



THE TORCH

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Able, Active and Qualified
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

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By Grace Clowrey, Year 7

Christmas is a great celebration – roast dinners, family celebrations and presents from Santa are all part of the fun (A.K.A. the best bit) – but do you know who Santa (Father Christmas) really is?

The Santa Claus we know today originated from traditions about Saint Nicholas, a gift giver from the fourth century (I know this sounds slightly boring but just go with it – I promise we're nearly at the good bit). Originally, Saint Nicholas lived in Myra (in Turkey), but now people across the world know his name. He gave secret presents to the poor – a 'Secret Santa'.

But did you know this: Santa wasn't always a jolly old man with a big sack of presents; until 1931, people mainly drew Santa as anything from a tall, thin man to an elfish, small character.

Many people say that Santa's coat became red because of the company Coca Cola (if you didn't know that, then sorry). However, although Coca Cola has featured Santa Claus in their adverts since the 1920s, there were images of a red Santa Claus before Coca Cola used him.

So have a great holiday and next time you look at Santa, remember where he's from.

Winter Blizzard

The recent cold weather has been making its presence felt at THE TORCH this month! The word 'snow' has appeared in **eight** different places within this issue (**not** including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all?

Have a good look through the issue and bring your copy to Miss Taylor if you find them all. The first five winners will receive a small prize; others will receive e-Praise points.

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write during an intensive period of after-school activities. We have just had two highly successful evenings of *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. This year, rather than our usual pantomime, the school chose to challenge itself with one of the greatest Christmas stories of all time. This adaptation, by Karen Louise Hebden, was first staged at Derby Theatre in 2003 and has set all who have seen it very much in the Christmas spirit. Directed and produced by Mr McHale and Mrs Hardwick, from our own Drama department, but supported by all in the Performing Arts faculty, it has been immensely entertaining, and has involved over 100 Wath students. I am very grateful to all the parents, students and staff that came along to support all the hard work and preparation that goes in to putting on such a grand event. Prior to this, there was a matinee performance, performed for future students, from local feeder primary schools.

As the end of term approaches, it is a very busy time for students and staff alike. Year 11 students have recently completed their GCSE Preliminary Examinations and are about to receive a 'mock' certificate in a special assembly, attempting to mimic the publication of the summer 2018 external examination results. Let us hope that any tears that need to be shed are dispensed now rather than in August. The Prelims are good practice for the external exams that begin after the Easter break. It is a very important time for Year 11, as they prepare for exams that will determine what options are open to them post-16. We hope as many as possible will be successful and will be able to take advantage of the courses that we offer in our own sixth form. Following the Christmas holiday, Year 13 students will have their own Preliminary Exams – clearly these students will have revision to do over the holiday period in preparation for these important exams. Results from these Preliminary Exams will inform the entry decisions for their summer exams.

The Main Hall was packed on 5 December for our New Sixth Evening; where prospective students came to hear about the opportunities on offer for next year's Year 12. It was very encouraging to see the number of students that had been attracted from other, neighbouring schools across the region. It is very pleasing to note that the sixth form at Wath is still held in such high regard. Later that week, we had our Year 11 Presentation Evening, where certificates, prizes and awards were made to last year's Year 11 students. I wrote in the last issue about their very pleasing exam results. It was lovely to welcome them back together again as a year group, with students pursuing



training and courses at local colleges joining with those who had moved into our own sixth form.

Next week, we look forward to our annual Christmas Concert, where many of our gifted musicians and singers will perform a range of traditional and more contemporary music, joined on occasions by those of us in the audience not quite so gifted, especially to the rousing traditional finale of 'Twelve Days of Christmas', complete with actions. The staff of the Performing Arts faculty are particularly busy at this time of year and we are grateful for all their efforts. Our final event of the calendar year is our Year 13 Presentation Evening on 21 December, when most of last year's final year should be available to join us for their presentation of certificates and awards. We look forward to hearing how everyone is doing after joining the world beyond school.

Individual tutor groups are currently busy putting together the final touches to their hampers for our annual Christmas Hamper competition. Once the judging has taken place, the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the local area and to a few residential centres. Thank you if you have been able to support this by sending in items such as a tin of food, bottle of drink or a book. There will be a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for 'best in school'.

Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated. May I please take this opportunity to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Please note that the school reopens for students on Tuesday 9 January.

Yours sincerely,

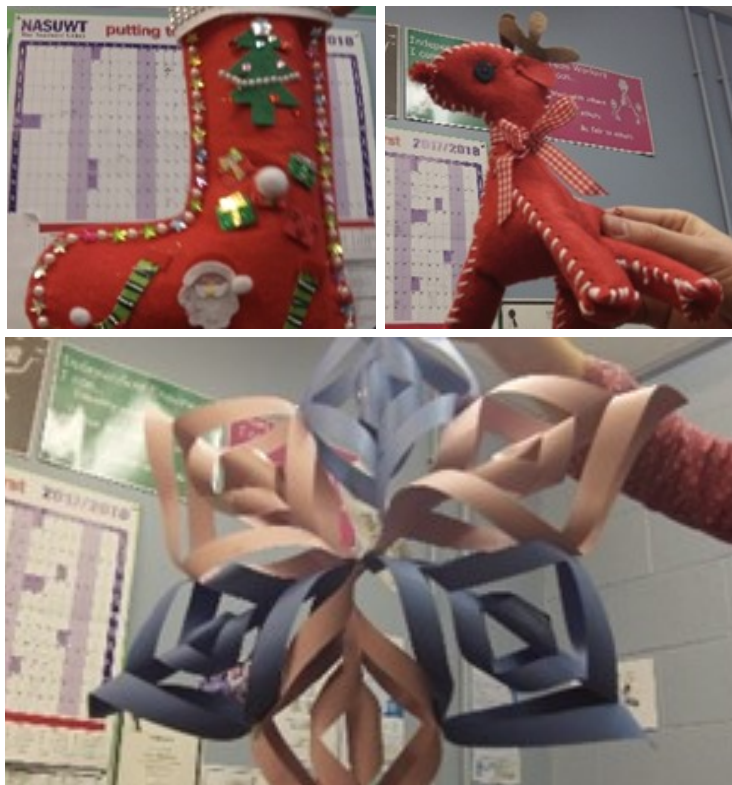
Mr J Taylor
Headteacher

News in Brief

Christmas decoration competition

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

The Christmas decoration competition was an exciting chance for students to show their creative sides, just for Year 7 and 8 (who loved joining in). The winner will gain 200 points for their house team so they can help their house to be the best! We are excited that Mr Surgey and Mr Fidler have started their judging of the Christmas decoration and there is already a lot of brilliant work out a week before half term!



The Christmas hamper

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

The Christmas hamper is an activity where you have to make a hamper and fill it with food. Every year, tutor groups compete for house points and to be the best. Our main organisers, Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Owen are very excited to see some creative and colourful hampers; they said, "It's a lovely thing to do at Christmas as we deliver the hampers to people of our community who need them the most." Lastly, they expect team work, especially when everyone is taking part in their tutor group and they are super creative with their idea during the time they are making their hamper.

Mr Taylor's decision will get announced on 19th December, so we are excited to find out who is the winner of the hamper competition!

Important forthcoming dates

- 17 January – Y10 Review Day
- 18 January – Y9 Review Day
- 6, 7 & 8 February – Dance & Movement Evening
- 8 February – Y13 Review Morning
- 9 February – Y11 Review Day
- 20 February – Y8 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers
- 27 February – Y12 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers.

Christmas Crossword

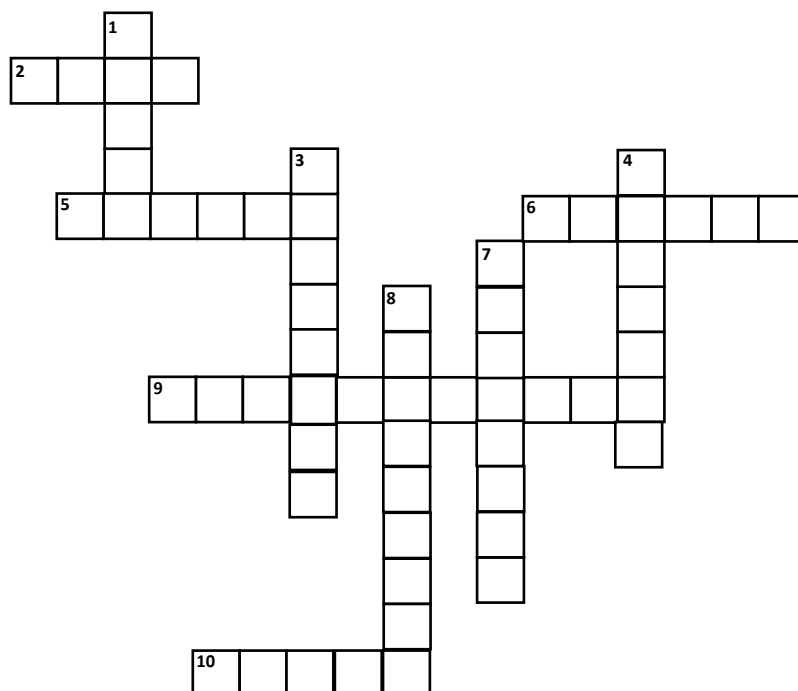
By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

Down:

1. A person who gives presents to you during the night (5)
3. An animal that has a red nose and is close to Santa (8)
4. You get it at Christmas (7)
7. On Christmas day, we celebrate Jesus's ... (8)
8. 25th December (9)

Across:

2. The top of a Christmas tree (4)
5. You decorate your Christmas tree with these (6)
6. You bake it and eat it at Christmas (6)
9. Christmas is a ... (11)
10. Someone's birthday in December (5)



Return your solved puzzle to Miss Taylor for three merits.

Latest News and Updates from

Medical Students visit Wath Comprehensive

Two Sheffield University Medical School students have been on a 3 week community placement in science. This is what they have been up to:



“We have had the pleasure of joining staff and students in school for the past few weeks and have thoroughly enjoyed our time here. We thought we’d share with you some of the exciting things we’ve been getting up to!

“We were delighted to be invited into Year 13 Health and Social Care classes to introduce the students to their next piece of coursework, ‘Physiological Disorders’. This gave us the opportunity to impart some of our knowledge on diseases and more importantly their effects on wellbeing. Many of the students are planning on progressing to university next year, and we were able to share some of our experiences with them. Our number one piece of advice was to move away from home and live in university accommodation!

“The majority of our time has been spent in lessons with Year 9 and 10 students, focussing on raising progress as much as we could. As part of the school’s drive to raise aspirations amongst students, we delivered a workshop to introduce students to careers in healthcare and how to pursue them. Hopefully we enlightened them to the fact that healthcare is much

more than just doctors and nurses.

“We also had the chance to learn about the A-Level Science curriculum, with a particular focus on the ‘CPAC’ assessment: required coursework that the students must complete. In preparation for a visit from the exam board, we produced a colourful display board in the science corridor to illustrate what students must do in order to pass their practical assessments. The information on the board not only helps demonstrate the school’s commitment to achieving highly in these practicals, but also gives current and future students an idea of the exciting practical and hands on side of science.

“Before we leave we want to say one final thank you to the students and staff at Wath Comprehensive for making our time here so enjoyable and inclusive.”

Becky and Fred

3rd Year Medical Students



The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

By Emily Balais, Year 10

This year, Year 10 students have been given the chance to do the bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s award. They have been preparing for weeks and at the end of June, they will be going out to the Peak District to complete the final expedition (camp trip) in the wild for one night and two days.

Wath Comprehensive School

Only 42 students have been selected out of Year 10 and have been completing afterschool sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays, getting ready for the expedition. They have to complete 12 months of volunteering, physical and skill work.



This will improve their skills and give them experience about how to handle the wild world.

History Department Battlefield Tour 2017

By Molly Hammerton, Kiara Fenton
and Alex Law, Year 10

Before and during the half term holidays, some of the Year 10 History students went to France and Belgium to trace the famous battles of World War One. We visited many memorials and cemeteries, such as Thiepval and Tyne Cot. These places overwhelmed us by their astonishing beauty and the tragic circumstances by which they had been placed there, as hundreds of white graves lined the fields. We learnt that these cemeteries were built on the battlegrounds and the graves were placed as close to where the soldiers fell as possible. As they were built on the battlegrounds, if we looked closely we could trace where the front lines would have been during the intense and macabre battles of World War One.

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Chavasse, who risked his life to save others by pulling injured men from No Man's Land till the day he died from the wounds he sustained from doing this brave act. We also visited the Barnsley Pals Memorial, where many of the soldiers from our area are laid to rest after nearly being completely wiped out in the Battle of the Somme.

On our full final day in Belgium, we witnessed the emotional Last Call Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which happens every night and has done since 1927. We all found it incredibly moving as we watched this amazing ceremony take place in honour of the soldiers that fought and were killed in the Ypres campaign and whose graves are unknown. As we watched, many of us began to cry as the reality and importance of this visit finally dawned upon us, especially on the bus ride back to the hostel where we were left to contemplate the vast number of men who sacrificed their lives for us.

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This trip is an amazing experience as it shows that the soldiers are not just numbers on a spreadsheet, but individuals who had families: mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. Seeing the cemeteries and the huge number of white stones really impacted us and we would like to thank the History staff for organising this unbelievable trip and coming with us. We are sure that everyone who has been on the trip will agree when we say that it is a stunning experience and definitely not one to be missed.

In some of the cemeteries, we visited graves of war heroes and were told their tragic stories, such as Noel

If you are a Year 9 History student, you should definitely get involved next year!

Festive Fun: Everything you need

Seven toys on everyone's Xmas list!

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

Panicking about what to buy them? With time running out, here are a few suggestions of gifts they'll love:

Nerf Nitro Longshot Smash from Hasbro.
£19.99 from Argos.

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Star Wars: BB-8 from LEGO Company Ltd.
£130.00 from Tesco Direct.

Toilet Trouble from Hasbro.
Pre-order £17.99 from Smythson's Toys.

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Enchantimals Panda Playhouse Set from Mattel.
£29.99 from Toys 'R' Us.

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FurReal Roarin' Tyler from Hasbro.
£99.99 from Smyth's Toys.

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Fingerlings from Jazwares WowWee Fingerlings Monkey Playset with Two Monkeys.
£29.99 from Argos.

Top 5 best charities to donate to over Christmas

By Anna Gray, Year 7

Of course, Christmas is not only about panic shopping for loved ones... We should also be thinking about those who are less fortunate than ourselves, who perhaps won't get any presents at all. If you are feeling generous this month, here are a few worthy causes you might consider donating to:

1. Toys for Tots – This is one of the many charities that makes sure kids have presents to open on Christmas.
2. My Two Front Teeth - This charity has partnered up with the Family Giving Tree to fulfil children's wishes this year.
3. Make A Wish – This charity captures the transformative effect of a wish granted, helping children with life-threatening medical conditions to have their Christmas wish.
4. Angel Tree – This charity helps match at-risk prisoners' children with caring, consistent adult mentors to help them stay on course for a bright future.
5. Christmas Spirit Foundation – This charity provides hundreds of Christmas trees each year to troops stationed overseas that will not be home for Christmas this year.

How to make festive treats!

By Hari Sukumar, Year 7

Marshmallow snowmen

Snowmen are made also in the festive season by using snow, but we will be using marshmallows!

Simple and easy!

Ingredients:

- 3 large marshmallows
- A bag of strawberry laces
- Any colour icing (for the hat, noses pebbles, and other decorations.)

to know for the best Christmas ever

Equipment:

- 1 cocktail stick.

Method:

1. Put the 3 marshmallows on the cocktail stick
2. Wrap the strawberry laces around marshmallows 1 and 2 (from top to bottom) as the scarf.
3. Model the icing hat, buttons and carrot nose and serve to your friends!

Mince pies

Mince pies are a traditional British festive treat made with mincemeat, perfect for Santa and his little elves!

Ingredients:

- 1 large jar of mincemeat (around 600g)
- 2 segmented satsumas
- 1 apple, finely chopped
- Zest 1 lemon
- Little icing sugar for on top
- For the pastry
- 375g plain flour
- 260g unsalted butter, softened
- 125g caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 large egg, plus 1 beaten egg for glazing

Method:

1. Place the flour and butter in a bowl and rub together to a crumb consistency.
2. Add the sugar and the unbeaten egg, and mix together.
3. Tip out onto a lightly floured surface and fold until the pastry comes together. Be careful not to over mix.
4. Wrap the pastry in cling film and chill for 10 minutes.
5. Scoop the mincemeat into a bowl and add the satsumas, apple and zest.
6. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7.
7. Roll out the pastry to 3mm thick. Using a round cutter (about 10cm), cut out 16 bases and place

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them into muffin trays. Put 1 1/2 tbsp mincemeat mixture into each. Brush the edge of each pie with a little beaten egg.

8. Re-roll out the pastry to cut 7cm lids and press them on top to seal. Glaze with the rest of the egg, sprinkle with caster sugar, then make a small cut in the tops.
9. Bake mince pies for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Leave to cool before releasing them from the muffin trays and dusting with icing sugar. Serve hot or cold.

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Well then, Wath Comprehensive bakers: on your marks, get set... GO!

Top 12 Christmas films

By Olivia Storey, Year 9

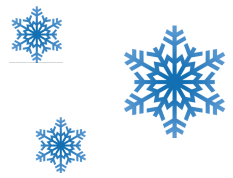
Need to get into the Christmas spirit? Sticking any one of these into your DVD or Blu-ray player is sure to do the trick:

1. Elf
2. The Grinch
3. The Holiday (My personal favourite)
4. The Nativity 1, 2 & 3
5. Home Alone 1 & 2
6. The Muppets Christmas Carol
7. Miracle on 34th Street
8. The Polar Express
9. Arthur Christmas
10. The Santa Clause
11. The Snowman... and the Snow Dog
12. Once upon a Christmas





Seasonal Trivia



Here is a selection of fun facts to impress friends and family around the dinner table...

Five Fun Festive Facts

By Grace Clowrey, Year 7

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1. Did you know that when Christmas is shortened to Xmas, "X" actually represents the Greek letter "Chi", which is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, "Χριστός".
2. The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus", meaning "arrival" or "coming".
3. Jingle Bells wasn't originally written as a Christmas song. It doesn't even mention Christmas, Advent or Jesus!
4. Mistletoe was once used by young girls to see if they would have a happy marriage with a certain man!
5. The average Christmas tree typically takes eight years to grow from a sapling.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Phoebe Orwin, Cadence Taylor, Grace Clowrey, Hari Sukumar, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Elena Cretu, Joe Shackley, Jacob Linney, Daniel Nutley, Bella Aaltio, Elizabeth Gray, Charlotte Ting, Caitie Swallow (proofreading), Olivia Storey, Lauren Williams, Molly Hammerton, Kiara Fenton, Emily Balaiss, Mya Taylor and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Alex Law, Alex Miles, Mr Bishop, Miss Perry.

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

Six things you didn't know about *The Muppet Christmas Carol*

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

1. The part in the original movie where Ebenezer Scrooge sang the song *Love is Gone* was taken out of the movie because it was too sad for TV.
2. Tiny Tim and Scrooge were not father and son in this. They were actually uncle and nephew.
3. Gonzo and Rizzo were added into the film so that the original narration could be included.
4. In the main movie, there was only one Marley, whereas in this one they added in another so they could be played by Statler and Waldorf.
5. The movie's song "It feels like Christmas" is the world's most joyous Christmas song.
6. In this movie a shooting star streaks overhead, which is a muppet's trademark.

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Countdown to Christmas

By Charlotte Ting, Year 9

As the Christmas countdown begins, days get colder, days get darker. Christmas decorations are up and people are wrapping up warm. To make sure you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas half-term, here are some things you should/could do to keep warm and have fun.

Wrap up warm!

Since it's nearly winter, the days get colder, so if you

decide to wear a shirt and shorts with a thin jacket, it's best if you stay inside under a million and one layers. It's England; you're going to die from cold, even in the summer. Therefore, buy things like gloves, hats and scarves (if you haven't got them already, which would be weird if you haven't got any!).

Have a hot drink (especially hot chocolate)

Having a cold drink is OK, but having a hot drink is even better! Since the temperature is dropping, it's best to have a hot drink to keep warm. Especially hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows! This is the most common hot drinks to be drank during Christmas time, particularly in a Christmas-themed cup.

Listen to different Christmas songs every day

Christmas isn't Christmas without Christmas songs! With hits like 'Fairytale of New York' by The Pogues and Kirsty McColl, 'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Shakin' Stevens, 'Do They Know It's Christmas? (1984 and 2014)' by Band Aid and 'Last Christmas' by Wham!, you'll never get out of the Christmas spirit!

Watch Christmas films (classics and recent)

There are so many Christmas films out there, like *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Home Alone* (1-5), *The Polar Express*, *Nativity* (1-3), *A Christmas Carol* and *Elf*! I recommend watching them, so you'll never get bored!

Put up your Christmas decorations (and tree!)

Who would ever forget to put up their Christmas tree and decorations? Not me! When December comes, help your family set up the Christmas tree and decorations around the house so that Santa has a place to put your presents. Remember to take out your stockings on Christmas Eve as well!

There are other things to do as well, such as singing carols, making Christmas cakes and having Christmas dinner too! Remember all these things and you'll have an amazing Christmas!

Top 25 Christmas Songs

By Caitie Swallow Year 9

1. All I Want For Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey.
2. Last Christmas by Wham!
3. Merry Christmas Everyone by Shakin' Stevens.
4. Do They Know It's Christmas Time At All? By Band Aid.
5. Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade.
6. Wonderful Christmastime by Paul McCartney.
7. I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday by Wizzard.
8. Fairytale of New York by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl.
9. Mary's Boy Child by Boney M.
10. Mistletoe and Wine by Cliff Richard.
11. Jingle Bell Rock by Bobby Helms.
12. Santa Claus is Coming to Town by Harry Reser.
13. Baby It's Cold Outside by Dean Martin
14. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree by Mel and Kim, (Brenda Lee sang this first though).
15. Happy Xmas (War is Over) by John Lennon and Yoko Ono.
16. White Christmas by Bing Crosby.
17. Step Into Christmas by Elton John.
18. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! by Vaughn Monroe/Dean Martin/Smokey Robinson & The Miracles.
19. Stop the Calvary by Jona Lewie.
20. It's The Most Wonderful Time of Year by Andy Willams.
21. Santa Baby by Eartha Kitt.
22. Winter Wonderland by Perry Como.
23. Lonely This Christmas by MUD.
24. It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas by Perry Como and The Fontana Sisters.
25. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus by Jimmy Boyd.

News, Politics and Current Affairs:

Returning to Kashmir, where our parents were shot in front of us

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

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Seventy years ago, a young British couple was shot dead at a mission hospital in Kashmir, making their sons orphans - one only two weeks old. To mark the anniversary, two of those sons made a personal pilgrimage to the spot.

"I feel very emotional to be here," says Doug Dykes, standing yards from the place where his mother and father suffered fatal bullet wounds, when he was only two years old.

"I saw my parents being killed - that's what I've been told. My father tried to stop the attackers approaching the nuns and he was shot. I ran screaming towards my father. My mother ran after me and then she was also shot."

It may seem like a tranquil spot, but Tom and Biddy Dykes, an army officer and his wife, were killed in the Kashmir crisis and 70 years later, the conflict continues to claim lives just about every day.

In all, six people lost their lives at St Joseph's Catholic mission in the town of Baramulla on that fateful morning in October in 1947 - seven years after Tom and Biddy got married. All were murdered by armed tribesmen from Pakistan who invaded Kashmir to try to prevent the princely state becoming part of India after the British withdrawal - and to take away as much loot as they could carry.

As they ransacked St Joseph's on 27 October 1947, the first Indian troops were landing in Kashmir to repulse the invaders - and they have been here ever since to prevent the region being seized by Pakistan, which claims it as its own.

The last remaining nun to survive the ordeal, Sister Emilia, an Italian, recounted how the tribesmen had climbed over the mission walls, smashed through locked doors and manhandled some of the nuns. After they killed her friend - the new Spanish sister, Teresalina - Emilia thought she too was about to die.

The family has an anguished letter Biddy Dykes wrote ten days before she died, shortly after giving birth to her third son, James. The security situation was alarming and she was desperately waiting for her husband to turn up and get them out.

"Hell's Bells, I'd give anything to see Tom walk in this evening," she wrote. "He said in one letter that he'd be up here today. But I don't think there is an earthly chance."

In fact, Tom did make it to Baramulla but was unable to get his family to safety.

The three orphaned Dykes boys along with about 70 others were held captive in a single hospital ward for 10 days, while war raged around them. The Indian Air Force repeatedly bombed the mission, which the Pakistani invaders were using as a transport and supplies depot.

The two older boys eventually returned to Britain by boat. James, the baby, was so weak he was not expected to survive. He was initially cared for by Lady Messervy, the wife of the British general who had become the first commander-in-chief of the Pakistan army, and slowly began to improve. When, a few months later, he was well enough to make the journey home, he was taken in by a different wing of the family. He didn't see a lot of his older brothers as they were growing up and, at 18, he emigrated to South Africa.

"We never talked much about our parents - we knew the bare facts of what happened, but we were encouraged not to dwell on it," says Doug Dykes, a brewer by profession who lives in Dorking, just outside London.

Updates from around the Globe

Neither of the surviving brothers can be sure to make it to Kashmir again. It was a precious chance - possibly a last chance - to get close to the young couple who died here, and whom they have thought about all their lives.

Is 2018 the new 2012? New Black Holes Discovered: The Apocalypse...

By Bella Aaltio, Lauren Williams
and Elizabeth Gray, Year 9

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For the fifth time, evidence of ripples in space time have been detected from far off phenomena. The LIGO-VIRGO collaboration's laser labs sensed the gravitational ripples. The LIGO lasers were able to sense two objects which had masses that were approximately 7-12 times that of our sun, crashing at an amazing distance of about one billion light-years from Earth. This resulted in a black hole which is roughly about 18 times the size of our sun.

This meant that energy, equivalent to one solar mass, was radiated across space – in the form of gravitational waves. This is the lightest merger of all the five black hole evidence that has been discovered as of yet, and takes the catalogue number GW170608.

Explanation of Gravitational Waves:

- They are a prediction of the Theory of General Relativity
- They are ripples in the fabric of space-time generated by violent events
- LIGO/VIRGO fire precision lasers into long, L-shaped tunnels
- Detecting the ripples opens up the universe to completely new investigations
- The beams sense the way the waves stretch and squeeze the tunnels

Finnish Independence day

Bella Aaltio, Year 9

On 6th December, Finland was celebrating its 100th anniversary of independence from Russia. In 1917, Finland became independent. There were big celebrations such as the Helsinki ice hockey challenge; as Finland turns one hundred, most of the ice hockey teams have turned fifty or twenty-five. The teams are marking their own anniversaries and that of Finland's independence by playing outdoors in Kaisaniemi Park downtown.

The celebration of the Finland's Independence Day begins with depositing of wreaths at the Sankaripuisto, the Garden of Heroes, at 9 am. Besides the depositing of wreaths, there will be a guard of honour, in which a person of the same age as the deceased will be standing at his/her grave.

The program of the Independence Day in Kuopio:

9.00: Wreath laying ceremony at the Sakaripuisto Park

10.00: Divine service in the Cathedral of Kuopio

10.15: Military equipment exhibition at the Kuopio market square

12.00: The parade inspection at Keskuskenttä football stadium

13.15: Pass-in review along the street Tulliportinkatu

13.30: Independence Day Celebration at Kuopio Music Centre

14.30: War veteran's lunch in the Council Office building

17.00: Firework in the city centre

Fantastic Beasts:

The crimes of Grindelwald

By Joe Shackley, Year 7

Warner Bros have announced a *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* sequel is coming out in cinemas next year on 16.11.18. The film will focus on the rise and defeat of the famous dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald. Credence is alive (who fans thought was killed by his own obscurus form) and Grindelwald has escaped from the M.A.C.U.S.A and is causing havoc again. This film will also possibly feature the famous defeat of Grindelwald. It will definitely be one to watch!

Comment and Opinion

Wath students have their say about the issues facing us all today...

Your planet needs you!

By Elena Cretu, Y7

Humans have destroyed a tenth of Earth's remaining wilderness in the last 25 years (unsurprising, since we're so selfish!) and there may be none left within a century if trends continue, according to an authoritative new study.

Are we to blame?

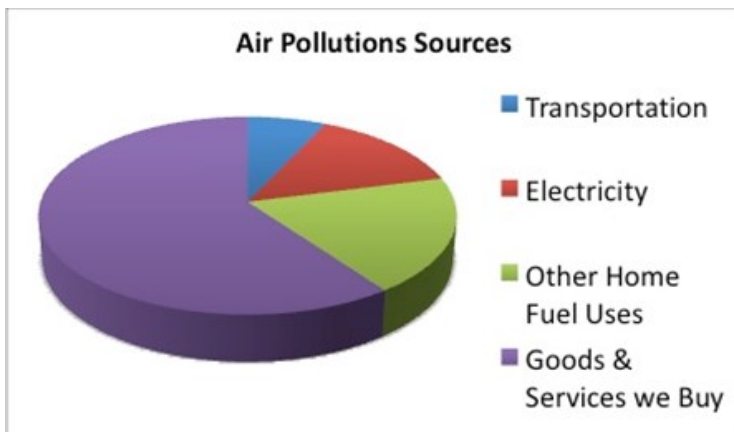
Partly and mainly, yes. Researchers found a vast area the size of Alaska – 3.3 million square kilometres – had been tarnished by human activities between 1993 and today, which experts said was a “shockingly bad” and “profoundly large number”.

What else?

Ever heard about world pollution? Well, yes, what a stupid question to ask! (or maybe you seriously didn't know about it and I'm just offending you right now!)

Just in case you didn't know what it means, it's the (ahm, ahm, humans' fault!) release of fuels into the air. One of the main ones which you might know, is CO₂, or carbon dioxide which has two atoms of oxygen for every carbon atom.

The air pollution sources, as seen in the pie chart:



Most of the things you see in the picture are run by us. Actually, if you think about it, ALL of the things you see there are run by us.

How can we stop this?

Just by publicising the idea could save millions of lives at risk from world destruction. Walking to school helps because car exhausts release carbon dioxide into the air which make it so polluted, and look at the bigger

problem: how many cars are there in the world? The US publisher Ward's estimates that as of 2010 there were 1.015 billion motor vehicles in use in the world. So imagine how many car exhausts!

D'you know what? I think I'm the one doing ALL the research for you! Why don't you do some and email me with what you find. Not only about cars by the way! Anyway, you could also email me on other ideas about how to STOP it! We will publish the best replies next month.

ecretu17@wcs.rotherham.sch.uk

Scientology

By Mya Taylor, Year 12

Scientology is a very peculiar organisation. Scientology is a religion created by L. Ron Hubbard, over a series of years. Hubbard first presented the idea of scientology in his book *Excalibur* in 1938, and by 2003 Hubbard had established a college, a set of followers (Scientologists), a church, many books on Scientology and its surrounding matters, recognition as a religion and recognition in many countries around the world.

The alarming thing about this is how quickly the religion was established and the number of followers – many celebrities and high class people – it got over that time. In the UK, there is said to be 118,000, including 15,000 regular participants, and according to the Church of Scientology, in the past it has claimed as many as 200,000 British members. However, in the 2001 census of England and Wales, which included an optional question about religion, it gave a figure of 1,781 Scientologists, which is significantly less than said by the Church. Some members of the Church include Tom Cruise, John Travolta, Catherine Bell and over 50 other celebrities, to knowledge.

David Miscavige is the second leader of the Church of Scientology. Miscavige assumed the role of church leader after the passing of Hubbard in 1986; prior to this role, he had been a cameraman for Scientology training films; head of the CMO; in charge of the Watchdog Committee and the All Clear Unit, with the task of handling the various

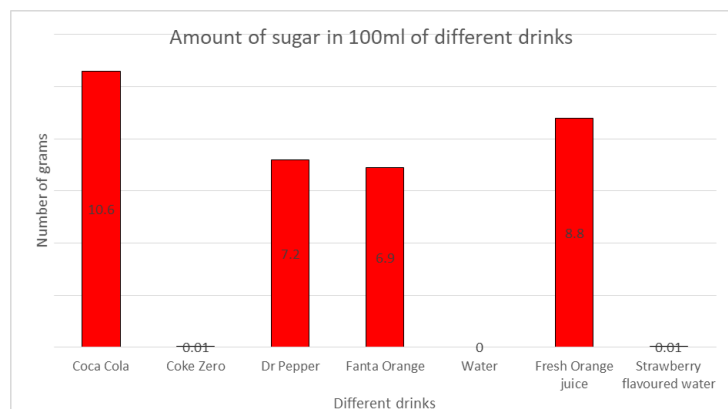
legal claims against Hubbard; in charge of Author Services, Inc., an entity to manage Hubbard's literary and financial affairs; Chairman of the Board of the Religious Technology Centre. Miscavige has apparently got a net worth of around \$50 million, which is a pretty big sum for someone to be paid who works for a non-profit organisation.

It seems a very brief article; however, the reason for this is that there's so little information for "outsiders" on Scientology, which makes us question: what really is Scientology? And what are Scientologists hiding?

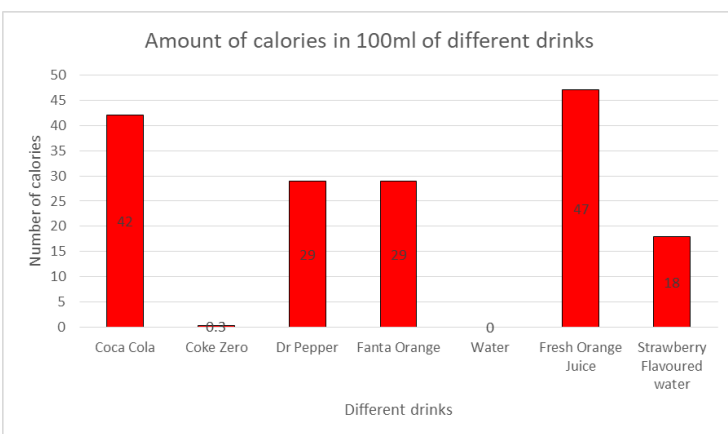
How much sugar is there in our favourite drinks?

By Hari Sukumr, Year 7

We all like lots of different types of drinks. But are all drinks as healthy (unhealthy) as others? We looked at seven favourites (Coca Cola, Coke Zero, Dr Pepper, Fanta, water, fresh orange juice and strawberry flavoured water) to find out!



Now we know how much sugar there is in the drinks, let's see how much energy (Calories) there is in them:



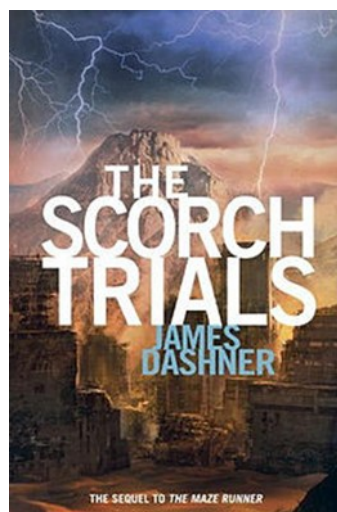
Well then, there you go! A lot of sugar in most of them; however, the amount of calories do vary. Now when you look at Strawberry Flavoured water, for example, it may look good as it doesn't have many calories but the sugar cancels it out!

So, next time you reach for your favourite drink, think!

Book of the Month

The Scorch Trials

Book Review by Ellisia Bowman, Year 7



The Scorch Trails series is a great one, filled with excitement, danger and cliff hangers.

It begins with a young boy, Thomas, taken in by Ava Paige and troops from the organization WICKED,

alongside other abandoned children, after being dropped off by his mother for his own safety.

Years later, shortly after being rescued from the maze, Thomas and the remaining Gladers – Newt, Minho, Teresa, Agnes, Frypan Winston and Jack – are taken to a facility run by Mr. Janson. He explains that the facility is a safe haven, protecting them from WICKED, the Flare virus and the Cranks, and provides them clothes, food, and sanitation, where other survivors of multiple mazes are also present.

Thomas becomes curious about their activities and manages to find out what is really happening behind the closed doors.

The Ashes 2017-18

By Emily Balaiss, Year 10

The England cricket team have packed their bags, collected their sun cream and said g'day to Australia to compete for the Ashes.

The Ashes are a series of five test matches played over seven weeks. The first test started on 23rd November in Brisbane with the last test starting on 4th January in Sydney. In between are games at Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne, the traditional Boxing Day test.

The term 'Ashes' was first used when England first lost to Australia at home, on the 29th August 1882 at the Oval, London. A day later, the Sporting Times carried a mock obituary of English cricket which concluded that: "The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia" (the body being the bails used in the test match). The concept caught the imagination of the sporting public.



Media and Review:

The Kite Runner

Review by Alex Miles, Year 13

Matthew Spangler's stage adaptation of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is currently touring UK theatres. Wath's own Year 13 English Literature students watched the play at Sheffield's renowned Lyceum Theatre, with several students studying the source novel as part of their non-exam assessment.

The play follows the journey of a young Afghan, named Amir, who faces the challenges of a country under increased control from the prejudiced and terrorising Taliban. He flees to freedom in the US with his father – but before long, his dark past catches up with him and drags him back to the conflict he desperately tried to escape.

The cultural representations of Afghanistan and the US were stylish and very well constructed. Music from the



two countries enhanced the experience and the inclusion of a live performer really helped the audience to engage with the setting, a brilliant and unique addition on the production's part. Another quirky, yet effective, component was the fact that Amir, the protagonist, was played by an adult actor despite being a child at the start of the play. This provided a deserved sincerity to the role and also amusement as the man mimicked a child's behaviour early on.

Reaction was positive all around the auditorium, with a standing ovation observed at the culmination of the play.

Year 13 student Bryony Hunt said, "The production was well put together."

"Emotionally captivating," added fellow student Beth Moore.

Overall, the production was enjoyable and mostly true to the novel. The sensitive subjects covered in the play were handled suitably and presented in a way that enabled understanding without being too graphic.

I would recommend the play to anyone who has read the book or has an interest in theatre or culture. It was exciting and insightful providing a great overview of Afghan culture.

Top Ten Beasts from TV and Film

By Jacob Bleu Linney, Year 8

In today's movies you will find a whole varieties of characters from the gun wielding to fire breathing dragons but today I will be talking about the creatures known as beasts so here is my personal list of the top ten beasts enjoy.

1. The Mind Flayer (*Stranger Things 2*)
2. Obscurial (*Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them*)
3. The Demogorgon (*Stranger Things*)
4. Dementors (*Harry Potter*)
5. Werewolves (various films)
6. Smaug (*The Hobbit*)
7. The Kraken (various films)
8. Sarlac (*Star Wars*)
9. Orcs (*Lord of the Rings*)
10. Trolls (various)

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Theatre Spectacular



A Christmas Carol

By Emily Balaiss, Year 10

Wath Comprehensive Performing Arts presents a Charles Dickens classic... *A Christmas Carol!*



the corner, whilst waiting patiently for his father to arrive from work, only a heart like Scrooge's could fail to be moved.

The school took in around £3,000 on ticket sales, making it one of the most popular performances to date.



The moment we were all waiting for finally arrived on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December. The cast had been rehearsing for so long to perform this astonishing play to the primary schools and public. Over three months of hard work and rehearsals went in to make this all possible and, as a member of the cast, I can say that it was truly magnificent.

For those of you who don't know (where have you been?), *A Christmas Carol* is about a grumpy old man named Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by 3 ghosts (the ghost of Christmas past, present and future) to show him the true meaning of Christmas.

A considerable step up from the usual challenge of a pantomime, the play brought out the real quality of all students involved. Standout performances from the two Scrooges (who performed a seamless switch at the interval), Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim (who does not die!) made for a sterling production, and some truly emotional scenes: when Tiny Tim sings *Silent Night* at

Above: spot the difference in the Scrooges; below: Jacob Marley warns Scrooge to change his ways; the huge cast for the play.



Sport Update

Team of the Year: Stats or Popularity?

By Daniel Nutley, Year 7

In recent years, 'Team of the Year' has become very much based on popularity, rather than upon who has actually done the best with their club and country in that year. It doesn't seem fair that players who have been exceptional all year round don't get recognised in the team of the year, just because they aren't as popular as somebody else. So, what happens if we do look at the European players who are, statistically, the best in the year? Disclaimer: the stats and figures in this article are accurate at the time of writing.

First up, here is the *statistical* best eleven of the current season so far.

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So who are the big names in there that you might expect to see in a team of the season?

Well, of course, the main man up front is Lionel Messi. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has 12 goals and 4 assists to his name already this season, in just 13 games in Spain's top division.

Taking the Premier League by storm so far this season with Pep Guardiola's unbeaten Manchester City side, it's Kevin De Bruyne. Having helped Belgium qualify for the World Cup, Kevin De Bruyne has 5 goals and a massive 7 assists in 14 Premier League games so far this season. The previous Chelsea reject has set the league alight since joining the sky blues. With passing, crossing and an eye for goal, he is certainly one of the world's best centre midfielders.

Sticking with the best centre midfielders in the world,

Arturo Vidal also wins a position in this team. The Chilean Bayern Munich player has scored a very impressive 5 goals and acquired 2 assists from the middle of the park in the Bundesliga.

Oh, and how could I forget the £200 million man, Neymar? After ditching Barcelona for PSG in the summer for the huge transfer fee of a reported £200 million, you would expect him to be tearing up Ligue 1. And he is doing just that; with 9 goals and 3 assists in 11 league games, it would be a shock to not see him in there. Despite his young age of 25 years old, Neymar has been in teams of the year ever since he first broke onto the footballing scene.

The same nation and same club as Neymar, Dani Alves is the right back in this stats-based 11. The Brazilian has been consistent throughout a career that is nearing its end. With brilliant crossing, dribbling and passing, the 34-year-old defender is also familiar to previous team of the year awards.

So, who are the other lesser known players that have been performing at such a high level that they have managed to gain a spot in the team?

Another Ligue 1 player who makes the cut is Nabil Fekir. The French forward has certainly started to fill the gap left behind by now Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette, bagging 11 goals and 4 assists in 14 top flight French season games.

Yet another promising French attacker in the Ligue 1 makes the cut in that of Florian Thauvin. The 24-year-old has not only enjoyed a brilliant stint this season but has had an all-round fantastic 2017. The ex-Newcastle man has even been called up to the French national side making his debut in 2017. So what makes him so special? Well, with 8 goals and 7 assists for Marseille, he is definitely a player to watch.

In conclusion, I don't believe that the popular team of the year awards, such as the UEFA one or the Fifpro World 11s, formats should be changed; in fact, I, along with many other football fans, enjoy seeing the popular players win awards. I just think that some players don't get the recognition they deserve or often get overlooked by the big hyped up players.