



# THE TORCH

The Student Newspaper of Wath Academy

Volume 96, Issue 5  
May/June 2019  
Able, Active and Qualified  
wathacademy.com

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## THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE

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By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

I strongly believe that due to the current generation's seeming addiction to technology that not enough people are taking time out of their day to take a walk and enjoy their surroundings or just simply leave our bubble of internet connection. As someone who also frequently uses the internet or technology, it sometimes seems difficult to peel yourself away from screens and do something productive.

Getting enough exercise is a part of a healthy lifestyle, something that is often discounted, instead being replaced with the 'five a day'; this, however, is not that useful by itself. Imagine if you sat at home and gorged on carbohydrates, even though they are a large part of a balanced diet, without going out and

burning off all the calories from it, you will put on more and more weight. Also, exercise can help with the digestion of food.

Another upside of exercise is that it greatly improves mental health: not only can it make you happier, by making your brain more sensitive to hormones (such as serotonin which help with anxiety and depression), it also is proven to help with memory and thinking skills, so going on a walk can sometimes actually clear your head. It has also been linked to relaxation and sleep quality.

In conclusion, exercise offers incredible benefits that can improve nearly every aspect of your health from the inside out; it also helps to increase the production of hormones that make you feel happier and help you sleep better.



### Spring Word Search

Made by Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 8

- |           |         |        |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| ABLOOM    | BREEZY  | GOAT   |
| ACTIVE    | BRIGHT  | GRASS  |
| APRIL     | BUNNY   | KID    |
| AWAKENING | CHEER   | SAKURA |
| BLISSFUL  | CHICKEN | SHEEP  |
| BLOSSOM   | CLOUD   | SPRING |
| BLUE      | EGG     | WARM   |

Return your completed word search to Miss Taylor for a merit.

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

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# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the final half term of the school year, the examination 'season' is well under way. The Year 11 GCSE examinations have already started and a programme of revision sessions will continue to run throughout this period. The A-levels for Y13 students begin in earnest after the half term break; with external examinations then running through until the end of June.

Year 13 began their Study Leave following their final assembly on Friday 17 May. Students gathered with their tutors in the sixth form study area to hear tutors present their awards and Mr Shaw, the Head of Sixth Form, prepare them for their final exams in the sixth form and, indeed, at school. There will be a major celebratory event for Year 13 students on Friday 12 July, when the year group comes together for their 'Summer Ball' at the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield. However, the final event for the year group will be the Presentation Evening, in late December, when all the year group will be invited back to be presented with certificates and awards following the publication of external exam results.

Just before the written examinations started, Year 11 students had a final opportunity to meet together in their own final assembly. This was an occasion where staff and students could share memories from their years together at Wath. Students received certificates and awards in recognition of outstanding attendance and motivation. The awards were interspersed with entertainment items. It should be noted that lessons will continue as normal for Year 11 students, unless there is an exam commitment, as we feel our students will be best served by continuing to work with their teachers, in school, in preparation for those exams. There is also a full revision programme running in school throughout the half-term holiday. The major celebratory event of the year, the Year 11 Prom, will be held after the exams, at Rotherham United's New York Stadium. In addition, Year 11 have their own Presentation Evening, in November, where GCSE certificates and subject prizes for attainment and progress are awarded. The number of applications for Wath Sixth Form from Year 11 students is at their highest ever level.



I would like to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to the contribution Year 11 and Year 13 students have made to the extra-curricular life of the school, and the example they have set to our younger students. There have been significant contributions in terms of sport, music, drama and dance.

I would like to comment on the latest progress data for Year 10, from the last Learning Cycle. I am delighted to report that their 'Progress 8' score – the government's main measure of progress – shows an improvement through the year, currently standing at a significantly positive value. This is for all levels of ability. There are end of year exams for both Year 10 and Year 12 students, for two weeks, from Monday 17 June.

The school has been working hard to develop a culture of excellence in behaviour for learning, with teachers then being able to focus on delivering quality teaching in the classroom. It would not be appropriate for any single student to be able to disturb the learning of others. The introduction of more rapid removal from the classroom and 'next day' detentions has had a significant impact in improving, still further, conduct in school. As a result, the figures recorded at every level in our consequence system have significantly improved this year and we intend to seek even further improvement in this area. Students should carry their 'Conduct Card' with them at all times, which is used to record lateness to lessons, incorrect uniform and inappropriate behaviour in unstructured time, such as break and lunchtime.

Out of the sixteen Local Authority secondary schools, Wath has some of the best attendance figures, with 95% attendance; however, we continue to strive to improve towards our target of 96%. Our young people need to be in school to have the opportunity to learn. Please do keep the Attendance Office advised if there are genuine long-term reasons for absence. Wath is currently experiencing a three-year trend of improving attendance against a national back-drop of declining attendance.

Following a recent survey of parents attending parents' evenings, I am delighted to report that:

- 95% of parents believe their child is happy at Wath
- 98% of parents believe their child feels safe in school
- 98% of parents believe their child is making good progress in school, and
- 99% of parents believe that their child is taught well in school.

Maltby Learning Trust and the Governors of the school have appointed Mr Dale Jackson to the new post of Executive Principal. This new post is intended to give additional strategic leadership to the school as we continue to strive for our students to have the opportunity for further progress. Mr Jackson has a track record of securing outstanding progress for students and will formally take up his appointment on 1 September 2019.

As we plan ahead for the next academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming our prospective Year 7 students to Wath for 3 days between 3 & 5 July. They will get the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school and get a flavour of the range of subjects they can look forward to in September. Similarly, our current Year 11 students who have applied to join the sixth form will be joined by external applicants for their own induction days on 27 & 28 June.

May I offer my very best wishes to all students taking examinations. I am sure that they will reap the rewards they deserve following all their hard work. I would particularly like to thank all the staff for the tremendous amount of time and effort they have given, not only in lessons but also after school, at lunchtimes and in the holidays, in support of our

students. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and dedicated group of staff; I am sure that their efforts are much appreciated by our students and yourselves.

This half term ends at 2.45pm on Friday 24 May and students return at 8.25am on Monday 3 June. A-level examination results will be published, and available in school, on 15 August, with Year 11 examination results on 22 August.

Yours sincerely

J Taylor

Headteacher

## News in Brief

### Visit from Lord Mawson

On Tuesday 14th May, Wath Academy and the Science faculty hosted a visit from Lord Mawson. Lord Mawson came to look at Science lessons and STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). He visited a Y9, Y10 and Y13 group during the afternoon.

Lord Mawson is involved in funding an exciting opportunity for seven Y9 students who will participate in a residential Science visit to London that incorporates many activities, visits to museums and meeting Professor Cox in the summer term.

Well done to all the students who represented the school and spoke with Lord Mawson.

### GCSE Art Competition

GCSE Art students have been involved in a competition to design a feature wall for South Yorkshire Money, as they have recently moved to their new premises on Wellgate in Rotherham. They had a specific brief in mind and a small group of Year 9 and 10 students submitted their ideas.

Michelle at SY Money chose her favourite ones. Megan Hulett in Year 10 was the overall winner and she is now in the process along with 2 other Year 10 students Olivia Storey and Rebeka Brinkus, who are helping to put the design in place. Watch this space for the finished outcome in the next few weeks which will also feature on our Twitter feed: @Wath\_ArtDesTech.

# News, Current Affairs and Opinion:

## Top 8 breeds of dogs 2019

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

This list is for people who love dogs and would like to learn about them or someone who is about to delight in owning a dog. In my opinion, dogs are a loyal, trustworthy species who are great companions. This list is based on the popularity of each dog, according to Crufts (a popular show on Channel 4).

8. German Shepherd – Medium working dog that originated in Germany.
7. Border Collie – A herding and working dog that comes from the Scottish borders.
6. Boxer – A dog that does not work and also came from Germany.
5. Cocker Spaniel – An English gun dog.
4. Springer Spaniel – Like the Cocker Spaniel, it is an English gun dog.
3. Labrador Retriever – A retriever/gun dog.
2. Cockapoo – It is a mixed breed of the Cocker Spaniel and the Poodle.
1. Staffordshire Bull Terrier (Staffie) - The Staffie is one of the dogs people think are 'devil dogs'. Unfortunately, they were used for baiting (using one animal to fight another) so they have got a bad reputation. However, this is not true as they are people-pleasers. This means it will do whatever you want (within reason). In fact, it is the owner that corrupts the dog, so I am proud to say they are number one best breed 2019.

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## The Problem With Global Warming

By Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

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### What is global warming?

Global warming is when gases like carbon dioxide are trapped in the atmosphere and build up until the world begins to warm.

### Why isn't England like Florida, then?

Because the warming isn't like that. It doesn't mean that the weather forecast will say 'Highs of 35°C...' because the warming refers to the 'long term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate'.

### So, what does that mean?

Well, when you hear from Sir David Attenborough that the icebergs are melting into the ocean, rising the average sea level, that's global warming. Just as when you take an ice cube and place it in a tray of water for an hour, the icebergs begin to melt, and the water level rises. It also means that the sun is not reflected off the ice, and away from the planet, as efficiently as it should do, which warms the sea, and then the ice which causes it to melt.

### What produces these evil gases?

As many people know, cows produce a lot of gases (which we have bred!), but how about the damage humans have done over the years? We have burned coal, oil, and trees, buses produce an unbelievable amount of smoke and fumes. For example, if every person in South Yorkshire decided to take a bus, there would need to be around 23217 busses on the road. Would that be much better than investing more into eco-friendly vehicles? You decide.

# Wath Students Speak Out!

## Summer Arrived Early!

Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 8

Yes, it may be a sign of global warming, but there's lots of sunshine outside so get up and play something outside. Things that you can do outside:

- Go and swim!
- Play some outside sports
- Eat ice cream / lollies
- Sit down doing nothing
- Go outside with your friend
- BBQing

Please try to enjoy the early summer and do the best you can to not regret it!

## The Royal Baby

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

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The newest addition to the royal family has recently been born: Archie, the Queen's eighth grandchild and Meagan and Harry's first child. He was born in the early morning of the 6th of May, weighing 7lbs 3oz.

The ceremonial easel was placed outside Buckingham Palace the day he was born, a tradition that has been carried out for years.

There has been some controversy over Archie's name, as people saying that it is too informal and will ruin the royal blood as he is seventh in line to the throne. Others argue that it is appropriate for a royal family bringing themselves up-to-date in the 21st century.

## Snakes: Underrated Pets

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

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*A baby corn snake: ideal for first time snake owners.*

Many people are afraid of the cute little snake. Others love them. If you are part of the latter group, do find a minute to check out 'Exotics Lair' on YouTube: I find it quite entertaining (but be aware: there are lots of snakes and tarantulas!).

This article is on how to care for snakes. If you want one or if you're just fascinated with them, this article is for you.

For starters, you actually need one in order to look after it! The best snakes for beginners are the corn snakes and the royal python. Snakes should be kept in a vivarium, a special enclosed cage with glass doors. Then you need the food. Most people use frozen, thawed rodents such as mice. They also need water so make sure you have a small unbreakable dish.

However, there are different snakes with different requirements so make sure you do your research!

### THE TORCH Journalists

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

Thanks also to Mr Bishop (online content), Miss Perry (proofreading) and Miss Taylor (proofreading).

**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.**



## Top 7 Draco Malfoy Quotes

By Alexandra Cook, Year 7

As a Slytherin, I adore Draco. He may seem quite arrogant but he was pressured by Voldemort and his father. So, I have done the top 7 best quotes from Draco.

1. 'Honestly, if you were any slower, you'd be going backwards.' (*Chamber of Secrets*)
2. 'Longbottom, if brains were gold, you'd be poorer than Weasley, and that's saying something.' (*Philosopher's Stone*)
3. 'Well, no one really knows until they get there, do they, but I know I'll be in Slytherin, all our family have been – imagine being in Hufflepuff, I think I'd leave, wouldn't you?' (*Philosopher's Stone*)
4. 'Yes, exactly. I heard he's a sort of savage – lives in a hut in the school grounds and every now and then he gets drunk, tries to do magic and ends up setting fire to his bed.' (*Philosopher's Stone*)
5. 'You know how I think they choose people for the Gryffindor team? [...] It's people they feel sorry for. See, there's Potter, who's got no parents, then there's the Weasleys, who've got no money – you should be on the team, Longbottom, you've got no brains.' (*Philosopher's Stone*)
6. 'Ah, look, boys, it's the champion,' he said to Crabbe and Goyle, the moment he got within earshot of Harry. 'Got your autograph books? Better get a signature now, because I doubt he's going to be around much longer... half the Triwizard champions have died... how long d'you reckon you're going to last, Potter? Ten minutes into the first task's my bet.' (*Goblet of Fire*)
7. 'Look at this!' said Malfoy in ecstasy, holding up Ron's robes and showing Crabbe and Goyle. 'Weasley, you weren't thinking about wearing these, were you? I mean – they were very fashionable in about 1890...' (*Goblet of Fire*)

I, for one, don't agree with half of these but we have got to give credit for these nasty burns! OUCH!

## Avengers Endgame Review

Grace Clowrey, Year 8

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WARNING - CONTAINS SPOILERS

Avengers Endgame, released in cinemas on April 25th, is the end to a 22-movie long sequence starting with the release of Iron Man in 2008. After Infinity War decimated the universe, with half of the characters turning into dust, Endgame follows the survivors as they embark on an epic quest to bring back their friends and family and defeat Thanos once and for all. I thought the movie was full of plot twists and much-loved characters dying left and right. I thought that the emotional demises of certain heroes were upsetting and if you are going to see the film, I would advise you to bring some tissues! Also, with a 182 minute runtime – the longest Marvel film in history - I would also advise you to buy some snacks and drinks. It is an emotional ride and a satisfying conclusion to a famous series. However, if you have seen the movie, DON'T SPOIL IT! The great plot twists in this movie are ruined if you know what will happen and which characters die!

What do you think about this epic conclusion?

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# Creative Writing

## The Risks We All Take

A short story by Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

Let me introduce myself. My name is Francis, I'm no-one special, not to the naked eye. I go to a school in Georgia. My life is good. My parents both have great jobs, and I'm getting a great education. But, sometimes, my life can be in danger.

When I arrive at school, I have to go through a special check-in to prove that I am an official student. Not just anyone can come to this school. What would happen if someone 'false' joined, then spread rumours and secrets about us all? The entire school system would be closed forever, the news reporters would flood everyone who ever went there; it would be a travesty.

When I get through the gates and the checking sites, I enter some grand doors, which lead into the main hall, where all the students gather when the headteacher has an announcement. The school day officially begins at 10:30 am, but I always have to arrive at nine, so I wait around and talk to my teachers. My school day always starts with a lesson on H.I.D.A training.

Not many other people have as many Highly-Intelligent-Deployable-Abilities (H.I.D.A for short) as I do, which makes me feel extra-ordinary. Most of the students have one or two, but I went to the health office in school one day when I was still quite new.

"How will I need to help you today?" one of the medics, Hilda, asked me.

"I think there's something wrong with me," I said, as my eyes burned, and my entire body shook and ached. "My entire body hurts, and it feels like my eyes are in lava."

"Alright, well, what H.I.D.A do you have, Francis?" she queried, as she tried to calm me. I explained everything, and she told me to read something, which I couldn't, because my eyes were as swelled as a balloon, and were watering more than the Amazon. I

wanted to tear them out of my head, thinking that would make it better.

"Francis, you see, you thought you had one Ability, but, in fact, you have four," she said, slowly, waiting for me to nod to show my understanding. "You can indeed fly, but you can also metamorphosize, see through things, and become invisible."

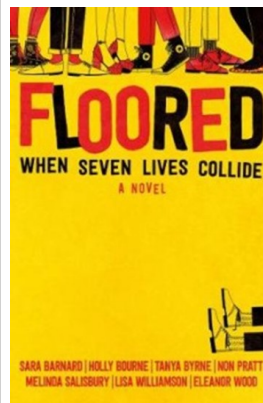
This discovery shocked me to the core. When I asked what I could do to stop the pain, she told me to use the H.I.D.A. Thankfully, I can now control them perfectly. It still hurts sometimes, but less.

Goodnight. For how long? I might never return. It depends what happens to me. And the risks we all take...

## Book of the Month

*Floored*

Reviewed by Emily Rodgers, Year 7



This book has been written in a unique way, its narrative alternating between the six characters, with each voice actually being crafted by a different author. The plot line is also very interesting, as the entire book split into several acts, each set a year apart, people with their own problems and troubles.

The premise is that they all meet in a lift, hence the title 'Floored': an unfortunate accident causes them to all meet consistently for the next few years.

Overall, I cannot say much about it, because most things in this book, even small details, can be massive spoilers, and reveal major plot points too soon, but I would definitely recommend reading this book; it is one of my favourites. From the individual way it was written to the character development and redemption arcs, it is a clever and amazing book.

# Sport Update

## Leaving Europe - Not for Everyone

By Daniel Nutley, Year 10

Amid confusion as to whether and when Britain will leave the European Union, one thing is for certain: English football teams will do anything, and I mean anything, to stay in Europe.

Starting with the *crème de la crème* of European football: the UEFA Champions League. Of the back of Liverpool's great stint in the competition last year, even more English teams have been desperate to grasp the competition for 2019. We currently know who is in the final but let's explain how it came to be an all English final: Tottenham Hotspur vs Liverpool.

One thing is certain about football, nothing is certain! Squeezing into the semi-finals by way of a disallowed 90th minute goal for Manchester City, Spurs' reward was far from a gift: they were to face European giants Ajax. The Netherlands side's had an incredible season, domestically and in Europe. Their young talents had been catching the eye of the European elite with Frankie de Jong securing a pre-contract to play for Barca following the end of the season.

Spurs had a huge task on their hands and after the first leg, which was played on the 30th of March, it was an even bigger one! They lost the first leg of the tie 1-0 to an early strike from forward Van de Beek. However, as you already know, Spurs did make it to the final so how so? Little over a week after their first defeat, the North London side travelled to the Johan

Cruyff arena in the Netherlands to try and pull off a miraculous comeback. After the first half, it looked like Ajax would seal the deal, leading 2-0 on the night with an aggregate score of 3-0. But Mauricio Pochettino's side were not to lie down without a fight, and 2 goals in rapid succession from Brazilian forward Lucas put Tottenham back in reaching distance of the final in Madrid. Eventually their third goal came, completing Lucas' hat-trick and putting Tottenham into the Champions League final for the first time in the club's history.

On to the other English side in the final, Liverpool—whose matchup was surely more simple? Far from it! The Scousers travelled to the Catalan giant's Camp Nou to have 3 goals go past them, scoring none themselves. So this meant that to progress to the final Liverpool would have to win 4-0 against the Spanish giants—impossible, surely? Think again! Liverpool's hardworking mentality outclassed the Spanish side and they came out overall winners with 2 goals being scored by midfielder Gini Wijnaldum and the other 2, one very late on, were scored by make shift forward Divock Origi.

So there you have it: we will have an English European winner for 2019, the final to be decided on 1st June at Atlético Madrid's ground. In fact, there will be two, as the Europa League final is also a full-English with the two Londoners to face off: Chelsea vs Arsenal.

