



THE TORCH

wathacademy.com/torch [f @wathacademy](#) [@wath_academy](#) [@WathAcademy](#)

Wath Student Newspaper
Volume 99, Issue 6
July/August 2022
Meliora Spectare

SUMMER IS UNDER WAY!



📷 A perfect time to head to the beach with a bucket and spade. Photograph by Jessica M, Year 7.

Isobel R, Year 8

With the arrival of July, and temperatures reaching around 30 degrees, I think we can all agree that summer is well under way! As temperatures climb in this summer heatwave, remember to keep hydrated and check in on loved ones who might be more vulnerable, such as the very old and the very young. Don't spent too long out in direct sun—no matter how strong the temptation to get a suntan!

It's been busy for many of our students; there has been a trip to Wimbledon for our Year 7 and 8

students, an exciting few days in Naples for some pupils in Years 9 and 10, as well as many day trips. The Year 7s also visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the Year 8s had a HEPP workshop about higher education in Sheffield University, some of our top set students in younger years won the final maths competition and a Hackathon at Sheffield Hallam University was enjoyed by some Year 10s and 8s.

We hope to continue to provide all these wonderful trips next year, but, for now, just enjoy your summer!

Message from the Principal

15 July 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

This time last year, we wrote to parents on the back of a challenging year which included periods of lockdown. We wrote that we were looking forward to post Covid-19 times when we could welcome back important aspects of school life like enrichment, school trips and whole school events. I'm pleased to say that despite ongoing challenges posed by Covid-19 around illness and isolations, we have managed to have a year which is far more representative of what we envisaged.

School Trips

We have been able to recommence school trips, including overseas visits. It has been amazing to hear of the experiences that our students are taking advantage of when engaging with this important part of our curriculum. In planning for next year, we are looking to share a calendar that details the school trips on offer for the year. This will allow families to plan forward both financially and logistically to ensure that this aspect of our curriculum is open to all students. Our aim is for all students to experience a school trip each year and we are passionate about finding ways to make this happen.

School Events

Whole school events such as the Christmas Dinner, Sports Day and the Academy Awards, among many others have brought about a real community feel around the academy. These are, in our opinion, truly special events that showcase what our academy is really about. The positive school memories borne out of these events will hopefully last a lifetime for our students and community. The feedback we have received around these events from students and parents/carers has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to making these even bigger and better next year.



Year 11 and 13 exams

This year we have embarked on the first external examination season since 2019. The Year 11 and 13 cohorts have had their education significantly disrupted in recent years; however, you would not have known this given their effort and commitment over the exam season. It was a very challenging time for our students but their enthusiasm and the positive momentum they gathered was palpable. We are looking forward to celebrating their results with them during the summer.

PCAB

We have continued to work closely with parents who are on our Parent & Community Advisory Board. This group have shared ideas, challenges and their input with leaders at the academy and from this, we have been able to further adapt and improve systems and routines at the academy. The group will continue to work closely with the academy and we look forward to our first meeting post September. I'd like to personally thank all members of the group for their invaluable contributions.

Recruitment

I'm delighted to inform you that we are fully staffed for September. We have recruited 15 new teaching staff who will join us in the new academic year. We have also made a number of internal promotions which have placed exceptional staff in positions of greater influence. We are excited to see the positive impact that these staff members will have on our students.

Academy Progression

This year, we have engaged with a number of internal and external audits with a view to gaining feedback on how we can continually improve. We have received extremely positive feedback in audits and reviews around safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium provision and Teaching & Learning. The academy is making significant strides forward and it is a truly exciting time to be part of the Wath Academy community. We are absolutely passionate about delivering exceptional learning experiences and we remain relentless in our desire to ensure the community has an academy they can be proud of. We will continue to work hard on all aspects of the academy in pursuit of our vision.

This year have been extremely positive. We have been faced with many challenges but staff and students have risen to the occasion every time. We are very proud of their achievements this year: there are simply too many to mention!

Thank you for your ongoing support. Without this, the academy would be much weaker and unable to progress and improve at the rate it is doing. I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

For information, Years 7 and Year 12 are expected to be at the academy for 08:20 on Friday 2nd September with all other students then returning on Monday 5th September at 08:20. Year 7 and Year 8 will continue to enter the academy via the gates at Festival Road whilst all other students should enter through reception.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome

Principal

Spanish Updates

Year 7 Spanish Fun



Students in 7L4 and 7T1 have been working brilliantly in teams recently. They were involved in a classroom game that required them to create translations with coloured paper, which they then used to create amazing paper chains.



Year 8 Guest Speakers

Students in Year 8 were invited to attend a short presentation led by two French native speakers, Lola and Lisa, who have learnt English and Spanish as foreign languages. The presentation was in Spanish and students had the opportunity to ask questions and really have enjoyed it!

A Letter from the Editor...

If you consider the back editions of *The Torch* from the last eight years, you will find a scattering of articles without by-lines, quick space-fillers I have written as editor of *The Torch*. That about sums up my editorial approach: if it wasn't written by a student, it doesn't get the credit. So it comes as a nice change to write something and give it proper attribution, although this is a sad article as well, as I am announcing my departure from Wath.

There are always 'push' and 'pull' factors for any decision to hand in a resignation letter. I wish to focus on what 'pulls' me away, though I also want to assure you all: no student at Wath could ever be a 'push' factor. I wouldn't have stayed here eight years if I didn't love working with you and seeing you achieve.

My main motivation can be summed up with a single word: time. Those of you who know me well will know that I have been writing a novel for the last eight years. I came to the end of the first draft in 2019, knowing there was substantial work to be done, which might have – if I had continued at the same rate – taken another eight years to complete. Then the pandemic occurred in 2020, and six months later, the second draft was done. The pandemic clarified two things: firstly, it sharpened my sense of my own mortality (how I might not have another eight years to expend), and secondly, that I can achieve when I have the time.

I went to part-time this year and have been successful to a point in that the third draft is complete and I'm preparing the fourth draft for submission. Yet, there is still a long journey ahead and this job saps the time it needs. Stephen King chose to leave teaching to pursue his writing; I've now reached a point in my own life where I can't leave it on the backburner any longer. I need to prioritise it. I need to see what I can do when I put everything into it.

It's a gamble and maybe it won't pay off, but it's one of the main reasons why I am leaving.

Next year, Mr Bishop will take over the running of the

newspaper, so the 'torch' will keep burning. The journalists here have made me so proud over the years and I'm sad to not make it to the hundredth year of the school newspaper. Yet, I firmly believe that we must all chase after our dreams, because if we don't, we will never realise them.

I'd like to thank all the amazing writers over the years for their contributions to *The Torch*. Every edition, every year, you have approached the task with enthusiasm and integrity, conducting yourself with professionalism and diligence in anything you have been required to do. Even a pandemic couldn't stop *The Torch* (with online meetings and digital copies), and I'm sure you will achieve great things in future. Several writers have already gone on to pursue careers in journalism, which makes me proud.

Particular thanks this year go to our current journalists: Harry Chadwick, Evie Whitehead, Jessica Moore, Alex Vince, Daniel Gabor, Charlie Gornall, Igrayne Whitlam, Isobel Robertson, Isobelle Fenton, Elliott Rodgers, Abigail Germany, and Mya McVeigh-Judd. Thanks also to writers from previous editions this year: Sophie Bradley, Freya Wilby, Scarlett Bailey, Ruby Leach, Evie Germany, Isobelle Clowrey, Alex Cook, Annabel Pearson, Maxx Hutchinson, Lewis Helliwell, Matthew Dickinson, Aidan Jennings, Emily Shentall and Liv Smith.

Further thanks to Mr Bishop for all his work with the online archive, and to Miss Perry for always being on hand to proofread, no matter how much other marking she has! Thanks, too, to all the teachers who have been involved behind the scenes this year: Miss Taylor, Mrs Thompson, Mr McHale, Mrs Cunningham, Ms Stocks, Mrs Heselden, Miss Dungworth, Mrs Smith, Mr Thompson, Mr Omidi, Miss Thacker, Mrs Laite, Miss Goulty, Miss Powell and Miss Ponce.

I will look back at the online archive we have curated with fond memories.

May the future be bright in everything you do.

Miss Taylor

Welcome the New Heads of Houses

The end of the year always marks new change, as staff come and go. Three new Heads of House have been appointed in the last few weeks and Evie W (Year 7), Charlie G (Year 7), Isobelle F (Year 10) and Elliott R (Year 10) went to catch up with them about their new posts...

Miss Goulty

Miss Goulty, the new head of Athens, thinks she was chosen to replace the old Head of House because Mrs Cunningham has been training her all year for the role. Miss Goulty's strategies for upcoming tournaments is keep doing what we are doing and 100% participation for all House events. Miss Goulty thinks her style is similar to Mrs Cunningham's, who is competitive and has high expectations like Miss Goulty. Ignoring all logistical problems, the event Miss Goulty would want to happen is to go out on a big PGL weekend away with houses and competitions to see who wins the most points. If Miss Goulty could have any two characters meet from any two storylines, she would have meet Annabeth from *Percy Jackson* and Ginny Weasley from *Harry Potter* because they are strong, independent women and they would have debates about magic, Greek mythology and feminism.

Mrs Lines

Mrs Lines is taking over from Mr Woodward for Troy's house. She believes her passion shone through in her interview, and that made her a key candidate for the job. Also, in school, she was in Troy, so she believes that she has the experience and lifetime dedication to be the only true choice. To help her succeed in the tournaments, she will encourage participation from all Trojan students, she will build relationships with all the house to encourage people to help, and she will persuade them to come to events by offering rewards for participation, and maybe even one for winning. She feels Mr Woodward was a great leader, and she hopes to be able to build on his passion and enthusiasm for the house. She will take Troy to the next level, and she has big dreams for where Troy will

reach in the future. She would love for the whole school to play laser tag, with all staff and students joining in. Points could be awarded for most opponents tagged, and last man standing prizes. This could be an end of year house event, and it would give everyone at Wath Academy the chance to bond, have a good laugh, and a little bit of fear. Lastly, if any two people could meet, she would have Mo Farah and Usain Bolt compete for the title of Best Runner. She also suggested that they should join in with the laser tag competition and believed that both runners could have qualities that give them a good chance of winning. She wanted Mo Farah in Troy, as she believes his long-distance runner endurance could help, while she placed Usain Bolt in Sparta, saying that his famous speed could help him chase anyone fleeing the laser, but that he would not have the endurance to be able to last as long as Farah.

Miss Powell

Miss Powell will be taking over from Mrs King as the new head of Thebes. She has a real passion for the house system and she always tries to get students to participate. She definitely has a competitive streak, too! Her strategy for winning is all about engagement and teamwork—she's determined to get everyone working as a team, participating, to get those crucial points. She hopes to follow in Mrs King's footsteps in terms of her enthusiasm with the students, and she would also love to see more staff from Thebes cheering on students at Friday events. She wants students to have the same passion at House events as they do in Science Club, which she also runs. She would love to see a whole House residential where members of Thebes (staff and students) could complete team building exercises and create lots of positive school memories from extraordinary experiences. She is a huge Marvel fan, but she also has a major soft spot for *Harry Potter*, so she thinks it would be entertaining to watch Severus Snape and Tony Stark (Iron Man) meet—their sarcasm would be pure comedic gold!

Updates from Wath Academy

Student Council Update

By Isobelle R, Year 8

Our student leaders have been meeting more recently to discuss our plans for the next school year. We have been focusing on the environment and are really looking forward to implementing our plans in September.

Recycling bins will hopefully be installed in each classroom, they will be properly labelled (with an eye-catching design by a few of our students) so you know where to put all your recyclable rubbish. We have also had meetings with representatives from various different companies that have advised us on how to become an eco-school (our main aim for the next few years).

Since the last update, our new members have settled in very well, they are great additions to our team-thank you for all your new ideas. We would also like to thank the Year 13s who recently left the school (and council) behind after all their A-Levels; they all contributed hugely to our school and it won't be the same without them.

We look forward to the next school year in which we will implement our plans. We hope you all make use of the bins next year and help in our journey to become an eco school! Have a nice summer, the student council of Wath Academy looks forward to welcoming you back next year!

Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Charlie G, Year 7

On 30th June, roughly 124 students from Year 7 went to Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

After a long 45 minutes we arrived at the park to see many animals (and even animatronic type things). There were 3 polar bears and other animals.

Personally, my favourites were the wallabies and this was because they are really cute.

Careers' Day

Sophie B, Year 7

Careers' Day was an amazing event for every year group, which took place on 15th July 2022, alongside Work Shadowing Day, where students had a chance to learn about careers by joining their parents or carers in work.

In school, the main focus for Year 7 was around teamwork. They first took part in a lesson that consisted of learning about the best qualities that everyone must have to get a job. They then ranked the jobs that had the most teamwork in them.

After this, Year 7 did a Geography lesson (with their tutors) on what sustainability is and how it will help us in the future. The actual definition of sustainability is avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.

After lunch, Year 7 was faced with a dilemma in which the whole of Wath had been destroyed and they had to try and figure out how to build their town in the most sustainable and economical way.

Students were placed into groups to solve the dilemma, and there was four people per team. Each person took on a role from the following:

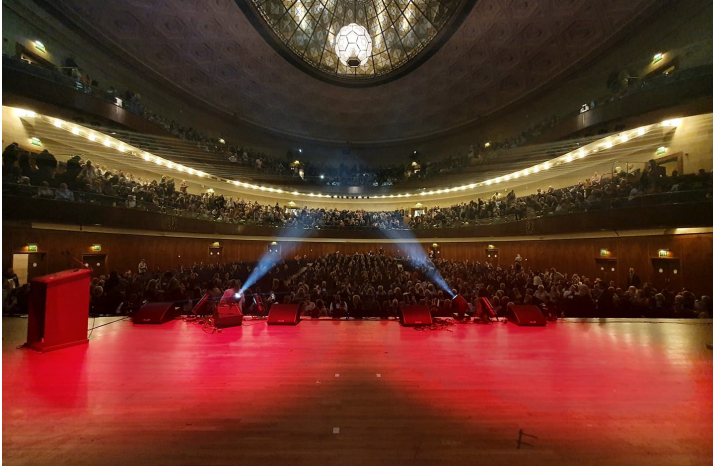
- Architect: This person was tasked to design the rebuilding of the town.
- Graphic designer: This person made a poster advertising the new town.
- Illustrator: This person designed the town's logo.
- Project manager: This person made a speech about what the town was going to be like and was in charge of speaking for the other members of the group.

At the end of all the groups' speeches, the winning team was selected for each tutor group and that was based on how well their speech and acting was. All of the tutors had an amazing time organising it all, and I hope that all the year groups enjoyed it.

Wath Celebrates in Style

The Academy Awards

By Isobel R, Year 8



On 6th July, Sheffield City Hall hosted our first ever Awards Evening. Many parents, carers, family members, friends and students attended and very much enjoyed their evening. Over 300 awards were presented by our incredible celebrity guest, Mark Labbett, making for an incredible night—not to forget the performances in between acts, which went down very well with the audience.

With musicians, singers, actors and more performing in between the presentations, the night was one to remember. In addition to this, we had many sponsors of the awards who enjoyed their time in the VIP room, being entertained by some of our best pianists. Despite some technical difficulties (which the performers dealt with wonderfully) and many being tired after a long day of rehearsals, the evening went swimmingly, and will certainly not be forgotten. Thank you to all who attended and congratulations to all the award winners!



Stylish Send-Off: Y11 Prom



On 1st July, 200 Year 11 students arrived in lavish style at Wentworth Woodhouse for their much anticipated prom. The selection of food, music and impressive scenery at the stately home ensured a great time was had by all.

Voting took place on the night to determine who would be awarded the elusive sash and the winners included:

- Prom King - Ethan Bruce
- Prom Queen - Maddie Helliwell
- Best Dressed 1 - Abbie Hampshire
- Best Dressed 2 - Musa Muleya
- Most Inspiring - Sienna Thorpe
- Top Joker - Bradley Bamford
- Most Improved - Jack Brookes

We hope to see many of you back in Year 12!



Year 13 Summer Ball

Thursday 7th July was a special day for the class of 2022, who were never able to enjoy a Year 11 Prom, due to the global pandemic. Year 13 students reunited outside the Crown Plaza Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield city centre, which has hosted the Year 13 Prom for a number of years.



The warm summer's evening provided the perfect conditions for students (and staff) to meet and mingle outdoors, catch up after their two weeks away from Wath, and admire each others' fine dresses and splendid suits.

Inside, guests received a free non-alcoholic drink, and

they were treated to a three course meal, which consisted of mac 'n' cheese, chicken or a vegetarian tart, and a yummy chocolate brownie for dessert. Between courses, they were kept entertained by a magician who went from table to table to perform card tricks.

The treats didn't stop there, either. All guests received a magnetic bookmark and a charm bracelet, and there was also a free photobooth with the opportunity to try out inflatable guitars and mics, silly wigs and masks in order to receive a printed momentum from the night in a matter of moments.

After the meal, Mr Barlow gave a brief speech, outlining his pride in the Year 13 cohort, and it then fell to Miss Slasor to announce the serious matter who were the winners of the Prom Awards.

Award winners included Joby Spencer (Class Clown), Jack Humphries (Hardest Worker), Alicia Higginbottom (Most Inspirational) and Ethan Corbett (Worst Driver). Ellis Neal secured Loudest Voice in Sixth Form—with a landslide majority—while Owen Kendell and Olivia Townsend were selected as Male and Female Most Likely to Win *Love Island* respectively. Next came the timely award of Most Likely to be Prime Minister (Tanasia Housley—who is sure to do a much better job than the previous title holder), Best Dressed Male (Joseph Dalton) and finally, Best Dressed Female (Eve Johnson).

Formalities over, all that remained was to hit the dance floor. Classic hits like the 'Macarana' and 'Cha Cha Slide' soon had many students on their feet, partying in true Wath-style.

Huge thanks to Mrs Potts who has been the organisational mastermind behind so many things for Year 13, and good luck to all our leavers—you have proved yourselves unstoppable in the last few years.

📷 Top to bottom, left to right: a range of beautiful dresses; various staff members joined the Year 13s to celebrate; enjoying their non-alcoholic mocktails. Page 9, top to bottom, left to right: celebratory balloons spinning through the years; stunning gown; boogying on the dance floor; the Sixth Form colours; voting slips; table service; table plan; enjoying the gardens; mingling in the atrium; more dancing; smiles all round. Photographs: Mr Bishop.



Wath Students Get Active

Sponsored Walk



This year's annual school sponsored walk, which took place on Friday 8th July, fell on a gloriously hot day. Students headed from the school gates around midday to form positive school memories as they chatted and walked, all in the name of raising funds to support Stevie T in Year 7, who was diagnosed with CLN3 Batten disease in 2018. Sponsorship money will be used to make her home more suited to her needs, and we are also wanting to give a donation to the Batten Disease Family Association. All students were brilliant on the walk, but Max in Y7 deserves an extra special mention. Not only did he complete the walk, he also took his own carrier bag to collect litter left by the public around Hooper and Newhill Park.



Sports Day

On 14th July, the entire Wath cohort participated in a whole school Sports Day. The day was split into two halves, with Key Stage 4 involved in tutor activities in the morning, such as spot the difference, an escape room and build a bridge, while Key Stage 3 were out on the field for track and field events (such as sprints, high jump and javelin), followed by group rounders. After lunch, the two key stages swapped to the other activities. Each event was a brilliant chance for students to gather points for their houses, as well as creating positive memories for the future.



News and Politics

Boris resigned but what will happen to his cat?

By Harry C, Year 7



 Larry by [Parrot of Doom](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Thursday 7th July was a day of high drama as Prime Minister Boris Johnson has resigned, saying "it is painful to leave". Now he will have to pack up his things from 10 Downing Street and leave. The only problem is now that he has left, what will happen with his cat Larry?

What I know is that Larry lives at 10 Downing Street and is one of the only 'people' to ever go in. When Johnson leaves Downing Street, the cat will presumably have to leave too, but who would want to live with Johnson? Even the cat knows how terrible he is.

Luckily, it is not his cat; it was revealed to me that Larry is a stray cat rescued and brought into Downing Street. This makes it where he lives. So let's hope whoever takes over at the new Conservative Prime Minister has no cat allergies!

Assassination of Shinzo Abe

By Elliott R, Year 10

On Friday 8th July, former PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe sadly passed away in hospital after being shot during a political campaign event for the upcoming parliamentary election.

While delivering a speech for the Liberal Democrat Party, the gunman, named as Tetsuya Yamagami, shot Abe twice, later being apprehended by authorities as he tried to flee the scene. It is believed that this man acted alone, as he held a grudge against a 'specific organisation' that Shinzo Abe was directly involved

with. After a raid on the shooter's house, authorities found several other handmade guns, similar to the one Abe was shot with, alongside explosives, later advising other residents in the area to evacuate.

Public outcry followed the shooting, with the hashtag 'We want Democracy, Not Violence' trending after the event. Many were shocked at the apparent lack of security at the event, with pictures being released after Abe's death showing the shooter stood within metres of him, with his weapon clearly on display to the camera.

This death has come as a great shock. Gun violence is extremely rare in Japan due to their strict gun laws, with handguns being banned entirely and rigorous mental health tests having to be undergone before any weapon is sold. Nowadays, acts of political violence are incredibly unheard of across all of Japan and this is a huge loss for the country and their politics.

The Wallpaper Factory

The Wallpaper Factory is a Sway "website" created by Wath students which supplies a wide range of wallpapers, some of which are original. You can get customised wallpapers if you go to the home page and click the link which says "Background Form" or you can go to the "Contact" page which is at the end of the gallery.

This company supplies over 200 breath-taking wallpapers but if you want to add more wallpapers, you can go to the contact page and request an image. On the beginning of the homepage, there are numerous links, each cover a particular theme or brand; again, a wide number of these are original, meaning that you can get one step closer to finding your ideal wallpaper.

The following is the link to The Wallpaper Factory:
<https://sway.office.com/rWPWrRnFDJRWgCFF?ref=Link>

Enjoy!



Media Round Up: The Latest

Amber Heard Speaks out on “unfair representation” on the media

Mya M-J, Year 10

After Johnny Depp won his defamation lawsuit against Amber Heard, being rewarded with \$15 million, Heard later spoke out on the “hate” she received during and after the case. Heard’s domestic abuse claim was determined as false and slanderous—yet she continues to call out the support of Depp that outweighed her own, leading to harsh criticism and hatred against her credibility in social media.

For six weeks, the case of defamation has been fought over in US Virginia. After two days of discussion, jurors concluded that Heard’s claims on her marriage was “false,” thus leading to greater support for Depp. On 1st June, Depp officially won this case. Yet, Ms Heard was also awarded \$2 million in drastic damages due to allegations of Depp’s attorney’s defamation against Heard.

On Tuesday 5th July, Amber Heard called for a new libel trial against Depp due to losing the previous million-dollar lawsuit. She claims that there was not enough evidence to support the judgement by the court; she further claims that previous case verdict was considered “excessive” and wishes to call a new trial. Her lawyers are expressing that Ms Heard wants an investigation in “improper juror service,” Yet, on the contrary, Johnny announces that he is “feeling good and positive” after the verdict—and a video on Twitter has spread over social media of Depp expressing his thrill for winning his case as he exclaims, “Oh thank you—I’m still in shock a little.” However, whether this peace will last, purely depends on whether Amber gets her second case to malign her ex-husband.

Doctor Taylor Alison Swift

Abigail G, Year 10

If your diagnosis is “I-need-a-song-with-awesome-lyrics-itis”, then she’s the doctor for you!

The Swifties went wild in March when Taylor announced that she would be receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts by New York University, rewarded due to her



 Taylor Swift album art. Photograph: Abigail G, Year 10.

unwavering commitment and contributions to the music industry, and would be giving a speech at the ceremony. As usual, the fans couldn’t believe they hadn’t seen this coming; in a 2016 ‘73 Questions with *Vogue*’ interview, Taylor shared that she wanted an honorary doctorate degree because Ed Sheeran had one, and she felt he looked down on her because she didn’t. After much anticipation, on May 18th, the 32-year-old phenomenon delivered a 25-minute speech to the huge audience of 2020, 2021 and 2022 graduates, who were all crammed into New York Stadium as a large-scale commencement to compensate for the ceremonies lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the event, Swift released a “get ready with me” TikTok where she flaunted her NYU purple graduation gown, styling this with the usual red lipstick and some leopard-print heels. The artist included clips of her riding in the back of the car and some sweet footage of her proud father taking photos of her on the big day.

We got the first glimpse of Taylor in NYU’s live stream at 2 hours, 13 minutes as she followed the band of drummers and bagpipers in front, waving at her adoring audience as she walked, occasionally flashing peace signs.

After a few speeches from other well-deserving honorary doctorates, it was finally time for the much-anticipated moment: Taylor’s speech. Jason King – Chair of the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music – introduced the subject with the two words “Taylor

Celebrity News and Gossip

Swift”, resulting in an eruption of cheers from the adoring crowd. King then went on to describe a long list of Swift’s contributions to the music industry, as well as the humanitarian acts her music has advocated and influenced. Of course, despite this list being endless, everyone was aware that this was only a mere snippet of the artist’s achievements.

The limelight then switched to the 16th President of New York University: Andrew D. Hamilton, who gave a short speech before Taylor received her sash, making her an official doctor. However, this transition wasn’t without a struggle, as the gigantic crowd of Swiftie graduates hardly allowed the President to speak a word without overpowering his amplified voice with the sound of their excited cheers.

The audience were thrilled when Taylor finally took to the stage, beginning with the joke, “Hi, I’m Taylor. Last time I was in a stadium this size, I was dancing in heels and wearing a glittery leotard. This outfit is much more comfortable.” When she finished, thanking everybody in sight (so considerate) for such an honour, the artist cracked another joke, saying, “As for me, I am ninety percent sure the main reason I’m here is because I have a song called ‘22”, resulting in a cheer from the crowd who appeared to be very familiar with the hit single which reached the top ten in the charts of countries worldwide.

Taylor then gave a heartfelt thank you to her parents and brother Austin, expressing her gratitude – though it was beyond words – for the support that allowed her to be on the New York Stadium Stage that faithful day, and encouraging her fellow graduates to thank their supporters, too.

Throughout the awe-inspiring speech, Taylor gave her listeners some “life hacks”, from which I have compiled a list of below, backed up with some quoted evidence:

1. Never hide your enthusiasm, even if it’s not chic: “The people who wanted it the least were the people I wanted to date and be friends with in high school. The people who wanted it the most are the people I now hire to work for my company.”
2. Don’t fear being cringe: “For example, I had a phase where, for the entirety of 2012, I dressed like a 1950s housewife.”
3. Live by catch and release: “You get to pick what your life has time and room for.”
4. Be a literary chameleon: “And this may sound like a very songwriter centric line of discussion but, in a way, I really do think we are all writers.”
5. Don’t let society (or anyone or thing for that matter) keep you from following your dreams: “Getting cancelled on the internet and nearly losing my career gave me an excellent knowledge of the types of wine.”

To finish her speech, Taylor delivered the line we’d all been waiting for: “Let’s keep dancing... like we’re the CLASS OF 2022!”

Without a doubt, Swift delivered the speech of a lifetime, captivating both her live, and online, audiences with her personal advice and poetic delivery. Excited by the many Easter Eggs in the speech (especially that sneaky line of “Welcome to New York, it’s been waiting for you”), Swifties have been refreshing their Instagram feeds non-stop since 18th May, optimistic for the release of ‘Speak Now’ (Taylor’s Version) or ‘1989’ (Taylor’s Version) in – hopefully – the very near future.

***Heartstopper* cast at pride**

By Alex Vince, Year 7

The actors of Nick (Kit Connor) and Charlie (Joe Locke) were recently at a pride festival in pride flags. There is a picture of Joe on Kit’s back at this pride festival and the author of *Heartstopper* Alice Oseman drew that picture but with her comic version of Nick and Charlie. Fans really liked this drawing and paired it with the original picture.

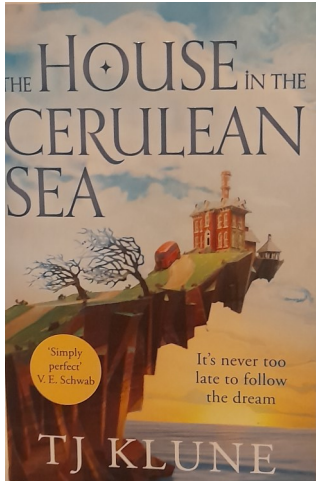
Disappointingly, there were homophobes at this event. This resulted in a video of Joe Locke jumping up and down and putting his middle fingers up at the homophobes, which fans happily encouraged.

Celebrating Pride Month in Books

Elliott R in Year 10 reviews a number of amazing queer books, which might make the perfect summer read...

Though Pride Month has ended, I feel as if it is always important to celebrate queer stories, so here are the three most recent LGBTQ+ novels I have read that I am sure everyone would enjoy

The House in the Cerulean Sea - T.J. Klune



Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children meets George Orwell; this dystopian fantasy is set in a universe where magic is real; but anyone who possesses such abilities is thrown into government-sanctioned orphanages as children.

Magical children are tracked by DICOMY, a ruling elite who make and enforce the laws of this universe; encouraging humans to report and track down magical folk, spreading hate and lies about magic. It is at DICOMY that we meet Linus Baker, a tired and lonely Caseworker who visits these magical orphanages to assess living conditions; blind to the lies of Extremely Upper Management, refusing to lose faith in those he works for. This all changes when Linus is assigned a case that is highly classified and dangerous; to assess and report on a particularly unusual orphanage; on an island called Marsyas, where he meets a truly unusual group of children, including six-year-old Lucy, who just so happens to be the Antichrist. He also meets their caretaker and guardian, Arthur Parnassus, a charming and rather unusual man; fiercely protective of the small group of children under his care. Upon his visit to the island, Linus, who has never left his small, dreary city before, is exposed to a world of new possibilities and adventures, growing closer to Arthur and the group of children. He is then faced with a choice; stay true to his job and report the orphanage, destroying a family and losing Arthur forever or to watch the very world

he as always known burn...

This book is heart-warming and whimsical, laugh-out-loud and tear-jerking in all the best ways, and is sure to be a memorable read for anyone who chooses to do so.


Wranglestone - Darren Charlton

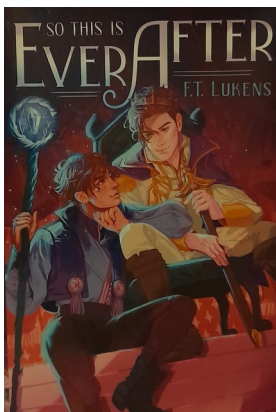
After a zombie plague ravages the human population, small numbers of survivors have made the island lakes their home. One such lake is Wranglestone, but when the bitter winter arrives; the water freezes over, leaving them open to attack from the Dead.



Set in post-apocalyptic America, the novel follows the story of Peter and Cooper, children born into the apocalypse, only knowing of life before through stories and aging relics of time. They spend their days watching each other from afar; wildly different and yet still achingly similar. Cooper; a 'rancher' tasked with herding the Dead away from the islands, strong and unafraid of the dangers. Peter; never having left the island before, living in a bubble of security leads to him being a liability to the others in his community. But when Peter is asked to take over a job from a now undead member of their camp' he learns secrets about Wranglestone that have been hidden for far too long. The secrets threaten to unravel the camp as a whole, putting Peter at risk as he grapples with a confusing and complex loss.

This book manages to maintain all of the gore and action of a zombie-apocalypse while simultaneously balancing a tender and realistic queer relationship; framed through the eyes of a society with larger problems than two queer teens. I would highly recommend it to fans of Patrick Ness or Marcus Sedgwick, and with a sequel on the way, now is the perfect time to consider reading it.

 Above, left and right: Book cover art. Photographs by Elliott R, Year 10.

So This is Ever After - F.T. Lukens

After beheading the evil ruler of the Kingdom of Ere and fulfilling an age-old prophecy, the last thing Arek expects is to happen is to be crowned king. Expecting a temporary position; he now finds that the princess is dead and he is bound to the throne with a terrible curse. He must find a soulmate by his 18th

birthday or he shall most probably die. Being unable to abdicate or give away his crown, he is left with no choice but to attempt to find love.

Helped along by his rag-tag band of companions, hopeless knights and thieving rouges as well as Matt, his childhood friend who just so happens to be a warlock and Arek just so happens to be in love with. The days are counting down until 18th birthday and Arek is still unable to find a soulmate, but with the curse making him incredibly ill and his condition worsening, he begins to give up hope. A masquerade ball gone wrong leads to Arek being forced to choose between his own life and spending the rest of his life with someone he has never met before. Will he find Matt before it is too late?

This book, despite its fantasy feel, has a realistic portrayal of the hijinks and sometimes ludicrous decisions that people make in the pursuit of love. Heart-warming and hilarious, So This is Ever After feels like a Dungeons and Dragons game gone wrong, without the complex downsides of a true high fantasy novel.

This is only a short selection of some novels, I would also recommend reading:

Last Night at the Telegraph Club – Malinda Lo (Sapphic, 1950s Chinatown)

May the Best Man Win – ZR Ellor (Trans, Coming of age)

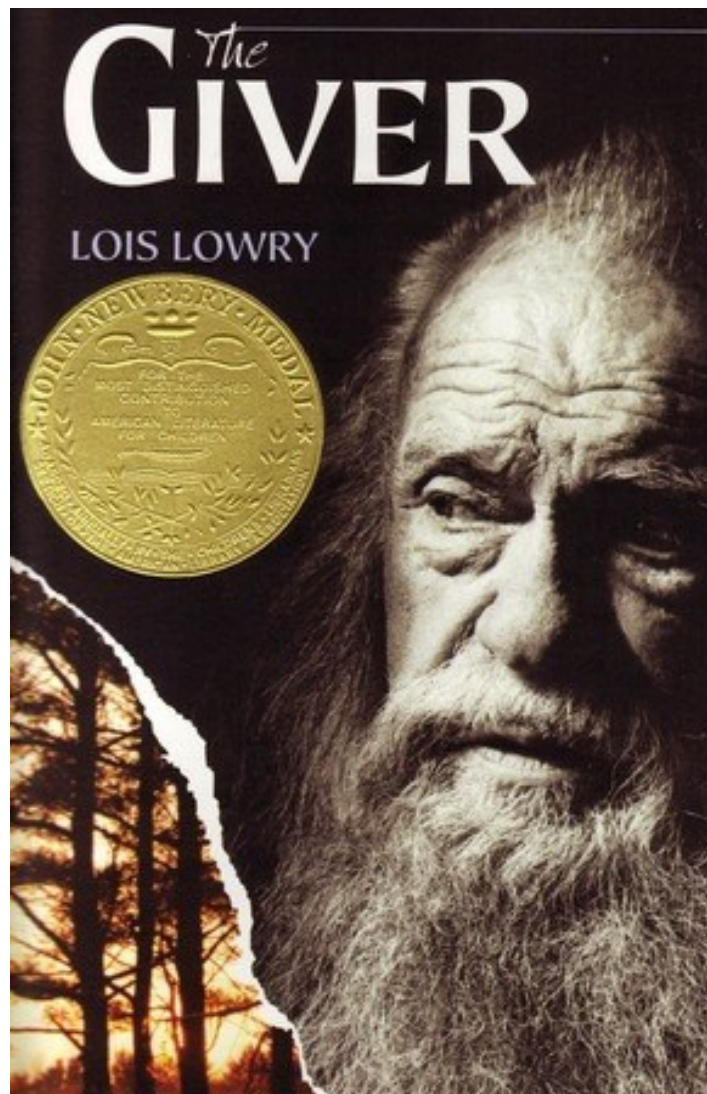
Paradisía – Michelle Iannantuono (Greek Mythology, Soulmates)

 Above: Book cover art. Photograph by Elliott R, Year 10.

Book of the Month

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Reviewed by Evie W, Year 7




The Giver is a novel about a young boy called Jonas who lives in a dystopian world, even though there is no war, no crime and no hunger. But when he is selected as the receiver of memory, he starts to discover the dark secrets that lie beneath the surface of his perfect world. Secrets that will lead him to undertake an incredible journey... I would recommend this book because it is very interesting and many enjoy it. It has lots of mysteries such as why there is no colour in the world but there used to be. They did this because they want everyone to be the same, they call this "sameness".

There are many characters such as Lily, Jonas, Asher and Fiona. My favourite character is Jonas, the main character, because he is very courageous and kind.

Feature: Tutankhamun's curse



 Tutankhamun's headpiece and the sands of Egypt. Graphic: Igrayne W, Year 8.

Igrayne W in Year 8 reports on the fascination with the young pharaoh of Egypt, and the associated mysteries...

Egypt is mostly known for its ancient history full of turbulence, religion, and its valuable and surprisingly contemporary artefacts. Its significance and brutal elegance, including the young king Tutankhamun, have intrigued many people around the globe .

His original name (Tutankhaten) meant "Living Image of Aten". Aten was the form of the sun god names Ra who had the head of a bird and the body of a man. Ra was an important figure in religion as he was used in most prayers and curses. In Tutankhamun's name, the word ankh is there. The ankh is the symbol of life, a commonly used hieroglyphic again in curses and prayers; it was used many times in tombs, on sarcophaguses and on objects put into the tomb or pyramid used to send the spirit of the person in concern (mainly monarchs) into the afterlife. However, the name he is known by today includes the name Amun. Amun meant "the hidden (one)".


Tutankhamun's tomb was found in 1922 by Howard Carter, British explorer.

The world grew fond of the discovery, as newspaper articles were constantly reporting facts about the discovery; some of which were fake. Since the ancient

Egyptians were highly sophisticated with religion and the supernatural, and had a shared bond with their gods, journalists were writing articles about "the curse of Tutankhamun". One journalist even reported that hieroglyphic inscriptions on the tomb stated: "They who enter this sacred tomb shall swift be visited by wings of death."

The death toll had risen and Carter and Lord Carnarvon (who had worked alongside him when finding the tomb) had died within six months of the discovery. The symptoms of the deaths were similar to pneumonia as it affected the lungs and blood. The fact that Carter was a heavy smoker did not help. The reason was, in fact, that they had entered a tomb that had been sealed for many a century and the air in there was weak and obviously not fresh, and they had contact with the mummy of Tutankhamun.



 [Djehouty](#), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Feature: SCP-100

SCP stands for Secure, Contain, Protect and is a website full of thousands of SCP stories. Each story is set on earth with anomalous creatures and objects, and the idea of each page is that it is a government document about the capture of one of these creatures. One of these is SCP-100 a Junkyard and is called "Jamaican Joe's Junkyard Jubilee." Harry C in Year 7 describes what this is...

SCP-100

SCP-100 is a junkyard and is contained by having six guards patrolling the outer area and two guards patrolling the inner area (they swap every three hours). There must be two guards at the storefront keeping watch of SCP 100-1. We found it after hearing of strange machines in the junkyard that were also part of a legend.

SCP 100-1

SCP 100-1 is a humanoid automated creature who seems to work at the junkyard. SCP 100-1 has been shown to not be able to leave the junkyard as when SCP 100-1 walks past the fence he immediately turns off, this also happens to SCP 100-2 and SCP 100-2b. The anomalous abilities of SCP 100-1 are that with the junk he can make automated creatures like him. He normally makes creatures of pets such as dogs and cats but has been shown to make insectoids too. All of them have been destroyed but there are still two insectoids left which are made from cars and seem to act like guard dogs for the area (known as SCP 100-2 and 100-2b).

SCP 100-1 routine

SCP 100-1 has something of a routine that he follows every day. At 08:00 to 15:00, he goes to the storefront and sits behind the counter and waits for a customer; sometimes he returns to the yard for unexplained reasons. If anyone is in the room with SCP 100-1, he will try to sell you pieces of scrap and has been shown how to do basic math. Most of these are scams and rarely fair with him usually rigging the scale.

From 15:00 to 16:00, SCP 100-1 will communicate with SCP 100-2A and SCP 100-2B by using strange hand gestures to communicate with them.

From 16:00 to 20:00, SCP 100-1 does various tasks like checking stock of supplies, cleaning and maintaining the shop and maintaining heavy machinery.

20:00 to 00:00 seems to be SCP 100-1 time of leisure as he does activities such as making more statues and interacting with SCP 100-A and B. Also, around 00:00 to 80:00, he patrols the area.

Incident 100-A

What we know of this place is someone seemed to own this place called Joseph Duval, who seemed to have disappeared three months before we came. This is because billing payments had stopped, leaving the place abandoned apart from the anomalies.

While this place was studied, SCP 100-1 made a humanoid figure ten centimetres in height. Instead of his usual animal sculpture, this one was completely different as he put much more time and effort into this one with much more detail and had the initials 'JJ' on the back. It was then put on the counter at 9:30. Like the rest, it came alive and both seemed to start communicating to each other with hand gestures.

Following confiscation of the construct, SCP 100-1 went into a type of shock and did not move for ten days. People have been studying the hand gestures to find out what they mean but no breakthroughs have been made.

Document 100-A

Right now, Joseph Duval's whereabouts have not been found but we do have a note written by him stating, "Out to lunch, be back soon JJ."

If you enjoyed finding out about SCP-100, you can check out the many other creatures by visiting the website: <https://scpfoundation.fandom.com/>. There, you also have the option to join the fandom, which will allow you to post your own SCP creations, as long as you follow the strict rules.

Wath Students Get Creative:

Story (Part Six): Typhoon

By Daniel G, Year 7

James is on an odyssey to save his mum. He has defeated various monsters but is no closer yet...

A massive gate was guarded by a 150m tall elemental golem that looked asleep. James approached it and nothing happened. He wondered what to do to defeat it, and firstly, he climbed the golem and halfway he saw a crack at the top where a massive great sword stuck was in the golem, so he told Scylla to shapeshift into a golem and take the sword out. When she yanked it out, the golem powered on. James then told Scylla to thrust the sword through its neck. But before Scylla could do that, the golem made a giant hammer. Shocked, James watched. Scylla thrust it halfway through its neck before the golem smashed it with its hammer. Scylla then punched its head off and ended the fight then she smashed down the gate.

Inside, they found a small lake and lots of greenery around it. They sat around the lake to have a drink. A drop of water landed back in and then the water started to ripple. After about ten seconds, a 200m water elemental shot out of the water and looked around. Then it spotted them and prepared to attack. Scylla turned into a water elemental and tried to punch its head, but failed (it's basically water can't be punched). So, Scylla turned to a fire dragon and breathed fire, but that just made it worse, turning it boiling. Next, she turned to an ice dragon to cool the water, and James thought, *What if we freeze it?* So, Scylla slowly cooled the elemental down until it was frozen, but it wasn't for long, so they had to think of a different plan. Then James thought, *Let's vaporize it.* So, Scylla turned back to a fire dragon and quickly used all her power to turn it to steam.

A massive desert stretching over 4000 miles next confronted them. Amazed, James looked around and saw nothing but dunes. Scylla shapeshifted to a massive dog, and they travelled into the sandy waste. When they started to hear noises, they looked around and it seemed to be a sand wave. Once it got closer, they realized it was a sand worm. Scylla shifted to Draco and flew up high. The sand worm leaped for

them but missed. James thought of a plan. Scylla tried to burn and freeze it, but it didn't work then James remembered the old man and told Scylla to poison water. She spat the poison into the mouth of the sandworm. Nothing happened at first but then it started to shake and collapsed to the ground. Then they flew across the rest of the desert and reached the final gate and they blew it to bits.

A massive multi-beast walked around, Typhoon. James fully equipped himself with Achilles' sword, the axe of Alantra, the bow of Odysseus, the wings of Daedalus, the boots of Hermes and the amour of Zeus. Typhoon finally spotted them and charged, summoning his men to battle. James brought out Cerberus and Scylla, who turned to a massive elemental golem. She threw James to the nape of Typhoon. He walked to the head and used the wings to slice Typhoon's eyes. Then James returned to Scylla who was ready to end Typhoon. She tore off his head. They'd won but then his head started to regenerate so they smashed it again. But still, it regenerated so they thought fast, and Scylla turned to a metal dragon and rained nails on the head then turned to a fire dragon melting the nails and sealing his head soul and life in his body.

Typhoon died for good, the body is disintegrating, and James' mother comes out. James rushed to her, and she said that she has the power to turn into Typhoon and her power had taken her over. James hugged her and asks Scylla to take them home. The next day, they arrived home and Scylla, James and his mom lived happily ever after but then...

Summer poem

Evie W, Year 7

The grass swayed in the breeze
 The flowers attracted a lot of bees
 The children splashed in the paddling pools
 The shimmering water cools
 The summertime heat was extreme
 I hope you have nice summer dreams

Short Stories, Poetry and More

The Trilogy of Demon Society The Moonswirl Prophecies (Part IV)

By Igrayne W, Year 8

When Lavandula conducted a scientific experiment with her own blood, she turned a bug into a baby.

It was the end of term and Easter was approaching fast. The first of the spring flowers were to be seen sprouting out of the Dandelion Meadow, it wouldn't be long before the low hum of bees could be heard from there, and the town honey supplies would be coming in fast. It was Lavandula's favourite season. The sight of blossom and the smell of sweet comforting air made her feel as if she were in a beautiful dream. She'd spend hours sketching birds and watching the sun roll across the sky until dusk lit the grass and leaves of trees with a golden hue.

Last week was moderately eventful but the farthest she had got with the experiment was walking down the stairs; she was yearning to get the formula sorted but at the same time, a part of her was hesitant due to the events of the prior week. This time, she had to be successful; her dignity would then be restored once again.

At midnight, she crept down the stairs and walked to the lobby where Tank and Syrup's beds were kept. Tank must have heard her coming down because his vivid blue eyes were fixed on her.

"Don't worry, Tank, you'll be like me, and life will be easier, we'll keep the family bloodline growing and nobody will underestimate you or me and everything will be fine," Lavandula whispered.

Tank growled.

Confused, Lavandula began to stroke him and comfort him, but it was no use. Hackles up, Tank leapt to his feet and began frantically scratching at the back door. Lavandula had no choice. She grabbed her coat off the coat rack, took her leather boots from the cupboard under the stairs and put Tank's harness on. And walked through the door.

Tank practically dragged Lavandula through the woods. There was a faint howling sound like a fox

pup and with every step she took, it got louder as if Tank was taking her to the pup. Every so often, Tank would pause and Lavandula would fall over him, and he would continue running, but this time dragging her across the ground, where she was constantly being hit by logs or scratched by thorns.

It was when they reached Vulpecula Pond that Tank stopped. Lavandula didn't like these parts, she heard nasty stories about the cemetery and the abandoned cottage, and although the stories were clearly fake, they still scared her. The imposing silhouette of the church glared at her and its ominous shadow stood with sheer dignity.

Tank gingerly led Lavandula to a small patch of bulrushes and hid behind it. Looking between the bulrushes, Lavandula saw a female fox attacking a fox pup. She gasped. Just before the female could kill the youngster, Tank leapt from behind and attacked her. While he kept her occupied, Lavandula stole to the pup and carried him back to the bulrushes. Covered in her own blood and saturated with water from the pond, the female cowered into the deep woods without looking back.

Satisfied with himself, Tank jumped around and lifted the mood with his relentless humour and took Lavandula and the pup home.

Summer Buds

By Igrayne W, Y8

Thy leaves glow golden in the eve,
Thy branches dance among the foxgloves,
Who hath not seen thee lie within the lands of man,
Who hath not felt naive with the wonders?

Abroad a life of mankind,
Is a world where nature thrives,
Thy presence helps unwind,
With time thy grace survives.
Swarming with many a life,
Thou cometh in many a form,
Never shall they meet a cutting knife,
Even in a storm.

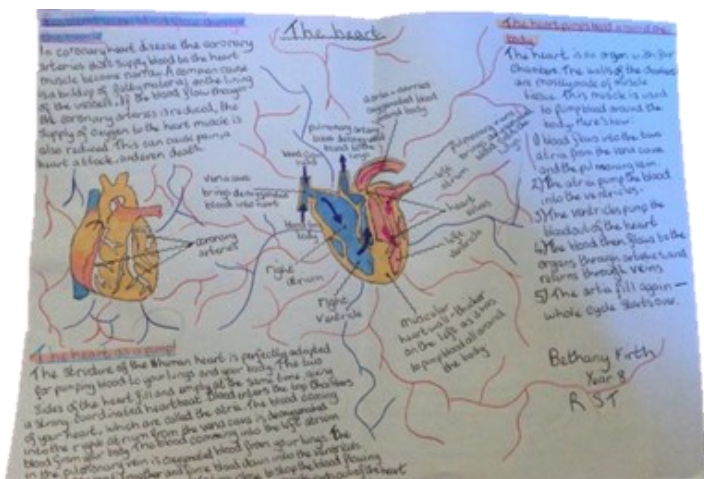
Sport and House Update

HOUSE CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

What an exciting past few weeks we've had with House activities! Our new Heads of House have gotten stuck in straight away with our final house assembly of the school year. Well done to those students who filled in the baby face quiz afterwards... here are the correct answers:



Our latest box challenge saw us inundated with quality entries, from written descriptions of how the heart works, to hand-drawn and labelled diagrams, to lists of fun facts and pictures of the heart's function. Let's keep up the quality work for our final box task of the year – designing a new emoji! Look out for your work being represented on one of the display boards around school, showcasing our beautiful box task entries.



Congratulations to KS3 Athens for their win on the summer solstice spiral challenge, and to KS3 Sparta for their speedy work with tennis ball under and over. It is fantastic to see so many of you regularly getting involved with these event every Friday.

Mrs Lines says well done to KS4 Troy, who have been putting in consistently good effort every Friday, and

coming out top regularly. Try to keep up that winning streak until the end of the year!



The salt challenge last half-term proved a big success for Thebes and Athens, winning hundreds of points for their houses. Thank you to Mr Fox for organising this – we can't wait to get involved with more subject-related house events next year.



This is how the points table currently stands:

	HOUSE	POINTS
1st	ATHENS	200,414
2nd	CARTHAGE	178,949
3rd	SPARTA	176,161
4th	TROY	163,225
5th	THEBES	162,413
6th	ROME	146,598

However, with thousands of points being up for grabs at Sports Day, there is everything still to play for!