of a new smartphone school-parent communication application (app) called School Gateway, which will become a central hub for our school-home communication. Once you have access to the app, you will be able to

- receive messages in a similar manner to WhatsApp
- see your child's timetable
- see the contact information we hold about you and notify us if that information is incorrect
- access key links and online services such as Show My Homework, ParentPay and the School Calendar
- access your child's reports.

The School Gateway app will work on Apple and Android devices. It is also accessible through a web browser on tablets, laptops and desktop computers.

However, initially, we need to check that the data we hold regarding students and contacts is up-to-date. This is important under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) but will also ensure that the roll-out of School Gateway goes smoothly. It is important please that the form that was enclosed with the

earlier letter is completed accurately and returned to school in the stamped addressed envelope provided. Thank you for the large number of returns already received.

Once we have checked our records are up-to-date, we can send out further instructions on how to register for School Gateway.

### **Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing**

This is an unsettling time for all members of our community, but you may be additionally worried about your child's mental health and emotional wellbeing. If you are concerned about your child, you can receive an initial telephone call to discuss your concerns further; please email the academy, stating 'Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support' in the subject line. If you have any other concerns about your child, please contact the academy directly using one of the following e-mail addresses:

[enquiries@wathacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@wathacademy.com);

[pastoralteam@wathacademy.com](mailto:pastoralteam@wathacademy.com);

[safeguarding@wathacademy.com](mailto:safeguarding@wathacademy.com)

We will continue to work with executive leaders across Maltby Learning Trust, the Local Authority and with national government guidance as to when it might be possible for any groups of students to physically start to return to school. This will of course only start to happen once we have the instruction from government to do so and that it will be safe for both students and staff, and of course for students then returning home again to their family setting.

Thank you for your continuing support at this hugely challenging time. We really do appreciate your efforts in supporting the continued learning of students at home while the current arrangements remain in place.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr J Taylor**

**Principal**



# Updates from Wath Academy

## A Level Outing to London



Prior to lockdown, the Science and RSS faculties joined forces to take A Level Biology and Psychology students on an educational and exciting trip to London.

Students travelled to London via train then headed directly to London Zoo for their famous *Phobias* experience, where all students received an educational session from clinical hypnotherapist John Clifford. Students were able to gain an in-depth insight into the reasons behind phobias and how they can be treated, including the use of the Friendly Spider Programme. Students were then given the unique opportunity to participate in group hypnosis to cure arachnophobia and a fear of spiders before being given the opportunity to hold Rosie, a Mexican Redknee tarantula: 19 out of 21 of the group were able to do – thanks to the hypnosis!

Students were then able to spend free time in the Zoo before heading to the accommodation to get ready for a night at the theatre. Students chose *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* as their show of choice, which was both humorous and emotional in equal measure and was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students alike. The group rose early on Saturday morning to attend the Body World exhibition in Piccadilly Circus, where, thanks to the process of plastination, students were able to study the inner workings of the entire human body in great detail – right down to the smallest hair vein!

## PE Challenge

During lockdown, each member of the PE department has taken it in turns to set a daily challenge for students to complete whilst at home. The daily challenges have included various ways of kicking a football into a brown bin, family plank challenge, target practice as well as many different fitness challenges. Below, you can see various members of staff setting their challenges in their own gardens:



Many students have been rising to the challenge by sending in their videos or even creating their own challenges. You can see examples of these if you check out the Wath Academy Facebook, Twitter or Instagram feed.

# Latest News, Opinion and More:

## Rainbows for NHS Workers, Clap for our Carers and Other Acts of Kindness

By Laura Rodgers, Year 12

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Across the country, rainbows have started to appear in windows and outside businesses, but why? These rainbows were initially created by children who wanted to show their support for NHS workers, but soon became a nationally recognised symbol of support for key workers. As a result, people have taken many creative approaches to this positive campaign, from paintings to chalk pavement art and graffiti; these people's imaginations are helping many to see the positives in what is a very scary time. These rainbows are not the only thing being done to give support to NHS workers, with the recent appearance of 'Clap for our Carers' giving the whole country a reason to stand together and back the courageous key workers who are keeping this country going during these strange times.

People are not merely banding together in support of those holding the country up, but also the most at risk and vulnerable members of our communities. Many people have been shopping for their elderly and at risk neighbours, who may not be able to get out; people have been volunteering in any way possible to help those in need, with the NHS Blood and Transplant Service seeing a huge increase in registrations from new donors. Thousands of new fundraisers have also

appeared in the past few months, giving donations to 'NHS Charities Together' who are raising money to provide PPE to frontline NHS staff. All of these things show that despite the initial panic that the COVID-19 outbreak caused, people soon banded together to help in any way possible, whether it be through giving their time to a foodbank, donating blood or platelets, or even giving money to charity. These demonstrations of solidarity prove that this is not a time to be divided by fear, but instead to be united by love and support for one another.

## Captain Tom Moore – Who Is He and What Has He Done?

By Laura Rodgers, Y12

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Captain Thomas Moore is a 100-year-old war veteran who has raised over £32 million for NHS workers with his fundraiser 'Tom's 100th Birthday Walk for the NHS'. Since the completion of his challenge, Captain Tom has quickly risen to the renowned status of national treasure, receiving over 150,000 cards for his 100th birthday! Alongside these cards, he also received messages of congratulations from the Prime Minister and the Queen, a Pride of Britain Award and two Guinness World Records ('the fundraiser raising the greatest amount of money in an individual charity walk', and 'the oldest person to have a number-one single on the UK charts'). He was also made an honorary Colonel, and the RAF organised a birthday flyover of the village where he lives by a Hawker Hurricane and a Spitfire (two models of fighter aircraft which were flown during World War Two). Multiple buses, a train, a police dog puppy, a horse, and a boat have all been given his namesake. Despite all of the

# Wath Students Have Their Say!

sudden attention that has been directed towards him, Captain Tom has remained very true to his beliefs throughout the whole experience, continuing to encourage others to raise money and donate to help the NHS during these difficult and confusing times.

## The importance of masks

By Sienna Marsh, Year 7

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Masks help us not get COVID-19. If we did, we would have to go to hospital. Masks are to cover our mouths and noses, so that we don't cough on other people, because if we have COVID-19 then we might be passing it on to them. Therefore, we don't spread it more.

It doesn't matter whether they are hard to breathe in, but whatever you do, don't cut a hole in the middle of your mask. It may make it easier to breathe and talk; however, it defeats the whole purpose of wearing the mask. If you do that, what are you protecting?

Wearing a mask could save and protect other people. If you have a cough or an illness, then please stay at home where you and other people are safe. Help protect and save other people and wear a safety mask.

## Delayed Movie Releases

By Grace Clowrey, Year 9

Due to the current lockdown, many movies that were supposed to be released soon, or even in the next few years, have been delayed because of the lockdown. Here are a few:

*Mulan* – has been moved to 24th July 2020

*Wonder Woman 1984* - has been moved to 14th

August 2020

*Black Widow* – has been moved to 6th November 2020

*James Bond: No Time to Die* – has been moved to 12th November 2020

*Eternals* – has been moved to 12th February 2021

*Morbius* – has been moved to 19th March 2021

*Fast and Furious 9* – has been moved to 2nd April 2021

*Spider-Man 3* – has been moved to 16th July 2021

*Thor: Love and Thunder* – has been moved to 18th February 2022

*Indiana Jones 5* – has been moved to July 2022

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The lockdown is having a similar effect on television. Soaps such as *Emmerdale*, *Hollyoaks* and *Coronation Street* were forced to stop filming when the lockdown commenced, meaning TV networks have been forced to ration the remaining episodes to keep them on air for as long as possible.

Amidst fears that *Emmerdale* will run out of episodes at the end of May, new government guidance about the easing of lockdown means that soaps may be able to begin filming again soon, as long as they follow strict health and safety measures.

We are unlikely to see a noticeable absence of many soaps due to their pre-recorded footage, but it will be interesting to see how soaps do weave the challenges of COVID-19 into their scripts, which they will inevitably be forced to do in order to comply with the new rules, such as to keep individuals from different households at least two metres apart.

Which soap would you miss the most, if any are forced off the airwaves?

# Make the Most of “New Normal”:

By Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Year 12  
and Emily Rodgers, Year 8

In recent times, the phenomenon of ‘lockdown life’ has provided everyone in the world with common ground, allowing us to understand each other on some level. However, for some, this time of isolation is mentally exhausting and a struggle to adapt to; not seeing close friends and family for extended periods of time is something most will find may take a toll on their mental health as many rely on friends and family for support. For students, remote learning can be also stressful and though it is important to do, it is also imperative that you take breaks and allow yourself to rest by doing things you enjoy.

However, it can be difficult to know what to do with all the time available, which leads many people to feeling very bored. Here is a list of possible ways to unwind, keep up your spirits and possibly take on a new hobby or interest:

## Read a book

If you want to escape this reality momentarily, I cannot recommend reading a book enough. This also extends to manga and comics. It doesn't matter what reading material you enjoy, as long as it helps to relax your mind. Reading material I can recommend is the *Caraval* series, *The Thief Lord*, *The Harry Potter* series (obviously), and *The Infernal Devices* series. I also recommend the *Tokyo Ghoul* manga (however, this is definitely for older readers).

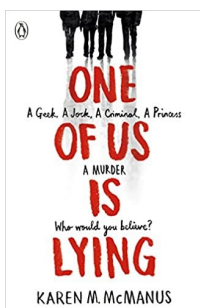
Books we recommend:

*One of Us Is Lying* – Karen M. McManus

A book for the murder mystery fans out there, a YA novel set in an American high school which follows the life of five students who were stuck alone in detention when one of them is suddenly murdered, leaving the other four as the only witnesses and suspects. It shows the story from four different angles, telling the life of four different people whose lives seem perfect yet are just doing a good job of hiding their problems.

*Darkmouth* – Shane Hegarty

This trilogy isn't very well known, even though it is one



of the best written series I have read. It is filled with high detailed illustrations by James de la Rue. The books follow a boy named Finn and his father, whose job it is to protect a small town called Darkmouth from monsters called ‘Legends’. Finn is simply trying to live up to his father’s legacy while coping with hate from the town, who blame them for the monsters that invade. Overall, this is a really underrated series and with an animated feature film perhaps set to be released in the future I would definitely recommend these books.

*Wizards of Once* – Cressida Cowell

Cressida Cowell, famous for writing and illustrating the series *How to Train Your Dragon*, (now a major motion picture and TV series) brings a new series: *Wizards of Once* and its sequel *Twice Magic*. It tells the story of two tribes, the Wizards and the Warriors, who are at war, when two children Xar (a wizard boy with no magic) and Wish (a Warrior girl who owns a forbidden magical object) join together to save the world they live in in.



## Learn a new skill

It is likely that the last thing you want to do after a day of remote learning is... well... more learning. Yet, I promise you that teaching yourself a new skill, such as cooking or a new language, will greatly increase your happiness. Obviously, you need to take it seriously to some extent and practice it somewhat consistently, but don't feel pressured to do it as part of a “curriculum”. Remember: this is for fun, not a qualification. If you begin to not enjoy it anymore, take a break and come back to it later; it will be waiting for you. Personally, I have been trying to teach myself Korean, so I can recommend *Memrise* as a resource to learn a new language.

## Listen to podcasts

Currently, [BBC Sounds](#) has several topical podcasts available for free for listeners to tune into. These may help many cope with the current situation as listening to a calming voice may help to soothe the mind. Not only are there podcasts pertaining to the current



# Lockdown Advice from Students

pandemic, but there are also ones about comedy, books, and even video games. I have been enjoying *This Game Changed My Life* (which is about the positive impact video games have had on the lives of many people) and *Evil Genius with Russell Kane* (I am a huge fan of the comedian Russell Kane and in this podcast he discusses with fellow comedians whether a figure in history should be considered evil or a genius). For those who are Studio Ghibli fans, my English teacher recommended the podcast *Ghibliotheque*, which discusses each Studio Ghibli film.

## Go outside

Despite not being a great fan of exercise myself, I would advise that you leave your house for fresh air and exercise (at least once in a while). Even if it is just to sit outside in your garden (if you have one), it is good for you to be in the sunshine and recharge that way. The fresh air will absolutely help to clear your head for remote learning and will (hopefully) keep you motivated.

## Listen to music

This is a great time to expose yourself to more music, as well as enjoying songs that you already love. As many of you may know, a variety of artists have been doing live concerts which have been free to view, which I'm sure many of you enjoy. As well as being an enjoyable distraction, they are a good way to discover more music to listen to in the background.

Here are some musicians we recommend:

**Ben Platt:** Known for his role as the main character in the Broadway musical 'Dear Evan Hansen' Ben Platt's music has a distinctly musical theatre-esque feel to it. His debut album 'Sing to me Instead' seems to tell a cohesive story between each song.

Five songs to listen to: Rain, Ease My Mind, Better, Honest Man, Older.

**Dodie:** Dodie's amazing songs are often accompanied by beautiful music videos made by very talented directors and producers. Her songs have creative lyrics and when paired with her stunning music videos they tell wonderful stories that are left open to your own interpretation.

Five songs to listen to: In the Middle, You, If I'm Being Honest, Monster, Would You Be So Kind.

**Conan Gray:** After the release of his new album *Kid Krow*, Conan Gray recently became the 'biggest debut artist of 2020', he is also one of the most streamed artists on Spotify with his song *Maniac* accumulating over 100 million streams. A lot of his music has a saturated, teen-dream feel to it whereas many other songs have a slower, slightly more melancholy sense to them.

Five songs to listen to: Wish You Were Sober, The King, Affluenza, The Cut That Always Bleeds, The Story.

Furthermore, for those who enjoy the specific genre of K-pop, BTS and some bands signed to SM Entertainment have been streaming concerts which have been both pre-recorded and live. However, I will inform you that the concerts concerning bands with SM Entertainment are not free to view – please check with a parent or guardian before purchasing tickets if you decide to do so.

## Take up a new hobby

Now has never been a more perfect time to try something for the first time. Activities like drawing or writing can be incredibly therapeutic. Even better, these activities can be ways to connect with others who have similar interests. If you would like to join a writing group, which not consider [HIVE](#), which is a South Yorkshire based writing club? They are running sessions over Crowdcast during this time, meaning you can talk to others about your ideas and get valuable feedback. If you wish to get involved, contact Vicky or Nik via email, which is available on the website).



The logo for HIVE South Yorkshire features the word 'Hive' in a large, bold, black, cursive-style font. The letter 'e' at the end of 'Hive' is stylized to resemble a quill pen nib. Below 'Hive', the words 'South Yorkshire' are written in a smaller, black, cursive-style font.

We sincerely hope that these tips will help you through this trying time and make it easier for you and your families. I'm sure the rest of The Torch team will agree with me that we all hope to see you very soon. Remember, prioritise self-care over productivity. Stay safe and healthy.

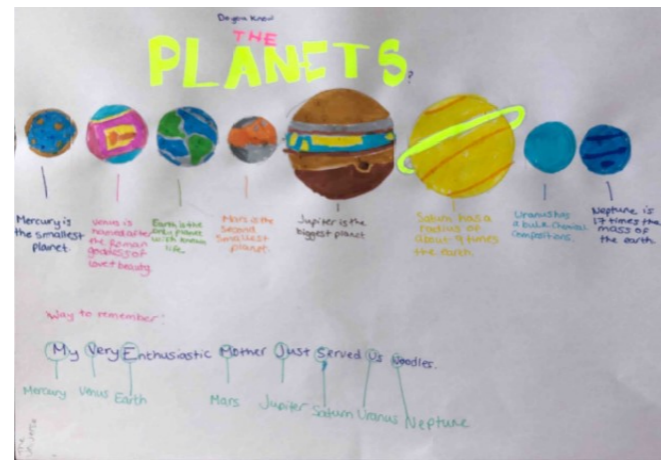
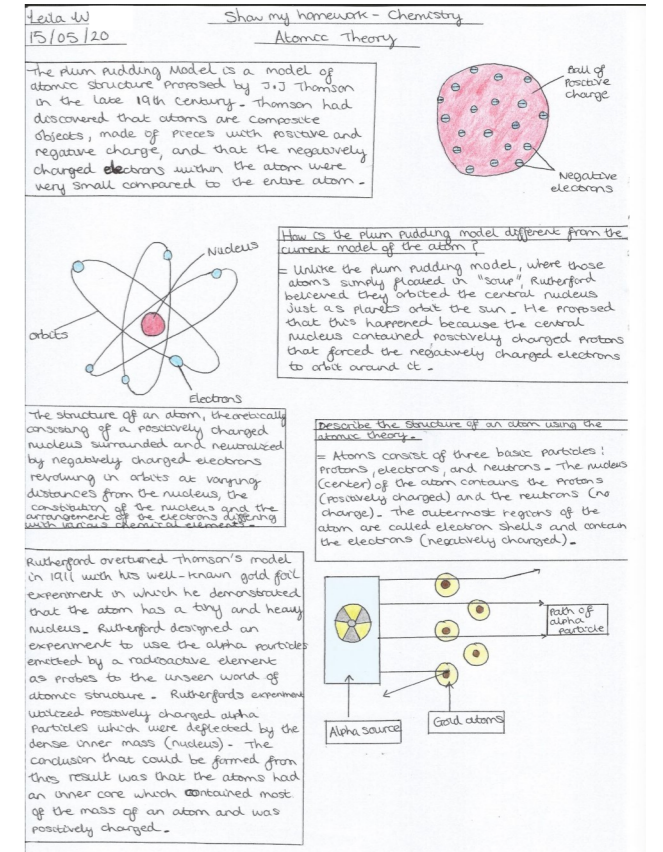
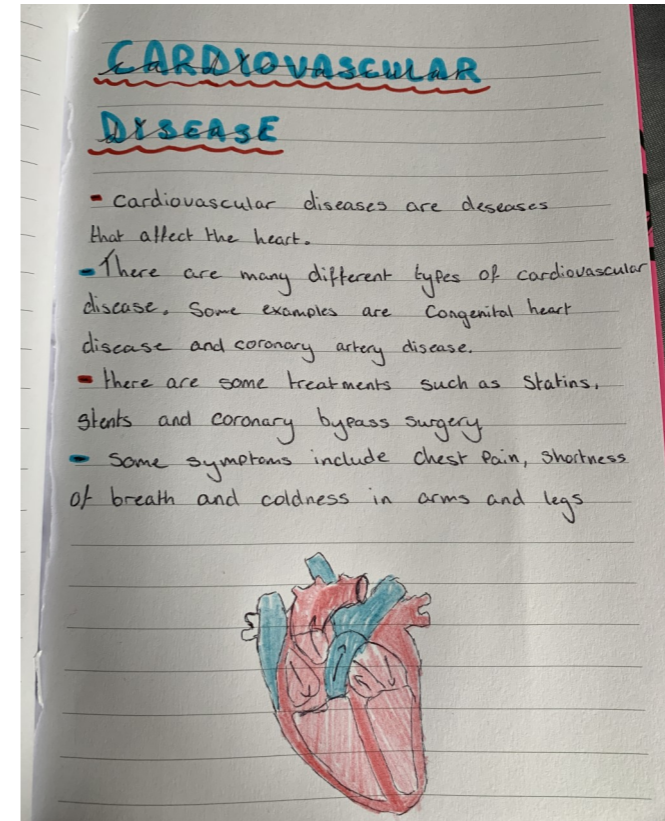


# Learning in Lockdown: Amazing Remote Work

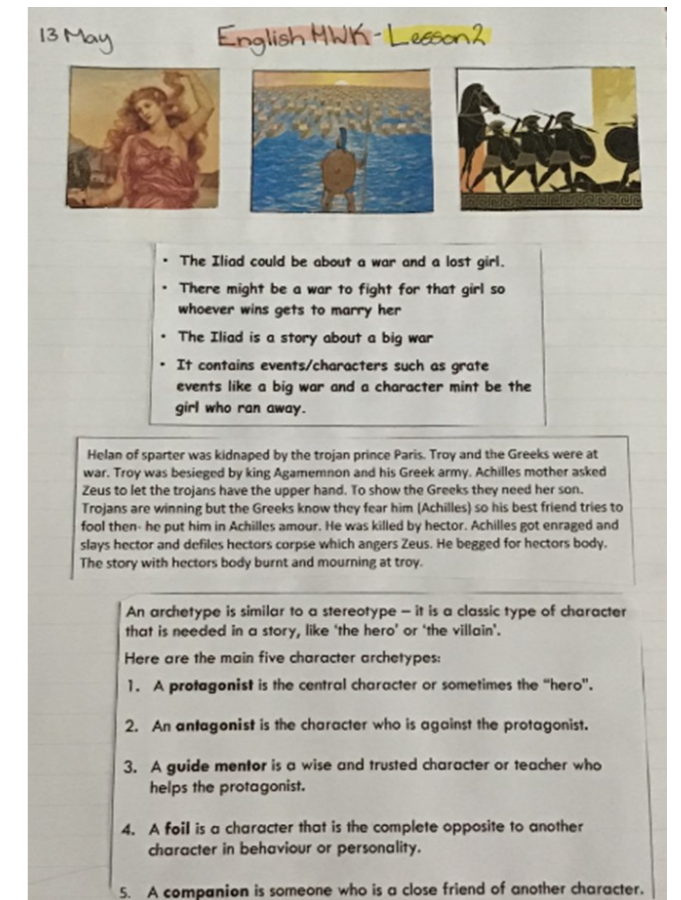
Wath Academy may have been closed to many students over the period of lockdown, but that does not mean learning has stopped! Here is a small selection of the many pieces of amazing work that staff have received remotely over the last couple of months. To see more, follow Wath Academy either on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)!



Overall group list		
Week	Month	All time
1st	akleba16	128.151
2nd	Billllllyblackkk	127.904
3rd	henri_houssaye	71.869
4th	CharlotteShodiya	46.952
5th	meganburns123	42.359
6th	Tomyates14	33.152
7th	ahopko16	32.922
8th	ascherdelx	21.560
9th	lydiah_	21.102
10th	aknight16	17.191



Page 10 (from left to right, top to bottom): Carlos Clockface, the Spanish time-telling creation of Daniel R. in Year 7; delicious churros from Isabell in Year 7 accompanied a video about how she made them; amazing scores on Memrise from this Year 10 group; Year 7 Lauren M. baked some cookies to illustrate her knowledge of Spanish times, and no doubt es la leche; everything you need to know about the planets from this Year 7 student; students rising to the different PE challenges. Page 11: terrific poster about the heart; stunning Chemistry work from Leila W in Year 10; another example of a PE challenge; a lovely piece of booklet work from Year 7 Lily H.





# Lockdown Tutorial: How to Create

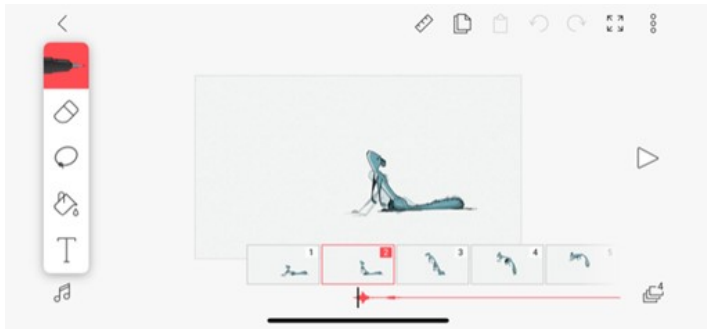
By Ellisia Bowman Y9

Got the quarantine blues? Want to try something new? Well, I've got just the thing for you!

Animating is a fun project to do, and no, it's not just about creating a show or a movie. There's many ways animating can be put into place, animated memes (music over a consistent animation), YouTube or just for fun are a few ways they can be used.

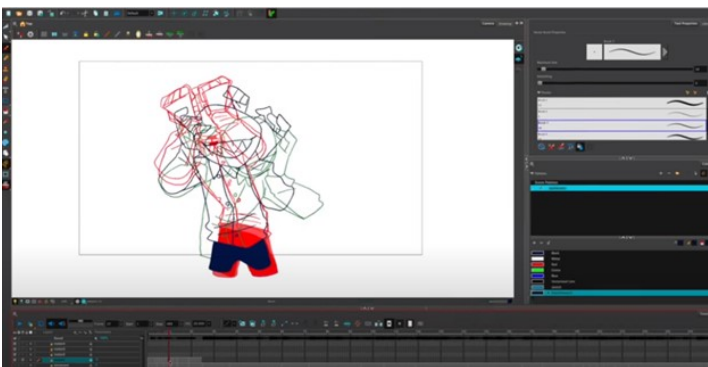
So, are you interested? Well first we need to find the right app for you to use. There are many apps out there but here are a few that are free or easy to use:

## FlipaClip



A basic beginners software for animating. The free version comes with 3 layers and a watermark on the finished product. FlipaClip is still a 'work in progress' and is being improved by a small team however it is still usable and easy to navigate. It works by drawing each individual frame.

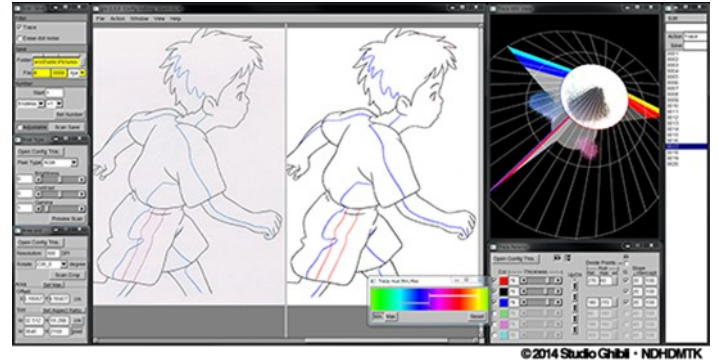
## Toon Boom Animation



A little bit on the expensive side but definitely worth the money if you are really into animating. The layout is clean, professional and easy to navigate. It has a choice of tweening or hand drawn frames which will

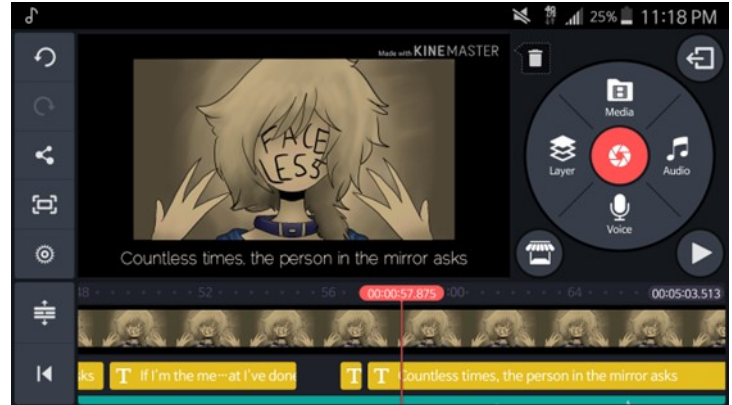
be explained later on. You get smooth animations and it's watermark free. It has a range of brushes available for use.

## OpenToonz



A free software to create 2D animation! Not only this but Studio Ghibli has used this software and created films like Spirited Away. It's not the easiest layout to work with but it's also not the worst.

## Kinemaster



So how can a video editing app be used for animation? Well, using a drawing app, you draw what you want to be moved separately to the rest of the body or thing. When this is added to the video you use tweening option and with this create the animation. It's not as good as proper animating apps but you can create amazing PMVs (Picture Music Video) with this. As it's free, a watermark is still there and not all features are open to you unless you buy the full version.

## Tweening and Hand Drawn Frames

Tweening is the basic key animation. It's the computer generating frames between 2 key frames to

# Easy and Free Animations

give the appearance of it moving smoothly. It can be used for basic head bobbing. Hand drawn frames is self explanatory, you draw each frame individually. You can either do this through the whole animation or just certain bits where there is a dramatic change in pose of the character.

## Animation Blur

I find these really funny to draw. An animation blur is a smear of a quick movement in a single frame. You can see a partial animation blur in the Toon Boom photo. Many animators use these to show a rapid movement however your eyes can't see the blur so it looks normal.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

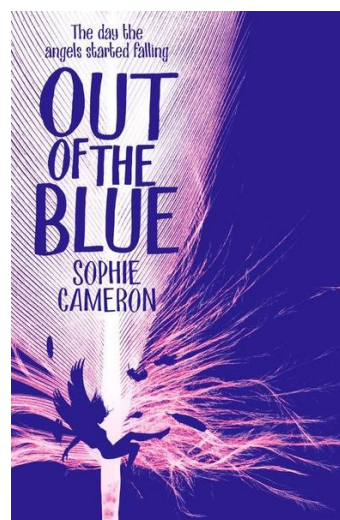
Just a quick show of how I animate if you are still stuck on trying to find a way to animate.

I sketch key frames. These show what I want to happen in a basic way. There is no movement happening in this part. I then start to sketch the motion in between the key frames using hand drawn frames or tweening. Once I'm happy with it I move onto the next step. I clean up the line work and add line-art in the way I would like (depending on the atmosphere I want to create). I then add basic colouring and then shading and highlights.

## Feeling Inspired?

Why not create and post an animation on YouTube? Then send your link to [wa-english@wathacademy.com](mailto:wa-english@wathacademy.com) for attention of Miss Taylor to feature in *The Torch*!

## Book of the Month



### *Out of the Blue* by Sophie Cameron

Reviewed by Isobel Clowrey, Year 7

*Out of the Blue* is a thrilling book about a family in an alternative world, at an important time. More specifically, after the angels started falling from the sky...

As they suddenly start falling from the sky, the world around them is addicted to finding the source, and their feathers are being sold by the people nicknamed "Wingdings". Due to the angels rapidly hurtling towards the Earth, none have survived, ending their descent with wings bent and faces contorted.

Jaya's father is after the feathers, with her sister, Rani, as his right-hand-gal. And to add to it all, Jaya is still mourning the loss of her mother, which she blames herself for, and the sudden disappearance of her ex-girlfriend.

She's determined to stay out of it, but after an incredible experience, she's pulled back into the world of secrecy and adventure, friendship and, eventually, love. Because an angel has landed at her feet – and it's alive...

## THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Sienna Marsh, Amelia Radojevich, Isobel Clowrey, Maxton Hutchinson, Emily Rodgers, Alexandra Cook, Isobelle Fenton, Grace Clowrey, Ellisia Bowman, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Emily Balais, Laura Rodgers and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith, Libby Meadows, Miss Taylor, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, please email [wa-english@wathacademy.com](mailto:wa-english@wathacademy.com) for attention of Miss Taylor.





# Entertainment in Lockdown:

## Films and TV to Watch in Lockdown

By Emily Rodgers, Year 8

If you are feeling bored during the lockdown period, why not immerse yourself in one of these popular film or TV shows?

### TV Shows

#### *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*

If light-hearted comedies are your thing, then this is the show for you. It follows a team of brilliant but amazingly flawed detectives. The show never failed to



make me laugh out loud. The writers of this programme have taken some extremely sensitive topics, such as divorce, homophobia and sexism and have managed to create a script that doesn't undermine, make fun of, or just forget about the topic yet is still funny and satirical. On the whole, not only is this show hilarious, it's also amazingly written, now is the time to start watching, with the seventh series airing on All4.

#### *The Great British Sewing Bee*

If you've ever watched Bake-Off, you'll love this show. A competition that is fit for the whole family, it's enjoyable, but is also a show to watch for any aspiring sewer. You can learn from the talented people on the program and the judges while also having a laugh at the same time because it's hosted by the comedian Joe Lycett.

#### *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*

Who doesn't love historical dramas? Well this is one of the best I've ever watched. Set in 1920's Australia, it follows Phryne Fisher, a 'Lady Detective' and her assistant Dot Williams who are hired to investigate crimes. This leads to some trouble with the police when she is hired to solve a murder, but of course she isn't allowed on the crime scene. However, that doesn't stop her as over the three seasons she gains the trust of Inspector Jack Robinson and Constable Hugh Collins (after several break-ins and cases of trespass). Overall, it's a truly amazing show, it has

something for everyone: mystery, love, and the thrill of not knowing what's going to happen next.

### Films

#### *Agatha Christie's Crooked House*

Based on Agatha Christie's novel, this film is something that needs to be watched without distraction, it's easy to miss things and it requires you to notice the little things. As with many murder-mysteries, it wastes no time in giving you clues, it starts from the very first second. The story shows how history and relationships can fall apart so easily, with the Leonides family being the perfect example of a family that turned bad, with every single one of them having motive for the murder.



#### *Hidden Figures*

This historically accurate drama tells the life of three of the most intelligent and influential black women who worked at NASA. Katherine Johnson, a mathematician, whom without, America may never have reached space as her trajectory calculations assured that the shuttle could make it into orbit. Dorothy Vaughan, another mathematician who led a team of black women and taught them how to code and work the recently-introduced electronic computers, she was regarded as one of the greatest minds at NASA and Mary Jackson, an engineer who became NASA's very first African-American female engineer, her research on drag and thrust had an impact on America's planes.

#### *Swallows and Amazons*

A film made for the whole family, based on the book by Arthur Ransome, and partially based on his life, as he was an MI6 agent. It was filmed in the Lake District, on Coniston Water, as it is based around the Walker children on holiday who take a trip to a small island on a boat, where they meet two other children, the Blacketts, whose uncle is being searched for by secret agents (as Britain is on the brink of war) and the two groups of children are fighting over the ownership of the island.

# Media Updates and Review



## Things to watch on Disney Plus

By Emily Balaiss, Year 12



A few weeks ago, a new streaming site known as Disney Plus launched and has proven to be very popular!

In order to access Disney Plus, you need to pay either £5.99 a month or £59.99 a year, but you can get a free trial for seven days.

Here are our top picks of film and television you can watch on Disney Plus to cure your boredom.

### TV Shows:



#### *Star Wars: The Mandalorian*

Disney Plus's long-awaited new TV show. This show unveiled the cutest thing in the *Star Wars* universe: Baby Yoda. This show includes some of the best live-action *Star Wars* scenes in

the last few years.

#### *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*

Jeff Goldblum could make even the most boring thing sound fascinating, so it's quite hard to find a more captivating host for a documentary series.

#### *Star Wars: Clone Wars*

After six seasons, Disney have finally made a seventh season of their show, *Star Wars: Clone Wars*. The show is set between *Star Wars Episode II* and *Star Wars Episode III* and follows the adventures of Anakin Skywalker (soon to be Darth Vader) and Obi-Wan Kenobi in their race to end the Clone Wars.

#### *High School Musical Series*

Thirteen long years after the *High School Musical* trilogy was filmed at the famous East High, the legendary drama department is putting a brand-new production together: - *High School Musical: The Musical*.

### Films:

#### *The Thor Trilogy*

The three *Thor* films follow the story of everyone's favourite Asgardian, Thor, Son of Odin, from his childhood with his adopted brother, Loki, to how he becomes one of the most popular heroes in the Marvel Universe.



#### *The Parent Trap* (1998)

This is one of Disney's lesser known films. When two identical twins, separated at birth, stumble across each other at the same summer camp, they hatch a scheme to take each other's place to go home to the parent that they haven't seen in eleven years.

#### *Mulan*

This is one of Disney's most popular films, based on a Chinese ballad called "Ode to Mulan". This film was one of the first Disney Princess films to show that women can do everything men can do.

#### *Descendants 1 & 2*

The *Descendants* films are some of Disney Channel's best films. Following the story of four kids of the worst Disney villains, the films show how they turn good and save the world – multiple times.

#### *Coco*

This film depicts one of the most colourful and celebrated holidays, *La Día de Los Muertos*, also known as Day of the Dead. This Mexican tradition celebrates the lives of all those who have passed away, and this film manages to show how special the tradition is to the people who celebrate it.

# Lockdown Creativity

## Silent Days

By Isobelle Fenton, Year 8

There's not enough wind to power the windmills,  
Not even to move the trees,  
This afternoon is a Silent Day,  
The type to bring you to your knees.

People fear the silent days,  
And for good reason too,  
For when the sun is almost set,  
The Silent Souls will come for you.

They come, as black as night,  
Spreading like a plague,  
And when the Silent Rampage is done,  
It's almost another day...

## Chapter Two: Zodiac Protector

By Maxton Hutchinson, Year 8

*In Part 1, Brooke learned that Mark's father had died and didn't know how to break the news to him.*

Brooke was woken by Mark. "Hey," he said softly with a smile on his face, "it's mah birthday!" She put on a fake smile as she was still worried whether she had done the right thing yesterday. She tried to forget about it, but it was always there in the back of her mind.

"Happy birthday, Dad!" yelled Crystal and Riley. Mark smiled as his kids ran at him. He crouched to hug them.

Brooke felt a vibration in her pocket from her phone. She pulled it out from the dark blue skinny jeans. It was Mark's mum. She looked to Mark and ran to the bathroom, which was quickly becoming her safe space or comfort zone. Now she answered the phone but suddenly she began to hear voices which weren't coming from the phone and they were starting to drive

her crazy.

"Hello... Hello... HELLO?" Mark's mum began to shout. "Brooke can you hear me!?"

Brooke dropped her phone and fell to the floor, lying on her side in a tight ball as she covered her ears. "STOP, STOP!" Brooke screamed as loud as she could. Mark came running in but the voices just wouldn't stop. She began to scream as Mark tried to calm her down.

There was knock at the door. Mark rushed to answer it, wondering if they could help. "Cynthia," he yelled, "there's something wrong with Brooke!" Cynthia immediately knew why: 'She's manifesting,' she thought to herself but she couldn't tell Mark; he wouldn't understand.

Cynthia ran to Brooke and put her hands over her and said, "You're okay." Brooke began to calm down and sat up against the white tiled wall. "We need to talk," said Cynthia in a concerned voice. Brooke nodded. "You are a Zodiac Protector," she began to explain as Mark walked in. "We'll finish this later." Brooke looked as if Cynthia was talking a foreign language but she just nodded.

About ten minutes later, there was another knock... it was Mark's mum. Brooke began to panic: 'What if he finds out? Will he hate me for not telling him?' She ran to the bathroom and sat on the dark blue tiled floor with her legs tucked in and arms round them; she began to rock back and forth. Cynthia ran after her. "You need to calm down!" Cynthia shouted. "Let's finish talking." Brooke agreed so Cynthia began to explain that she was the Zodiac Pisces. Brooke wanted to know how Cynthia knew about being a Zodiac Protector. "Because I am too," she said, "so tell no one, just like I have done." She showed Brooke her wrist, where there was some sort of symbol that had a blue tinge to it. "What the hell? Why would I want that on my wrist?" yelled Brooke.

"You're over exaggerating—you need to calm down!" yelled Cynthia, trying to overpower Brooke's screaming. "Besides, yours will be the sign for Pisces, not Cancer."

# History of the Houses



Most people are familiar with the Houses at Wath, but you might know less about their rich history. The Houses were founded in pairs, with the first two being Rome and Sparta in 1923. Two years later saw the formation of Athens and Carthage in 1925 and the final two Houses (Thebes and Troy) were founded in 1927. This year, each issue of *The Torch* has featured one of the Houses, and attention this time turns to Thebes.

## Historical Thebes

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

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

## Thebes House History

Thebes is interesting because the house was temporarily closed down in 1942, because World War II had reduced the school's roll (the students in Thebes were redistributed to other houses). This house wasn't refounded until 1958, where it started

again with some First Formers and grew back to full size over the next few years.



Another interesting fact about Thebes links to the first head of Thebes, a woman called Miss Swift. She later became the school's first female headteacher when she temporarily stepped up between the death of Mr Ritchie (May 1954) and when Dr Saffell began (September 1955).

This historical information comes from old editions of the school's magazine, which was called *The Wathonian* (downloadable copies can be found on *The Torch's* webpage: [wathacademy.com/torch](http://wathacademy.com/torch)).

## Thebes House Today

The current Head of House for Thebes is Ms Hodgson. The House values for people in Thebes include:

**Ambition**

**Determination**

**Enthusiasm**

**Focus**

**Optimism**

Check out the next issue to learn more about Troy!



# Life Before Lockdown

## The Delights of St Étienne

By Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith and Libby Meadows,  
Year 13

In December 2019, Year 13 French students embarked on a six day trip to St Étienne in France, in an exchange-style visit, where we would live with a French family and gain some work experience in a French primary school.

Working in a French primary school was definitely the most fulfilling and unforgettable part of our visit. One major difference is that French teenagers finish school much later than we do in the UK, with college students rarely leaving the *lycée* before 6pm and primary children leaving school at 4.30pm, although this is enriched by the hour and a half long lunch break and having Wednesdays off! A typical lesson at École St Charles included introducing ourselves and answering any questions the children had about us and life in the UK (we were asked countless times if we had met the Queen!); helping the children learn and pronounce new English vocabulary; an independent activity – usually a colouring, anagram or word search and a lot of singing.

Since school was closed on Wednesday, we had a day out in Lyon shopping and sightseeing, which was an amazing experience. In the morning, we visited an ancient Roman theatre and the Basilique (Basilica) Notre-Dame de Fourvière – both were spectacular. We particularly liked how the basilica was very multicultural, despite being Catholic – it featured different cultural depictions of the Virgin Mary and a nativity seen with non-religious figures. We then went down a funicular railway into Vieux Lyon, the city's oldest district, which is abundant with renaissance architecture and artisan chocolate shops – where we went shopping and bought fancy French chocolate and tea. We went to Place Bellecour, a more modern but equally stunning area for lunch and more shopping, and where we went on the Grande Roue – a big wheel that towered above the buildings (which were already around 4-5 storeys high). We went around six times and the operators spun us around really fast whenever we

got the bottom – it was some of the best fun we've had. We then took the tram to a shopping centre which was like a smaller, prettier version of Meadowhall and spent copious amounts of time in a bookshop.

Thursday was a special Christmas celebration day at the primary school. In the morning, we attended a nativity service in the church and had much more relaxed lessons, drawing and colouring. The afternoon was a Christmas showcase assembly that the whole school attended – classes and smaller groups of children did stellar performances to French Christmas songs. When we were leaving the assembly, a little girl asked us to *faire la bise* – a French greeting where you kiss each other on the cheek – which then resulted in almost the entire school forming a queue behind here, also wanting to do *la bise*... We both felt very loved, and took home a huge stack of hand-made Christmas cards and drawings the students gave us as parting gifts.

A final highlight of the trip has to be the food! We were lucky to stay with a family who were keen on letting us try traditional French dishes. On our first night in St Étienne, we had *La Fondue*, a melted cheese dish served in a big communal pot called a *caquelon* that we all dipped pieces of bread into on skewers. *C'était Délicieux!* After trying fondue, we realised that French cheese, is far, far superior to English cheese. A tradition attached to this dish is that if you drop your bread whilst dipping it in the cheese pot you must do a forfeit (luckily we didn't drop any!). Another cheese dish that we loved was *Raclette* cheese. *Raclette* is a semi-hardened cheese (usually in a wheel shape) that we melted using a special communal grill, and then drizzled over potatoes. Our favourite meal was *Gratin*, a creamy potato dish made with cauliflower and (yes, more cheese) and served with steak – kind of like shepherd's pie, but a million times better. We also sampled various traditional Christmas foods, such *Papillotes*, French chocolates that have small pieces of paper inside usually with a proverb, joke or trivia question – like tiny chocolate Christmas crackers!

# Historical Profiles

## Wath-upon-Dearne History!

By Amelia R, Year 7

For many years, Wath has been a quiet, rural and calm settlement, but slowly and surely it is coming out of its shell!

Wath has changed drastically from now to many years ago (820 plus to be precise), where it can be traced all the way back to the Norman times. It features in the Domesday book as Wad and it has also been named Waith - so that's a different combination. Since its formation, many things have changed, including railways and mining.

Railways:

Back in time, Wath had three working railway stations which were called Wath Central, Wath (Hull and Barnsley) and finally Wath North. Nowadays, Wath doesn't have one railway station, but don't worry: there has been talk about getting a new line running in Manvers, which is roughly a mile from the town centre. But that is all still in discussion.

Coal mining:

Back in the 20th century, coal mining was really big. Many people took part in going to work every single morning to work in the mines. In Wath-upon-Dearne, the coal mining industry could have been detected by the naked eye so easily: the mining project was that big, like it was across the rest of Europe.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The picture of Wath may seem familiar but it is actually from many years ago.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

## Alcatraz

By Alexandra Cook, Year 8

Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary is a military prison located on an island in San Francisco Bay, 1.25 miles from San Francisco, California, US. Supposedly, it was impossible to escape... until three men by the names of Frank Morris, Clarence Anglin and John Anglin successfully escaped the fortress and have never been found – a disappearance that is one of the country's most notorious unsolved mysteries.

In 1962, inmates and bank robbers Morris and the Anglins vanished from the maximum-security prison. They had used sharpened spoons to bore through the prison walls, left papier-mâché dummies in their beds and floated away on a raft made from 50 raincoats.

Although they had escaped, those people were not the most famous to reside on Alcatraz. This was a title given to Robert 'Birdman' Stroud.

Robert Franklin Stroud (Jan 28, 1890 – Nov 21, 1963) known as the "Birdman" of Alcatraz was eventually sentenced to 54 years for multiple criminal charges including manslaughter (the act of accidental murder), assault and murder. He was incarcerated (confined) from 1942 to 1959. Stroud was never released from the federal prison system; he was imprisoned from 1909 to his death in 1963.

# Sport and House Update

## Football: When Will it Start Again?

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By Emily Balais, Year 12

As restrictions start to ease around the world, there has been a lot of controversy about if and when the football season will start up again. At this point, we are not even sure if the 2019/20 football season will even be completed, or if it will just be behind closed doors. While the UK government are in the difficult process of easing the lockdown, it is currently unclear when the thousands of football fans will be able to return to the home of their favourite football teams.

Due to the uncertainty, the Premier League have developed a new plan known as 'Project Restart', where they are hoping to get the remainder of the football season completed by the end of July and they are hopeful to restart the season by June 12th. In order to do this, football teams agreed on May 18th to start full training for all players, with training sessions abiding by social distancing rules.

Since Monday 27th April, the Premier League clubs of

Arsenal, Brighton and West Ham have re-opened their training grounds for their players to train individually to maintain their fitness for when (and if) the football season re-starts.

The English Football League (EFL) are hoping to restart the Championship's season in June and to play 113 championship games in just 56 days. The Championship clubs have been told to give their players a holiday, and not start any professional training until May 16th. The EFL chairman, Rick Parry wrote a letter to the Championship, League One and League Two clubs advising them not to restart training until mid-May.

It is looking more likely that the football season will return for the rest of the 2019/20 season. However, despite the easing of some lockdown measures, football leagues still face a number of challenges around testing and health and safety in order to allow professional players to feel confident that it is safe to return.