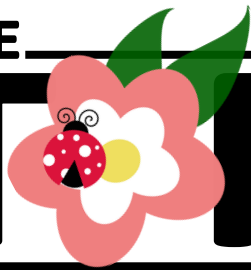




THE TORCH



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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

MARCH MADNESS 2018

From Dumbstruck Day to Ear Muff Day, here are some dates to add to your diary to make March memorable!

By Elena Cretu, Year 7

Ear Muff day: 13th March

Ear Muff Day celebrates a warm invention...the ear muff! People in cold climates can really appreciate this day. Ear muffs keep your ears warm, and protect you from ear infections and earaches resulting from icy cold wind and weather. Manufacturers have responded to their popularity with a variety of designs and colours, making one to fit almost anyone's personality.

Origin of "Ear Muff Day": Big-eared Chester Greenwood is the father of the Earmuff. Greenwood patented the "Champion Ear Protector" on March 13, 1877. They later became known as "ear mufflers", and were eventually shortened to " earmuffs".

It's really easy to celebrate Ear Muff Day.... just wear your ear muffs! Though, we have to wonder... Why celebrate Ear Muff Day in March? Wouldn't it be more appreciated if it was held in January or February, during the coldest days of the winter?

Dumbstruck day: 15th March

Dumbstruck Day is a day to be totally dumbstruck over the things you see, hear and read. Some people are dumbstruck on a regular basis, day in and day out. Fortunately, that's not you (we hope). However, this

day is a chance to spend an entire day feeling totally dumbstruck—without guilt or embarrassment.

Origin of "Dumbstruck Day": we are totally dumbstruck that no one has stepped forward and claimed to be the creator of this day.

Make Your Own Holiday Day: 26th March

Make Your Own Holiday Day allows you to make today a special day for anything you want. The objective is to allow one day for any topic or event that has otherwise escaped recognition... up to now. It's your chance to skip all of the red tape, bypass all of the effort, and create a special day of any kind. Simply declare your special day on Make Your Own Holiday Day!

Good Friday: 30th March (date varies yearly)

On a more serious note, you might want to remember Good Friday. Also called "Dark Friday", this is a day of solemn prayer and the final day of fasting for the long Lenten season, the day on which Christians remember how Jesus Christ died. Christ was nailed to the cross at noon and his death came at three o'clock in the afternoon; Christians spend this time in prayer and silence. Christ died for us... but only in human form. He then arose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning to show us that there is life after death in heaven.



Created by
Isabella
Aaltio, Year 9

Crossword



Return to Miss Taylor for your chance to win a small prize or merits!

Down:

- Winner of the Men's 2017 Australian Open. (7)
- In which sport do players take long and short corners? (6)
- The river Jordan flows into the... (4,3)
- The highest mountain in the world. (5,7)
- The longest river in the world. (4)
- Capital of Senegal. (5)
- A large spitz breed of dog. (5)
- The capital of Finland. (8)

Across:

- Madagascar is popularly known as the island of... (6)
- The largest river in France. (5)
- The biggest desert. (6,6)
- Largest coffee growing country. (6)
- Who were the oldest inhabitants of Finland? (5)
- Finland's currency before the euro. (6)

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As Easter is almost upon us, we can reflect upon another very busy term. There are a wide variety of exciting opportunities available for our students to get involved in and they really do bring a real benefit to a successful all-round education. The annual 'Gym, Dance & Movement Evening', with a theme of 'Disney on the Dancefloor' ran to full houses for three successive nights in February. It was a real pleasure to see so many students, across all year groups, involved in this exciting event of dance and gymnastics. We really appreciate the inclusion of our local primary schools in these performances and I know that their pupils enjoy the opportunity of coming up to 'big' school to perform. In addition, Year 11 Dance students have given an excellent recital evening, in preparation for their external assessment, Year 12 Drama students have impressed with the quality of their recent productions and we had a Piano evening earlier this month where it was a delight to see 23 pianists from across the school performing.

'Science Week' has been celebrated in school and a special evening was put on for parents of Year 8 students, the 'Next Three Years Evening', to advise on Key Stage 4 subjects – GCSEs and BTECs – that these students will embark on in Year 9.

Students in Year 11 are sitting revised GCSEs in most subjects, following the first sitting of new specifications in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics last summer. These will be graded 1 to 9, with 9 being the top grade. Broadly, the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4, and above, as currently achieve a grade C and above. Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current Grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current Grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C. The new grade 5 will be regarded as a 'strong pass' by the government and represents a new benchmark, for the school and students. A similar proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above. In addition, for each examination, the top 20% of those that get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest grade. At the other end of the scale, the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of the current grade G. There are a range of revision sessions being put on by staff over the Easter holiday for Year 11 students, in preparation for the final external exams that begin shortly after the return for the new term. In



addition, Year 12 & Year 13 students should currently be revising for their own exams.

During this half term, Year 11 and Year 13 students have had the opportunity, joined by parents, to discuss their progress with their Tutors at Review Days. I would be grateful if Year 11 parents would continue to support attendance at the extensive programme of support and revision that is running every evening, and many lunchtimes, until the end of their examination period. Year 12 students have internal exams when they return after their Easter study break and can also look forward to their Work Experience opportunity later next term.

The end of this half term sees the retirement of Mrs Fairman, a long-serving Religious Studies teacher and former Head of Faculty. I know former students have been extremely appreciative of her efforts on behalf of this school, over many decades. I am also sad to report on the death of Jan Stewart, a former Head of our Inclusion Faculty, following a long battle against illness. Some parents of students with older siblings may remember fondly Jan's unique style in getting the best out of her students.

Extra-curricular sport continues to be a real strength of the school, with many fixtures played every week in a variety of sports across all age groups. The school's netball team has gained a place in the Rotherham Schools Finals in every year group, from Year 7 to Year 11. We also wish our 2nd X1 football team well for their Rotherham final. In addition, we wish those students well who are fortunate to be going abroad over Easter for, respectively, a netball tournament and ski trip.

Following the success of the Anne Frank Exhibition at school, we were invited to participate in an event that ran Rotherham-wide, based at Riverside House. Some

of our Year 9 students were invited to act as ambassadors and were also chosen to guide the Mayor around the exhibition. As a direct result of this, they have now been invited for tea at the Town Hall. One of our students, Tom Dermott has been selected to represent the Anne Frank Trust over the Yorkshire region for a new campaign to target hate. Congratulations are also due to another Year 9 student, Kirin Howat, who has qualified for the final of the Rotherham Young Musician of the Year, open to all 11-18 aged students.

I wrote last half term about my concern over the amount of time our students were spending on their mobile devices: in some cases, almost frightened of missing the latest social media message/ mailing. Unfortunately, the amount of time on mobile devices seems to be at the expense of the ability to positively converse with one another, and we have certainly seen an increase in the incidences of the misuse of social media. Therefore, we are modifying our policy on the use of mobile phones, for all students, immediately after the Easter break. I have already written a letter home to explain this revised policy, which I would be very grateful if you would help us support.

Although students will be allowed to bring their phones to school, for safety reasons in their journey to and from school, they must keep them turned off and out of sight at all times while on the school site. If you do ever need to contact your child in an emergency, then please contact the school office and they will get a message directly to your child. Similarly, if your child needs to contact you in an emergency then this must be done via the school office.

We continue to work closely with leaders from Maltby Learning Trust in order to secure even further school improvement, particularly with the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, Mr David Sutton. When the school academises, we will be a sponsored academy under Maltby Learning Trust. Please be aware that we have now been advised by the Department for Education that the planned date for our academisation is 1 June.

The end of this term is 2.45pm Friday 23 March. May I take this opportunity in wishing you a very Happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Headteacher

17 March 2018

News in Brief

Important Dates

Here are some dates for your diary for next half term:

- New term begins for students – Monday 9 April
- Year 7 Students & Parents' Consultation Evening with subject teachers – Tuesday 17 April, 3.30-6.00 pm
- Year 9 Students & Parents' Consultation Evening with subject teachers – Tuesday 24 April, 3.30-6.00 pm
- School closed for May Day Holiday – Monday 7 May
- Year 10 Students & Parents' Consultation Evening with subject teachers – Tuesday 8 May, 3.30-6.00 pm
- School closes for half term break – 2.45 pm Friday 25 May.

Music Success

Congratulations to the following pupils on their recent ABRSM success:

- Lori Grainger Grade 4 Piano Distinction
- Lori Grainger Grade 4 Flute Distinction
- Abigail Darrell Grade 5 Singing Pass
- Rebecca Swift Grade 5 Clarinet Merit

Wath Students Get Justice at Mock Trial



After months of preparation, 12 Year 9 students impressed at this year's mock trial competition, held at Doncaster Magistrates' Court on Saturday 17th March, where they took on other schools from the local area. Though Wath did not make it through to the next round, the defence and prosecution teams both won their respective cases. Attending dignitaries, including Doncaster's Civic Mayor, commended the students on their performance.

Latest News and Updates from

KS4 STEM Space Challenge

Isabella Aaltio, Lauren Williams, Elizabeth Gray, Year 9



Above and below: proud winners of the Space Challenge with their prizes and certificates.



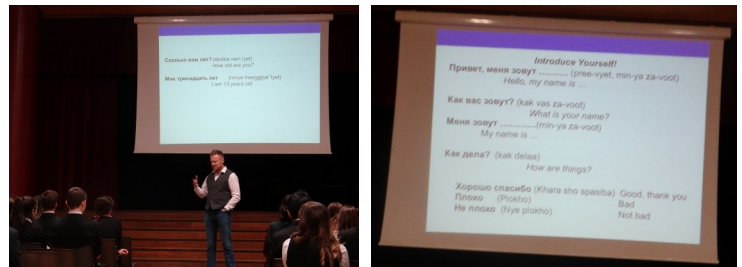
On Wednesday 14th March, twelve students from Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the Space Challenge (STEM), including both a German team and a Spanish team. Eight other schools were competing against our school.



Above: one of the many fantastic designs for a space hotel.

The challenge was to create a space hotel, fill in design sheets and data sheets, and create a model of the hotel: students had to factor in thinking about how much one pound of mass would cost to get into space and how to keep people exercised in a zero gravity situation. After that, they had to do a marketing tweet in their specific language, and also required was a marketing presentation in the specific language and an engineering presentation in English.

They also had a taster in Russian. This involved all the students standing up and reciting Russian numbers they had learned, as well as meeting new people from the other schools and having conversations in Russian.



Above: a crash course in the Russian language.

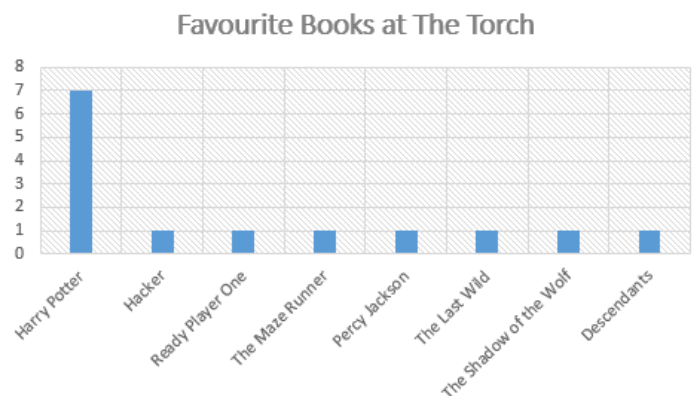
At the end of all the excitement and invention, the winners were announced: Wath's Spanish team came runners up and received certificates.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable day and highly recommended if you do languages.

The Torch's favourite books

By Joe Shackley, Year 7

I asked some of the members of *The Torch* what their favourite book was and here are the final results:



But do you agree? Does *Harry Potter* hold a special place in your heart, too? Or is your favourite book a different one? Why not try out all our favourites and let us know what you think?

Wath Comprehensive School

Anne Frank Ambassadors at Riverside House

By Lauren Williams, Year 9

On 27th February and 8th March, Anne Frank ambassadors visited and presented the 'Anne Frank and You' exhibition at Riverside House in Rotherham. They presented the information they had previously learned from the panels that made up the exhibition to a series of primary schools. The display consisted of a collection of panels that made up the two sections of the exhibition: the historical section and the contemporary section.

The ambassadors had been preparing for this from the first Monday back at school, as well as attending a launch event where the exhibition was delivered to the Mayor.

The historical section was all about the life of Anne Frank and her family, as well as the effect of the Nazi occupation on the millions of Jews living throughout both the Netherlands and Germany. In the contemporary section, we talked to the primary school kids about modern issues regarding equality, injustice, racism and conflicts. We discussed how these issues would make them feel if they were in that particular person's situation, and how they may act in their place.

The ambassadors that participated in this training and teaching event were as follows: Emily Darrel, Rhiannon Sewell, Thomas Dermott, Shae Dufty, Lauren Williams, Caitie Swallow Kacey Robinson, Isaac Woffenden, Daniel Nutley and Joe Hepworth.

Wath Comprehensive School presents:

Disney on the Dancefloor!

By Emily Balais Year 10

After weeks of training, the wait was finally over when Movement Evening 2018 hit the hall. The theme this year was Disney on the Dancefloor, and all of the acts were dancing to classic Disney songs, recent and old.

Just like always, the night started with the Kamikaze: in the first half, they were dancing to *Pirates of the*

Caribbean and then a remix of the *Star Wars* theme. As usual, there were dance groups from this school, such as cheerleading, Year 7 dance and GCSE dance groups, but there were also groups from other schools such as Wath Victoria Primary School and Our Lady and Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

And the night couldn't be complete without the hilarious staff dance. Also, the PE staff were saying thanks and goodbye to Mrs Pickering for all of her contributions to Movement Evening throughout the eleven years she has been at Wath.

Overall, the night was a complete success!

Spring Word Search

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

Find all the words and bring your word search back to Miss Taylor to receive 3 merits!

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

APRIL

BLOSSOMS

CLOUD

DAFFODIL

FLOWER

GROWTH

LAMB

SPRING

SUNFLOWER

WARM

News, Politics and Current Affairs:

Stephen Hawking's death

By Callum Mitchell, Year 9 and Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Stephen Hawking died on Wednesday morning (14th March) at the age of 76 years old. His death was a tragedy for the entire world because he made a crucial realisation about the Big Bang theory (the idea that a single event started everything off in the universe), which changed scientific thought. He was one of the smartest men on earth (not many people could do the maths that he could do!), and he had changed the way scientists see the world.

Reactions to Stephen Hawking's death

"One of the greatest minds our species has ever produced is returned to the stars. It is a great loss to the scientific community. He was a hero to so many. Stephen Hawking, let us honor your work by respecting always the importance of scientific inquiry." — George Takei

"When a brilliant scientific mind like Stephen Hawking also happens to be a great popularizer of science, it's a gift to the world. Here's hoping there are more like him waiting to be known." — Seth M

"We lost one of history's greatest minds who helped us explore the deepest mysteries of the universe. I'm proud to have called Stephen Hawking my friend. The world needs more men like him. Not less. Godspeed and I hope you're hanging out with Marilyn Monroe." — Buzz Aldrin

What Is ALS How Does It Affect People?

At 76 years old, Stephen Hawking may have been the oldest survivor suffering from ALS.

Also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS is a

disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control muscle movement. This rare – and often fatal – condition causes nerves to degenerate and die, limiting or paralysing movement in certain limbs or muscles. When they no longer receive the message to move, they weaken, twitch and ultimately stop working. The disease robs the whole body of all active movements needed to do daily tasks. In some cases, there may even be dementia, but no one loses the ability to think. Most people who get ALS are between 40 and 70, but it can affect anyone.

ALS eventually leads to paralysis and death. There is currently no cure.

Oculus VR Headset Knocked Out By Admin Error

By Lucille Lowery Y8

Oculus failed to renew a security certificate for some software, meaning headsets would not run key code. Security certificates are often used to authenticate software, and many computers refuse to run code lacking valid credentials.

The issue first came to light via social media when headset owners reported that the Oculus PC application was not working. An error message said that the program could not reach Oculus's runtime service. Soon after these reports started circulating, Oculus took to Twitter to acknowledge the problem:

"We're aware of an issue impacting people's ability to use Rift's software, and we're working to fix the problem. Please visit <https://t.co/uM54CuqqIn> for the latest—thanks for your patience!" — Oculus Rift (@OculusRift) March 7, 2018

At least now they work.

Schools could be teaching LGBT+

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

Gay, lesbian and transgender pupils 'are some of the most vulnerable and under-served... They mostly lack affirmation of their identity and the provision of life-saving safer-sex advice' says Peter Tatchell, Director of the human rights advocacy group, the Peter Tatchell Foundation.

Issues around LGBT and different genders could be taught in lessons for the FIRST time in 20 years.

Updates from around the Globe

Parents, teachers and pupils themselves are being called upon by the government to help shape a new RSE curriculum that will equip young people with the knowledge they need to properly navigate the pitfalls of modern living.

It marks the first opportunity for LGBT+ issues to be written into the National Curriculum since the abolition of Section 28, which was a clause in the Local Government Act put into place by Margaret Thatcher's government in 1988 explicitly forbidding the "promotion of homosexuality" by local authorities - including schools and councils.

What is Autism?

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

Autism is a lifelong condition, present from birth, for which there is no cure.

It is characterised by great difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts. In particular, understanding and relating to other people, and taking part in everyday family, school, work and social life, can be harder.

Of course, everyone on the autistic spectrum is different. Some autistic people say the world feels overwhelming and this can cause them considerable anxiety. Other people appear to know, intuitively, how to communicate and interact with each other, yet can also struggle to build rapport with autistic people.

Autistic people may wonder why they are 'different' and feel their social differences mean that people don't understand them.

Autism is much more common than most people think. There are around 700,000 autistic people in the UK - that's more than 1 in 100. More boys than girls are currently diagnosed.

Some autistic people also have learning disabilities, mental health issues or other conditions, meaning they need different levels of support. All people on the autism spectrum learn and develop, however, and with the right sort of support, all can be helped to live a fulfilling life of their own choosing.

The Beast from the East

Lauren Williams, Year 9

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

At the end of February and start of March, the UK faced one of its biggest snowstorms in years, when two massive storms collided, one of which being named, "The Beast from the East", the other, "Storm Emma".

On Thursday 1st March, countless amounts of schools were closed throughout the country, as the snow settled on British roads the night before, leaving many people stranded on the icy roads and streets. Red and amber warnings were issued throughout the country.

These amazing yet dangerous conditions brought much excitement to many children, with lots of people getting their sledges out and even skis and baking trays as substitutes for those who didn't have sledges.

However, some incredible dangers were faced. Some stories of heroism have been reported throughout the country, with people from surrounding towns and villages delivering supplies to those stranded on the roads and motorways. Despite the wonderful stories this snow has brought us, it is important to remember how dangerous it could be.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Phoebe Orwin, Cadence Taylor, Grace Clowrey, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Elena Cretu, Joe Shackley, Alex Burrows, Jacob Linney, Lucille Lowery, Daniel Nutley, Bella Aaltio, Elizabeth Gray, Charlotte Ting, Olivia Storey, Caitie Swallow (proofreading), Rebeka Brinkus, Lauren Williams, Nathan Billups, Callum Mitchell, Molly Hammerton, Kiara Fenton, Alex Law, Adam-Joseph Young, Emily Balaiss and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Mr Bishop, Miss Perry and all the other staff who support us each edition. **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.**

Opinion and Comment

Whatever the topic, you can be sure that Wath Comprehensive students have their views...

Motorbike Season

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

It's motorbike season and bikes all around the world are revving up as the weather warms. You'll see a ton of bikes about, some you didn't even know existed. Personally, Ducatis are my favourite but a Kawasaki Ninja does look good, as well as being comfortable.

Motorbikes are sometimes annoying and loud but seem really fun. Statistically, it is 27% more dangerous riding a motorbike than driving a car. But I'd still take the risk. Anyhow, companies are making tech that makes the bike safer: in 2015, there were studies on motorbikes that says that safer tech made riding 31% safer and accidents wouldn't cause as many severe injuries and deaths. In the future, bike manufacturers are also going to release environmentally safe motorbikes. Cars are already doing it, and so motorbike manufacturers are.

When driving, always look out your windows, don't

get annoyed by them and just keep calm when they're around. Understand that they can get easily angered, because dangerous driving could kill them.

Stay safe and watch out for the bikes...

Which faction in *Fallout 4* is best for the Commonwealth?

By Adam-Joseph Young, Year 10

In *Fallout 4*, there are four major groups throughout the Commonwealth, each with their own merits and disadvantages. The four main groups are the Minutemen, the Institute, the Railroad, and the Brotherhood of Steel. You can join up with any or all of these groups throughout the game, although there may be conflict between them later on in the story.

The Minutemen are the protectors of the Commonwealth. When you first meet them, only Preston Garvy is still alive, protecting some citizens. They are all trapped by raiders and a deathclaw, but if you rescue him and the citizens, they set up camp in a small town where you lived before the bombs drop (Sanctuary Hills). After that, Preston then asks you to protect other settlements. Once this is done, a member of each settlement will become a Minuteman. Eventually all the Minutemen come together to re-take the castle (their old base). They are successful and set up a radio beacon to let people know that they are out there to protect them. Now there are Minutemen everywhere to protect all the people of the Commonwealth.

The Institute is an underground scientific community with state of the art technology. It contains forms of clean energy, a pure water filtration system and uneradicated plant life. It is also the place where synths are created and programmed. Now the Institute are making teleporters but are using them to kidnap people and swap them with synths, all to gather intel about the world above ground.

The Railroad are an underground team of people, all with their own skills, dedicated to making life easier for free thinking synths that have escaped the

First Order vs Earth (Part 2): The Ground Battle

By Nathan Billups, Year 9

After the catastrophic mistakes made by the Empire, the backup sent by Supreme Leader Snoke has finally arrived to support the few ground units that managed to make it. The moment the large venator-class shuttles managed to make it to each continent, the world descended into chaos as gorilla walkers and grav-tanks of all types would attack.

The main warfronts would be in central Europe, America and central Asia. Humanity would struggle along in each fight: tanks, helicopters and anti-vehicle missiles are no match for the gorilla walkers. But the ground troopers themselves would be making little progress alongside their large counterparts; the armour designed for blaster fire and dispersing heat would crumble under the force of actual ammunition.

At the end, a stalemate would be reached... I will reach my verdict of who really won in the next issue.

Institute. They do this by finding lost synths and finding them new homes throughout the Commonwealth. You first come across them when you are trying to find a way to Kellogg (the man who killed your husband/wife and took your infant son). Now they plan to rescue all synths as they have an agent inside the Institute named Patriot. His father invented the synths and married one, making her Patriot's stepmother.

The Brotherhood of Steel are a military force, which believes that technology should not surpass man unless it's used by them. They have top of the line military tech (the Prydwen, vertibirds...etc.). They also believe that all none humans (ghouls, super-mutants and synths) don't deserve existence and should be destroyed and that the ends justify the means. Now they have operatives throughout the Commonwealth.

Personally, I believe that the Minutemen are the best hope for the Commonwealth as they inspire hope among its citizens and live to protect them.

The history of Jakku and possible future appearances

By Alex Law, Year 10

For those of you who don't know, Jakku is a planet in the Star Wars universe, which first appears in *The Force Awakens* as the desert planet where Rey lives. The planet was first seen in the 88-second *The Force Awakens* teaser trailer released by Lucasfilm in November 2014. *The Force Awakens* director J. J. Abrams first mentioned its name at Star Wars Celebration in Anaheim, California in April 2015. The scenes on Jakku were filmed in the Rub al Khali desert near Abu Dhabi. However, its importance to the whole Star Wars story is much more significant:

The battle of Jakku

After the fall of the second Death Star and the destruction of operation cinder, the Galactic Empire took a last stand against the Rebels. This last stand, the last battle the Empire fought, ended in star destroyers crashing and Tie-fighters fleeing for their lives. This was the last of the Empire, destroyed by outcasts, misfits and criminals in makeshift ships. The tyrannical rule of the Empire was over; well, until the First Order arises. The rebels left the planet Jakku to build a new republic, to bring democracy to the galaxy. This new republic fought many enemies such

as large bands of pirates or the Yuuzhan Vong, finally forgetting about the planet that stayed a graveyard for imperial and rebel ships alike.

The First Order rises and the planet Jakku becomes home to a piece of the map to Luke Skywalker and Rey, a scavenger who was scavenging around the crashed star destroyer of the Admiral Garrick Versio, the Eviscerator. This planet also was where Finn and Poe crash landed and where Rey and Finn met BB-8, the BB unit who was carrying part of the map to Luke Skywalker.

Jakku's future appearance in films

Maybe in future installations in the Star Wars universe, we will see the battle of Jakku and its importance, possibly even in the new *Solo: A Star Wars Story* movie. We might even be treated to another battle, one that ends the First Order once and for all like what happened to the Empire.

Book of the Month

我的低能之道

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7



The book I recommend is called *我的低能之道* (translate to English: *My Stupid Road*). One of the reasons is that it's very funny and I believe you will laugh for at least

two days. Secondly, the author sympathises with the reader and it's really attractive and it's makes you read on.

One of my favourite chapters is *做咩令積極* ('Why are they so motivated?'), which is about the girl character's office which is normal, filled with tired workers and boring situations. One day, the people inside were really working and trying hard in the office. The girl wonders why they are so motivated and it is because the typhoon is coming and they'll have their time to rest and chill!

That makes me laugh all day so I really recommends it (and it will make you increase your knowledge of Cantonese!).



Media and Review:

Maze Runner: The Death Cure **Film Review**

By Molly Hammerton, Year 10

(Warning: May contain spoilers)

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

As any *Maze Runner* fan will know, the films don't follow the books very well, if at all. I mean, let's face it, *The Scorch Trials* film wasn't a trial, it was more of a trek. But, nevertheless, the films are amazing in their own way, and *The Death Cure* is definitely no exception. Laughs, tears and jump scares were all featured in the film as well as a few heart wrenching

Top 15 80s Songs

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

1. Come On Eileen by Dexys Midnight Runners
2. Don't You Want Me by Human League
3. Time After Time by Cyndi Lauper
4. Livin' On A Prayer by Bon Jovi
5. Everybody Wants To Rule The World by Tears For Fears
6. Girls Just Want To Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper
7. Don't Stop Believin' by Journey
8. Karma Chameleon by Culture Club
9. Never Gonna Give You Up by Rick Astley
10. I Wanna Dance With Somebody by Whitney Houston
11. I Will Always Love You by Whitney Houston
12. Walk Like An Egyptian by The Bangles
13. Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This) by Eurythmics
14. Footloose by Kenny Loggins
15. Flashdance...What A Feeling by Irene Cara

moments between Thomas and Teresa.

The film begins with Thomas, Newt, Frypan, Jorge and Brenda hijacking a WCKD (or in the books WICKED) transport train filled with new immunes, including Minho, to be used to find a cure for the 'Flare' - the virus that is destroying the world. This scene is action packed and sets the movie off with a flying start, which it carries through for the rest of the plot. After capturing the transports container, they realise that Minho is not there and has in fact been taken to the Last City (a pretty self-explanatory name). In response, Newt, Thomas and Frypan travel there in order to save their friend.

On the way, they encounter cranks, criminals and old friends in an attempt to free Minho from WCKD's awful experimentation. Also, they experience heartbreak as tragedy strikes at the heart of the group (and if you can't guess what that is but you have read the books, I'll give you a hint: page 250).

Overall, this final film in the trilogy is an adventure of action, tears and shocks. It is an amazing homage to the book and if it can bring me to tears, it really is incredible. Unfortunately, it is no longer in the cinema but I would advise you to buy it once it comes out on DVD.

***Descendants 3* is Confirmed!**

By Charlotte Ting, Rebeka Brinkus and Olivia Storey,
Year 9 and Emily Balaiss, Year 10

If you haven't heard, a third film of the *Descendants* franchise is happening! We're definitely excited! Due to the second film gaining more than 71.5 million total viewers across 159 countries and the *Descendants 2* soundtrack being the #1 album on iTunes, there was a high demand for a third *Descendants* on almost every social media (Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

We don't know a lot about the upcoming film, set to be released in the summer of 2019, but we do know that there will be an *Isle of the Lost* graphic novel coming this August and an *Isle of the Lost* novel leading up to *Descendants 3* next May, as confirmed by the author of the previous *Descendants* novels, Melissa de la Cruz.

We were given a little teaser on social media that

Film, Music and More



Disney had big news coming, following the first showing of *Zombies*, their newest DCOM (Disney Channel Original Movie). On the poster, you could see a faint logo in the teaser poster that looks a lot like the Descendants' apple. That's when during the debut of *Zombies*, premiering on 16th February 2018, we were given a small teaser, which was Mal (daughter of Maleficent) walking through a dense forest and seeing a bright, blue light, and a faint voice is then heard. That's when Mal says, "Dad?" indicating we might get to see Mal's father for once!

The original cast will be returning for the third time. This includes Dove Cameron as Mal, Sofia Carson as Evie, Booboo Stewart as Jay, Cameron Boyce as Carlos and Mitchell Hope as Ben. China Anne McClain, who starred as Uma in *Descendants 2*, is also set to return. Sarah Jeffery, who played Audrey in the first *Descendants*, did not appear in the second film but is set to return.

Once again, we are very excited to see our favourite characters appear on TV and see the crew fire things up a notch.

Top Five Games

By Alex Burrows, Year 7

2017 has been home to many mobile games, some good, and some terrible. Here you go!

Knife Hit:

Knife Hit is a very popular game made by Ketchapp and Estoty. The main aim of the game is to throw knives at a log, to obtain apples, which then allows you to buy new knives. You can also obtain 'boss knives' by defeating certain bosses. This game is enjoyed by most that play it.

Sandbox Colouring:

Sandbox Colouring is a game, based on colour by number. New pictures are added every day. However, some pictures, usually the more advanced ones, require a paid subscription service named Sandbox Unlimited.

Rider:

Rider is a platformer game where you ride along a track, and the further you get, the higher the score you get. You can also unlock new cars to drive with gems.

Dunk Hit:

Dunk Hit is another platformer game. The aim of it is to tap to make your ball go higher, while landing it in the hoops.

Clash Royale:

Clash Royale is an online card game, where you unlock new cards, upgrade ones you already have, and gain trophies. You can move to different arenas (which get more visually appealing the higher you get) using trophies.

Stranger Things Season 3

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

As you should know, season 3 has been confirmed. It will be released late 2018 or early 2019. For many fans of Steve and Dustin's friendship, it will be explored more in season 3. Some rumours were being said about the Duffer Brothers leaving but they aren't, luckily. "There hasn't been anything dangled in front of us that's been exciting enough [to leave]. To abandon this show before it's done feels wrong to me," said Matt Duffer.

How many episodes will there be?

Stranger Things said that there would be 8. One less than season 2 but the same number of episodes in season 1.

Top 10 Best Metal Songs

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

1. Master Of Puppets-Metallica
2. Hallowed Be Thy Name-Iron Maiden
3. Holy Wars...The Punishment Due-Megadeth
4. One-Metallica
5. Painkiller-Judas Priest
6. The Trooper-Iron Maiden
7. Paranoid-Black Sabbath
8. Iron Man-Black Sabbath
9. Enter Sandman-Metallica
10. Holy Diver-Dio

Sport Update

Winter Olympic Roundup

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

As you might already know, the 2018 Winter Olympics have recently taken place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Winter sports are ever increasing in popularity and this February has seen the world's best compete to gain a coveted Olympic gold medal. It has been a fantastic testament to winter sports and captured the imagination of millions around the world with many fantastic moments coming from it.

Here is a compilation of all the best bits from team GB in the Winter Olympics 2018!

The Great Britain team have finished with a total of 5 medals in this games; four of those being bronze and one being a gold. Three GB medals have come in the crazy sport of skeleton with the other two in freestyle skiing and snowboarding respectively.

Let's start from the top and the gold medal: Lizzy Yarnold added a second Olympic medal to her collection, retaining her Olympic gold from four years ago in Sochi. Skeleton is a sliding sport where a competitor lies face forward on a sled and hurtles down a twisting turning track at speeds of over 80 mph. Lizzy Yarnold completed the track quicker than anyone else and became the first athlete to retain successive Winter Olympic golds.

In the same race, colleague Laura Deas shared the podium with her Olympic champion friend Lizzy Yarnold, winning one of Great Britain's bronze medals.

From one skeleton bronze to another, Dom Parsons opened Great Britain Pyeongchang medal accounts on 16th February. His wasn't, however, a comfortable third position as, until the final run, he didn't look in contention for a medal. It was only when fourth placed Martin Dukurs made multiple mistakes on his final run that GB's Dom Parsons edged his way onto the medal podium 0.11 seconds ahead of Dukurs.

The next bronze medal for Team GB came in the women's ski slopestyle with Izzy Atkin. Izzy Atkin has British and Malaysian parents and is based in America. The amazing thing about this medal is that she is only 19 years old, so perhaps in future, she might win a Gold.

Finally, Billy Morgan won bronze in the men's snowboarding big air, to secure GB's fifth medal. Five may not sound impressive compared to the 67 won at the summer Olympics in Rio two years ago; however, for a country that hardly ever has any wintery conditions (despite recent weather!), I think five medals is pretty good going. The team GB winter Olympic team also shows great potential for the future so who knows where winter sports in Great Britain will be in 4 years.

National Cross Country

By Cadence Taylor, Year 7

On Sunday 24th February, 9,972 runners walked the streets of London to Parliament Hill.

The course was tough but the local team (Rotherham Harriers) ran brilliantly and had some awesome results. Runners from all age groups were running (U13, U15, U17, U21, Junior Men & Women and Senior Men & Women).

The team did brilliantly and scored many brilliant results. For many, this was the first time they went on this hard course and it came as a bit of a shock. The weather was horrific and we all looked like a puddle of mud in the end but that doesn't matter, as we all had lots of fun. The results will be posted on the official page.