



VALENTINE'S DAY POEMS

18.

SHall I compare thee to a Summers day?
Thou art more louely and more temperate:
Rough windes do shake the darling buds of Maie,
And Sommers lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heauen shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd,
And euery faire from faire some-time declines,
By chance, or natures changing course vntrim'd:
But thy eternall Sommer shall not fade,
Nor loose possession of that faire thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wandr'st in his shade,
When in eternall lines to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breath or eyes can see,
So long liues this, and this giues life to thee,

By Sophie B, Year 8

The best thing about February must be Valentine's Day and what better to start off the holidays by reading an amazing love poem by the world's most famous playwright who changed how people think about language: William Shakespeare.

The poem above is one his most famous sonnets (love poems): 'Shall I compare thee to a Summers day?'

Finally, before we end school, take a moment read this

and to say something nice to somebody or help somebody you know with something, because when you give your time to somebody, someone you know will give you their time when you are in need.

That being said I now bid you adieu! Parting is such sweet sorrow, That I shall say good night till it be morrow. My necessaries are embark'd: farewell. Adieu! I have too grieved a heart to take a tedious leave. (More Shakespeare if you didn't know!)

Message from the Principal

18 February 2022

Dear Students / Parents / Carers,

As we approach the half term break, it gives us another opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights of the past few weeks:

B11 Education

As part of our drive for continuous improvement, we engaged in an external audit by B11 Education. Three trained OFSTED inspectors arrived and performed a number of Subject Deep Dives as well as meeting with leaders and teachers across a range of areas, including behaviour, attendance, personal development and safeguarding.

The feedback we received was very positive. Subjects such as Science, Maths and History come out with significant strengths and English was also seen as rapidly improving. Behaviour and Safeguarding at the academy was also highlighted as a strength. Particularly pleasing was the feedback regarding our Personal Development programme. The visitors highlighted the Character Education, Votes for Schools, Life Skills and Enrichment programmes as being real strengths of the academy.

As always, we reflect on the areas for development and have already started implementing feedback on how we can develop student voice and even further improve the Personal Development curriculum.

Ministerial Visit

This half term, we had a visit from the Minister of State for School Standards, Robin Walker. He visited the area to look at the Attendance Matters pathway RMBC have implemented in conjunction with local schools. The local authority selected us as the school they'd like to show the Minister around.



It was great to welcome the Minister and give him a tour around the academy. He was very impressed with the curriculum offer across all key stages in particular the broad range of subjects in the sixth form. He was particularly pleased with the standards of behaviour and commented positively on the progress the academy is making.



To be selected by the local authority and to then impress the Minister of State for School Standards on a tour around the academy is a fantastic achievement

and something staff and students should be very proud of. This is another indicator that the academy is making significant improvements.



Music Mark

It is an exciting time in the Music department with the installation of the new IT workstations and other new music equipment such as guitars, drum kits and keyboards. We are aiming to provide students with industry standard equipment on which to work.

In addition, the Music department are delighted to have been nominated by Rotherham Music to become a Music Mark school in recognition of their commitment to music education. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all young people and it is an honour to have been chosen.

Movement Evening

I write this letter the day of our first Movement Evening. We are very excited to be able to host this event again after the pandemic has prevented us from doing so last year. The students and staff have worked incredibly hard and I for one cannot wait to see it for the first time. Good luck to all the students and staff involved. You have done us proud already!

I hope you all have a fantastic half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome

Principal

News In Brief

Theatre Trip

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Our KS4 and KS5 Drama students, along with the Drama scholars, are off to the theatre on Wednesday 16th February. We will be visiting the Sheffield Lyceum to watch a production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, a stage adaptation of the novel of the same name by Mark Haddon. A fuller review will follow in the *Torch* next time, but given this is an Olivier and Tony Award® winning production, we have high hopes!

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Latest News and Updates

Student Leaders Update

By Isobel R, Year 8

The student leaders of Wath Academy would like to update you on what we have discussed in a recent meeting.

Our main focus is about food being served at our school at the moment. Please inform us of any suggestions you have; you can do this by finding one of the student leaders in your year and we will report back in our next meeting.

Applications are now closed for Year 7s and 8s, and the new student leaders will be announced in the next edition of the *Torch*. Good luck to all applicants!

A quick note about Friday chocolates:

Please dispose of your wrappers properly when you are awarded your chocolate on Fridays, particularly on Festival Road, as many wrappers have been seen along this particular area.

An update from the student leaders will be provided in the next issue, and don't forget, if you have any ideas about improving our school, come and find your year's student leaders and we will pass ideas on.

Science Club Update

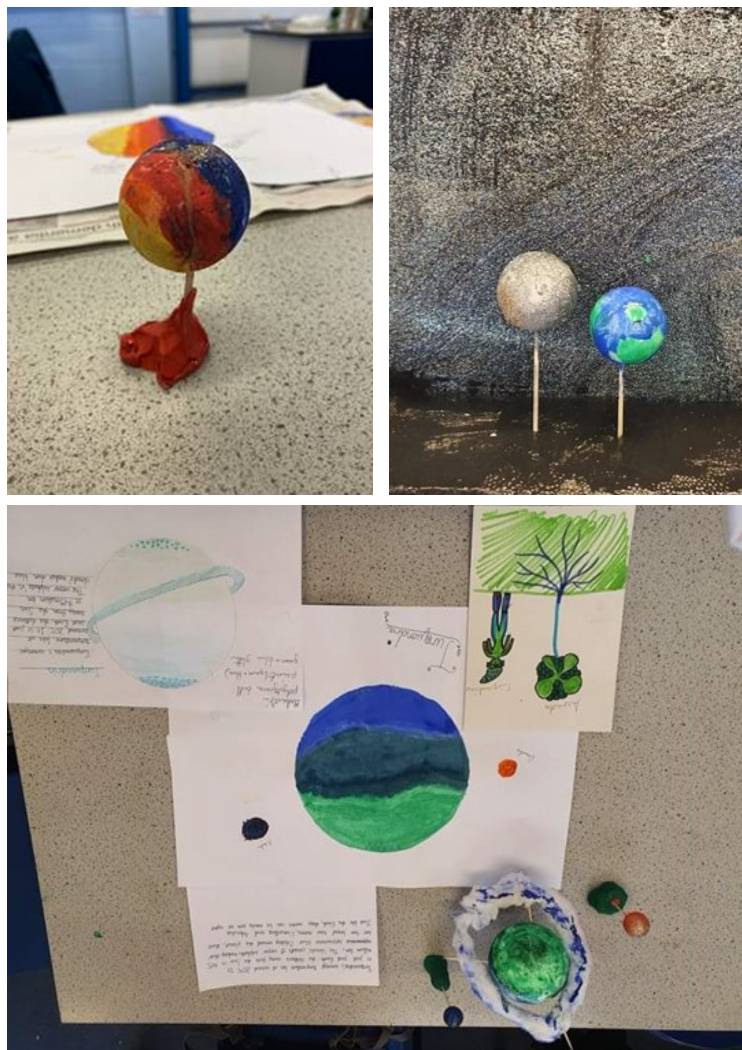
Science Club this term has been focused on all things space. Students have designed their own planets with some amazing results - the inventiveness and detail has been extremely impressive!

Our winners included the planet Turquondria designed by James T, Georgia W and Isabelle T. This planet can be found just past Earth and is a beautiful blue colour as a cloud of copper sulphate surrounds the planet. Its inhabitants include the species Turquandrians who breathe in hydrogen which can be found in abundance on the planet.

The other winners were Ava H and Maisie P who created the planet Titan which is a completely solid planet and is inhabited by pink rabbits. The rabbits are adapted to live on Titan as a result of their colour

as this allows them to absorb the tiny quantities of oxygen found on the planet to thrive. We are now creating rockets to fire and see which team's will travel the furthest!

Here are some photos of the amazing planets:



Here's what Miss Thacker has to say about Science Club: "Miss Powell and I absolutely love running Science club and it is so great to see so many students passionate about all things science!"

Some quotes from students on Science Club this term:

"I have had so much fun there. One of my favourites was designing and creating the planets because it was inventive and we got to research many things about our planet and we got find out so many things. I found out that earth is 140 million kilometres away from the sun," says Isabelle T, Year 7.

"We do amazing things every week! We have lots of

from Wath Academy

fun and I love Science Club. I make sure I go every week!" says Summer C, Year 7.

"It is an enjoyable experience and has fun and entertaining experiments," says Daniel G, Year 7.

"It's really fun and I'm glad I went. The teachers are really nice and helpful," says Lexi C, Year 7.

"Science Club is a unique experience where different methods and activities can be done, It is also a friendly place to chill and have fun (with or without friends) after school!" says Dylan G, Year 7.

"Science Club is really fun and there are lots of experiments and different activities to take part in. Sometimes, we get to use equipment that we haven't used before (in Science class), so it is exciting to try something new. I would recommend going because there are experiments that will interest you," says Emelia A, Year 7.

Why not come along next half term?

Library Updates

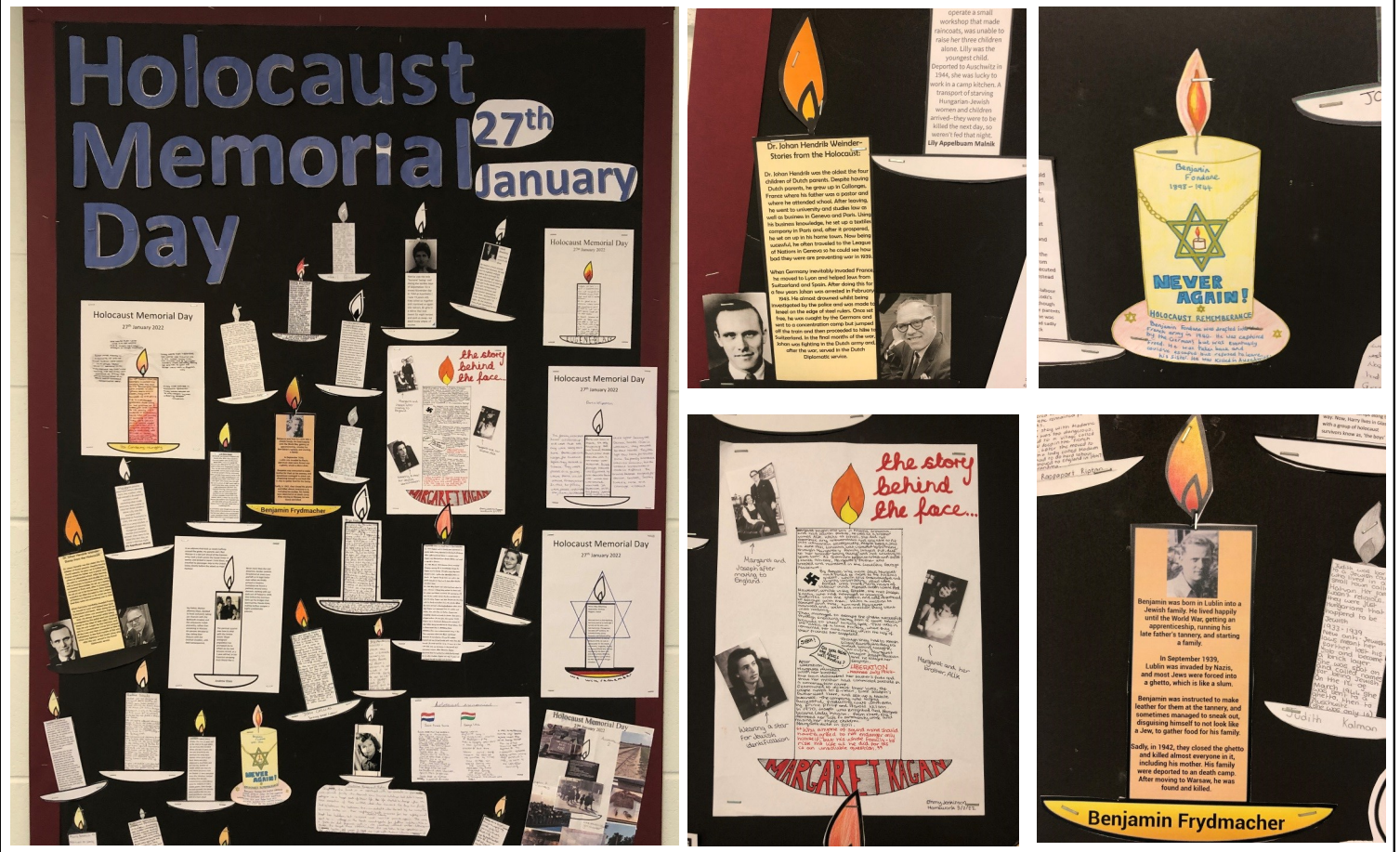
The library at Wath Academy is a brilliant space to come to discover a new book, have a friendly chat or use the computers. We also run various projects throughout the year, and next half term is a particularly exciting time.

A few things you can look forward to include: National Careers Week, Get Up to Speed, World Book Day and the Scholastic Book Fair. Many of these events occur annually, and it will be great to welcome lots of visitors into school again after the restrictions of the pandemic.

For National Careers Week, we are also launching a new app called 'Day in the Life of...' which will allow you to access five-minute videos from professionals in various careers, to learn what life in that job is really like from the people who do it day to day.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This half term, Year 9 historians have been completing research around testimony to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The following are examples of the high quality work produced. Well done everyone!





Opinion and Review:

Immortal Fenyx Rising

By Harry C, Year 7



Immortal Fenyx Rising is game made by Ubisoft set on a Greek mythological island where the gods live. You play as Fenyx, a Shield bearer on the warrior's ship that crashes on an island. Typhon has escaped his prison and Fenyx must stop him slowly gaining the gods' abilities.

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Hera, giving you the ability to lift boulders and throw them at enemies. You can also get other abilities (like a phoenix) and a bow to shoot enemies.

The puzzles are completely different, though. Around the map, you will find structures with a chest locked out of reach. The only way to get it is to use your abilities to solve something. There could be targets to shoot or buttons to press but when doing this you will normally find in the chest armour or weapons which work the same as normal but give you a helpful ability like another bit of health or 10% more damage.

The Vault of Tartarus includes small dungeons where you must traverse through puzzles and battles. When getting to the end of a vault; they will award you with Zeus's lightning which when going back to the Hall of Gods can help you get more stamina.

The Hall of Heroes is the hub where you can go back with quest items to upgrade things. This game is a 10/10 and is definitely worth buying.

Knack Reviewed

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By Daniel G, Year 7

Knack is a game where you are a creature made of relics as an experiment, but you are successful.

When you first start, you are put in testing and defeat an array of robots that are different to each other. Then you will face the billionaires' robots and you win to pass. You then go to the forest to uncover the goblin hideout. You collect relics to get stronger and sunstones to use you super attacks. After that, you get some icicles and absorb them, the same as the stealth part, wood part

The premise of the game is good and all the characters have a funny personality. The main gameplay is fighting and puzzles; the fighting is good with two weapons—the axe, a strong attack, and the sword, a weaker but quicker attack. Enemies are all very different from each other, the enemies that I have seen (I have not finished the game yet) are all completely different with attacks. The fighting gets good when you unlock the Gauntlets of

Film, Game and More



and metal part.

My favourite part is the end where you get massive, fight the final guardian, and see the credits. I felt full of accomplishment and joy. Victor is the main villain, and he is terrible as he tries to kill you multiple times. My favourite *Knack* type is stealth knack, as you can switch between the different knacks.

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Inscription review

By Harry C, Year 7

Inscription is a card game made by Daniel Mullins. This strategy game is amazing with many different mechanics always changing things up. I will not be spoiling much but if you don't want to know anything about Act 1 you've had a heads up.

Story

The beginning doesn't feature much story: you find yourself in a cabin and a shadowy figure tells you to play a card game. You are told the rules and play but a card can talk. You must figure a way to escape. That is most of the story so not much happening but in-game it is much more interesting. The atmosphere makes the game great as you have to play this game in this eerie cabin where you slowly uncover mysteries and play the game to survive. A mysterious figure named Leshy also makes the game interesting, and he help you at key points.

Art style

The art of the game is amazing as everything in the game has much detail, to the masks Leshy wears (to play characters), to the room you walk around solving puzzles.

Gameplay

The gameplay is also good. The main idea of the game is to get the scale down on your opponent's side. The way to put down cards is to get blood, the way you do this is to sacrifice cards. You have two decks, the main deck you build up getting cards and your squirrel deck is full of squirrels which is what you normally sacrifice as they can't attack. Cards can also later cost bones which you get from cards dying. The cards are based on animals, and all have different abilities called sigils. Sigils can range from a wolf cub that grows up to a wolf after a turn or a snake having a poison sigil which instantly kills cards. You also get a space where you can sacrifice cards to put sigils on different cards and prevent certain outcomes like sacrifices at the end of turns. Even better, there are also rare cards you get from the trader, who you get cards from by giving him pelts from the trapper, or when you defeat a boss where you can pick from three. There are always weird mythical creatures like long elks, ourobus, urayuli and Child 13 with new sigils that change the game. That is not everything but it is what you need to know to start the game, I think this game is amazing and definitely worth playing.

Puzzles and Riddles

By Scarlett B, Year 7

Test your friends with the following puzzles and riddles (answers can be found below),

1. **CAN YOU FIND THE M1STAKE?**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2. What has one eye but can't see?
3. What has a head and a tail but no body?
4. What can run but can't walk?
5. What has a ring but no finger?

Answers: 1) There is a '1' in 'mistake' rather than an 'l'; 2) a needle; 3) a coin; 4) a river; 5) a phone or a bell.

Feature: Joining Wath Academy

Now that we're half way through the academic year, Year 7 students Sophie B and Evie W take a moment to reflect upon the big move to secondary school...

Sophie's Story

The reason I chose to go to Wath Academy was due to the fact that my friends were all going there and because when I investigated the school at the Open Evening, I knew from then on that it was the school that I wanted to go to.

Three things I have learnt so far from Wath Academy are:

1. You must be organised to do well.
2. How to find your class from looking at your timetable.
3. To take responsibility for your actions.

Of the key drivers, I think I that I have demonstrated Growth Mindset the most, as I managed to use my dislike of school and Maths to my advantage and learned to appreciate that we don't have long left until we have to pick what subjects we are going to take and lose subjects that we might also like.

The subject which I enjoy the most is Drama. This is because in Drama you can be yourself and show your emotions through acting as other people in a story. You can also exaggerate things a lot of the time. That is why I like Drama.

I have attended the movie night and the laser tag and will attend the ice-skating event in the coming days.

I think the *Torch* (the student newspaper) and Kamikaze are my favourite extra-curricular activities.

Evie's Story

When I was in Year 6, I was imagining what secondary school would be like, little did I know it would be so fun and entertaining.

I chose Wath Academy because my brother came here, and he told me it was a good school (only a couple of teachers are strict).

Three things I have learnt at Wath Academy are:

1. Always be prepared/organised.
2. Even though you don't like a lesson, it will help you in life so attend it.
3. Try to push yourself in lessons.

The key drivers I think I demonstrate are Integrity because I never lie, and I am kind. The other key driver I think I demonstrate is Everyone is Valued because I never leave anyone out and always cheer people up.

The subject I like the most is History because it is interesting, and you get to learn about what it was like in the past. The extracurricular club that excites me the most is the newspaper club because I get to write!

Cracking Burger Recipe

By Jessica M, Year 7

Ingredients:

- 12 Jacob's Cream Crackers
- 8 springs of fresh parsley
- 500g of minced beef
- Mustard
- Sea salt and ground pepper
- Olive oil

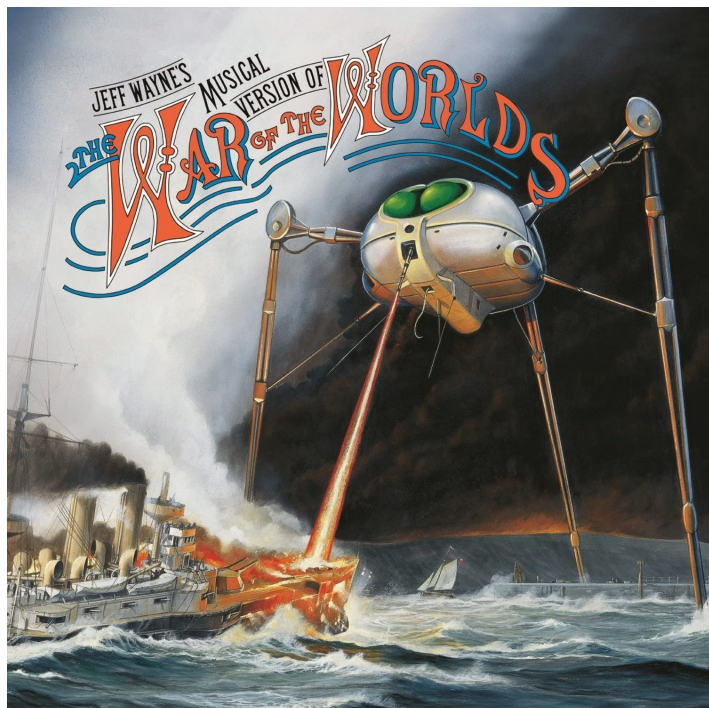
Instructions:

1. Smash up the cream crackers until fine and put into a bowl.

2. Finely chop the parsley and add with the mustard and minced beef into a bowl.
3. Crack in the egg and add a good pinch of salt and pepper. Mix up well.
4. Divide into 6 patties and mould into roundish shaped about 2cm thick.
5. Drizzle with oil cover and place in fridge until needed.
6. Cook in a frying pan (hot) 3 or 4 minutes either side. Serve with lettuce leaves, red onion and cheese. Lightly toast your burger buns.

War Of The Worlds Songs Ranked

Isobelle F in Year 10 takes us through her favourite songs from the musical adaptation of HG Wells' iconic *War of the Worlds*. Beware, mild spoilers for the plot!



War Of The Worlds is a genius book by well-known author HG Wells. Set in London, it is about a Martian invasion, with epic tripods, harnessing the power of huge heat rays, capable of evaporating people on the spot. They plant red weeds along their way, threaten to take over the whole planet, and use human blood to fuel their rampage. There is also, famously, a musical version, first narrated by Liam Neeson, with music by Jeff Wayne. Different editions of the musical version are available on Spotify and Audible. On Spotify, these versions include the whole songs, and can be found together on albums already made. However, on Audible, Michael Sheen's narration only includes clips of the music, and not all the songs are featured. Here is my favourite of the songs, though it is hard to rank them.

Brave New World

This is by far my favourite as it is dramatic and tells the tale of the Artilleryman (David Essex), and how the invasion and terrible conditions sent him mad within a small amount of time. He plots a whole civilisation, with clearly no intention of employing his plans.

Spirit Of Man

This is more about hope than focusing on the doom of the situation and tells of the Parson (following from the song Parson Nathaniel), who has gone delirious, believing that the aliens are a trick by Satan, and believing that even his wife is a devil, as she tries her best to convince him that she is not, and that these are aliens, not demons. The song shows how hopeless some people would be in a dire situation like this.

Forever Autumn

This song comes into the story as the narrator's wife has gone on a ship to France to 'safety', and how the narrator is worrying, and there is a sense of panic about the fact that he doesn't know what will happen to her. The whole song is using the metaphor of Autumn and the idea of it never ending to represent his sadness of watching his wife sail away, even though she doesn't want to leave him.

Thunder Child

This is a song about a hope against the tripods; a ship called 'Thunder Child' can take down two tripods, before they retaliate and melt the ship, as the crowds cheer for it to take them all down. The song is again about hope, but unsuccessful hope, and the prevention of success by a seemingly unstoppable force—the Martians—with their advanced technology.

If you listen to these, or already have done, what are your favourite four?

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Recommended: A Good Read



The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden

Reviewed by Mya M-J, Year 10

Vasilisa-or Vasya- is a young, mischievous girl frequently found venturing into the woods outside her home in the rural suburbs of Lesnaya

Zemlya. In a small village in the wilderness of medieval Russia, Vasya finds herself seeing ominous figures in the winter's forest and wants to explore. Elderly and somewhat-wise merchants that pass by her village share stories of sorcery and magic that is beheld in the deepest parts of the woods, where the Rusalka lies in the mist above the lake, and the Domovoy- the household spirit of a given kin. These creatures are just myths, to scare little children not to wander too far or to clean the house thoroughly to remove any possible entities. However, Vasya has a different approach. She sees what only a very few see, the demons.

Yet, this is not all easy for young Vasya, her siblings have been sent away for marriage and soon it will be her turn. Konstantin, a young priest, gains the trust of citizens of Lesnaya by scaring them to end all sacrifices to the spirits and demons that guard their homes. Vasilisa worries that the priest's power is killing all friendly spirits and attempts to provide food and shelter for these struggling ethos- unfortunately, her small scraps of bread and cabbage soup is not enough. Her powers and abilities can save them all with the help of the Winter King before Konstantin's revolution begins. The darkness is coming to Russia fast, and Vasilisa must ask for the Winter King's guidance to prevent the uprising. The question is, how do you find a Winter King?

The Bear and the Nightingale is a mystical fiction novel and the first book in the 'Winternight' trilogy, it is a creative story full of old Russian folklore tales- all

brought to life by the young protagonist Vasya. Unquestionably, a book worth reading.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling

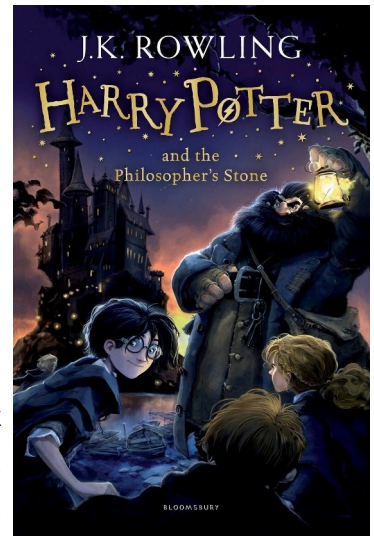
Reviewed by Evie W, Y7

Harry Potter is a worldwide famous book written by JK Rowling. There is a whole collection of books, seven in total.

Let's dive into a world of witchcraft and wizardry as I take you along to explore what adventures Harry Potter has been on in the book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Harry Potter is about a boy that learns on his eleventh birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and possesses unique magical powers of his own. He is summoned from his life as an unwanted child to become a student at Hogwarts, an English boarding school for witches and wizards. There he meets several friends who become his closest allies and help him discover the truth about his parents' mysterious deaths.

Will he be able to figure out what happened to his parents? You will have to read the book (and then watch the movie!). What's best is if you love the first in the series, you're bound to love the rest, so you'll be set up for what to read next for quite a while. Below are the covers of all the books and films in the series (and yes, there is an extra film).



Lost Letters of the Alphabet

Isabelle F in Year 10 discusses the letters that didn't make it into modern usage.

The twenty-six English letters are very recognisable; we learn them from day one: A-Z. These poor letters must substitute for many sounds. Just look at the *-ough* suffix: *through, though, cough, hiccough, rough*. These same four letters are useable in many ways - if you read them right. However, the alphabet used to look a lot different. Following are eight different letters we used to have, but which are no longer included in the infamous alphabet song.

The long s - ſ

Though this looks like an F, it is far from it. This symbol features in much old literature, such as *Paradise Lost*. The long s didn't just replace its shorter counterpart, there were a complicated set of rules indicating when to use this letter, and they were: you use the long s when a word uses a single s, but only at the beginning or in the middle of a word. In the case that a word uses a double s, the long s becomes the first s. In short, the long s would be the first, or only, s in a word, but not at the end.

Thorn - þ

The thorn represented the 'th' and was a lot simpler to use. As you may know, when a sign outside a shop says 'Ye olde..', this is because, before, it would have been 'þe olde...'. Sadly, German and Italian printers didn't have the symbol, so it was eventually replaced with the Ye that we have now.

Eth - ð

Eth could also be used, like thorn, to represent 'th', but another pronunciation. There are two notable variants of the sound we make for 'th'. One, the voiceless dental fricative, and stands for the whistling 'th' from when we say 'thing', 'thought', 'thunder'. The other, a voiced dental fricative, which stands for the lower, heavier sounding 'th', made when saying 'other', 'then', 'father'. Eth would be used to represent this voiced dental fricative, whereas thorn would represent the voiceless, such as the one in its name.

Ash - æ

Nowadays, ash is mainly known to be the grey, dust-like particles that fall from flames, a boy's name, or perhaps a tree. However, this old forgotten letter sometimes shows

itself. The letter itself is pronounced between the A and E, hence its appearance, something like the 'a' in 'cat'. It can be seen in some words such as *dæmon*, and *æther*, although not often.

Ethel - œ

Like ash, this letter can still be seen around in some words, usually spelled with the two letters separately. Words like *foetus*, *subpœna* can be seen featuring the hybrid letter, but for the sake of writing, are usually seen 'foetus', which doesn't change the pronunciation, but can make it simpler to write.

Wynn - p

English is derived from a combination of languages, with the main one being Latin. We had to make our own letter to represent the 'w' sound, since the sound didn't really exist in Latin. Originally, the syllable was written as uu, but many scribes didn't like it. The double-u design took too long to write when they had to copy out pages upon pages in short spaces of time. For a while, scribes used the p, but too many had already developed the habit of writing two Us. Eventually, the p became surplus to requirements, and W was formed. This also helps explain the name confusion with this 23rd letter.

Yogh - ȝ

This letter, though it looks a lot like the number 3, was used for the noise made when you say 'Loch'. The resemblance to 3 made this letter too complicated, so it was replaced with 'gh' in most words today. The ȝ sound has been made silent to the English language, as seen in 'daughter', 'though'.

Eng - ŋ

We use this letter a lot, even if we may not realise. In theory, this letter should be perfect for speed writing, but the problems arise when printers run low on ink. This is because an ŋ without the tail is just an n, meaning that if the tail isn't clearly seen, reading becomes difficult. Ŋ was made to replace the letters 'ng', which is seen often in English. Words would become *Kiŋ, thiŋ, siŋiŋ*. Sadly, the letter 'g' was already in full use, and the problem with fading eventually caused the letter itself to fade from use.

These letters could return, but for now, at least, they are gone with no sign of a comeback. Why not see how many you can find in old books?

News, Politics and Opinion:

'What a Load of Rhubarb'

By Elliott R, Year 10

Recently, there has been a huge amount of confusion in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, coming from various sources, like fake news, scaremongers and even our own Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. Throughout the worst parts of the pandemic, Boris Johnson has done nothing but deliver conflicting and outright damaging information to the public. Amongst the worst of his offences, though, has been the recent exposé of the parties he has held throughout lockdown, even after advising the rest of the public to do the opposite.

This has caused an uproar amongst the public and other politicians, demanding the attendees of these parties face legal repercussions, such as losing their jobs and hefty fines: all things that the public faced if they were found to be breaking these Covid restrictions. These double standards have broken the public's trust in the Conservative government, with many calling for Boris Johnson and the Downing Street staff to step down from their positions. Not only has the public been calling for this, but also Boris Johnson's own cabinet members and fellow Conservative politicians.

But what exactly has he done?

Following the release of Sue Gray's report on the matter, the true depth of this situation has been released to the public; 12 gatherings were held at Downing Street from May 2020 to April 2021. This report has led to four police investigations into the gatherings, all of which are still ongoing at the time of writing. The chaos that these gatherings have caused has already led to several of the attendees quitting their jobs due to pressure from the public. Boris Johnson had previously denied any allegations that these parties broke Covid restrictions, preferring to refer to them as 'work events' but has recently done a great deal of apologising for his actions, but people still aren't happy.

So, what is going to happen?

There are currently several police investigations into the matter, and not all of the information has been released

to the public due to legal repercussions some people may face. It is uncertain at this time if these gatherings are still going to be investigated, and if any other information does come to light, what exactly will happen. But, no matter what, we can hope that his scandal will prevent anything like this from happening again, especially in these difficult times.

Boris Johnson facts

Evie W, Year 7

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Here are some facts about Boris Johnson that you may have known or may not have known. So, first, his full name is Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson. The Prime Minister was born in New York on 19th June 1964. He married a girl in 1987 called Allegra Mostyn-Owen, but the marriage didn't even last a year. He married the barrister Marina Wheeler later that year.

Michael Lee Aday

By Isobelle F, Year 10

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Michael Lee Aday, better known as Meat Loaf, was an American singer, who tragically, on 20th January 2022 died, due to COVID, at the age of 74.

Known for his loud rock music, legend Michael Lee Aday rose to fame worldwide, as his shocking music and in-

Wath Students Have Their Say

your-face personality won the hearts of millions of people. His voice, ranging three octaves, is iconic, and can surely be distinguished in any crowd. He sang with bellowing confidence, which is possibly what made him so popular.

His memorable name came partly from 4 days old, and eighth grade (Year 9). When he was born, his father lovingly commented that he looked so red, he looked like some ground chuck. He then said that Aday's crib should have a tag on it that just said 'Meat'. So, the first half of his nickname was built, but the second half came when, in American Football practice, he stood on the teacher's foot, who promptly shouted for him to 'Get off my foot, you hunk of meat loaf'. Clearly the singer thought this was either amusing, or fitting, and he adopted it as his name.

One of his best-known songs is *Bat Out Of Hell*, which is an iconic song which really represents his character, and his overall genre. He has appeared in many films, such as *Fight Club* (though we don't talk

about *Fight Club*) and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which made him better known, and showed his love for storytelling and characterization.

Though his cameo in Rocky Horror was short, the one song he sang is one to remember, and matches the quality of his other songs.

He was loved by many, but, as always, all good things must end. It is a shame that this man's life was not ended the way he wished – on stage, performing to fans – but to Covid-19, the most recent coronavirus found. Considering his lifetime, he deserved better than this, and I believe that we can still honour his wishes.

I believe that, if his family would agree, his funeral should be held on the first stage he ever performed at, as a homage to his achievements, and the place that really started it – The Cave, Huntington Beach – as far as I can find. This would be a fitting way to commemorate his career, and all he did for many people.

School Activities Word Search



Puzzle designed by Sophie B, Year 7

Can you find the following words:

TORCH NEWSPAPER

TUTOR

ENGLISH

MUSIC

LIFE SKILLS

ART

MATHEMATICS

SPANISH

SCIENCE

DRAMA

GEOGRAPHY

COMPUTING

COOKING

HISTORY

Return your completed word search to Miss Taylor in F30 for a positive conduct card mention.

Feature: Exam Season Advice

Liv S in Year 13 shares her thoughts about how to maximise success in the exam period...

When to Start

The big question everybody always finds themselves asking when exams are coming up is “When do I start revising?”. Ideally, when you’re at school, you should revisit content you aren’t currently learning every week. I do this by choosing a topic we haven’t covered in class for a few weeks and seeing how much I can remember.

For revision just before the exams, there is no answer to when you should start. Everybody is different. Some may start a month before the exams, some people may start two months out. Nevertheless, there is such a thing as starting intense revision too early - you don’t want to burn yourself out. This is where you employ trial and error. In my first mock exams, I started revision two weeks before. I was disappointed with my results in certain subjects, so I knew I needed to add more time for my next mock exams. When you get grades that you’re happy with, you know that you’ll feel comfortable with revising that amount of content in that amount of time. As you learn more, you may need to add more time, but consistent, small chunks of revision every week will mean intense revision becomes easier.

Timetable

Planning which subjects to revise on which days and for how long largely depends on two things: when the exam is and how confident you feel with that subject. Unfortunately, it is usually the subjects you dislike that end up being the harder ones. This means that you’ll probably have to spend more time on them, and this can be demotivating. However, if you pair it up with a subject you do enjoy, this can be effective. For instance, if you love History, but don’t like Physics, revise Physics first, then move on to History. You’ll be covering the same content, but you won’t be as likely to procrastinate doing the subject you dislike.

Another helpful tip for timetabling your revision is to split up your subjects into topics. You can download the exam specifications online, and by dividing what you revise into these sections, you will find you are less overwhelmed and able to cover more content in the detail required. For example, instead of saying you will revise Maths on Tuesday night, say that you’ll cover

quadratic equations instead. This makes it more manageable. Again, if you feel less confident in a certain area, cover that topic first before moving on to something you find easier. Your grades are more likely to improve that way.

Ways to Revise

There is no set way to revise - it can’t be taught. Teachers can give you various ways and try to help you along the way, but revision is not prescriptive. You must find what works for you. Here are some ways of revision that may help.

Reading

Simply reading through a textbook and possibly making notes from it is unlikely to get you through your exams, but it is a good place to start before you dive into condensed revision. You can use multiple different sources to gather all the information about a topic, such as textbooks, the internet, and your schoolwork. Making sure it’s all in one place helps you compartmentalise each subject, making it less like a confusing mass of information. This should be done throughout the year, as it is not the most effective way to revise close to your exams, but it helps to refresh your memory.

Condensing Information

Revision cards and mind maps are just two examples of condensing information that can help with your long-term memory. By using smaller amounts of information, you are more likely to remember an increased amount of content, as well as improve revision and how you manage your time. There are ways of doing this online, such as Quizlet, if you work better away from paper. These methods are not right for everybody, but any way of shrinking the amount of information you’re reading to the key details is beneficial.

Testing and Blurting

If you can get somebody else to test you on a topic, whether they have knowledge of it or not, this can help you solidify facts in your mind. Giving somebody your mind map or revision cards and getting them to test you with certain prompts or questions mimics something like the exam and forces you to retrieve that

information without the temptation of just looking it up. If you don't have access to a family member or friend to do this, simply write revision cards to prompt yourself. Write a prompt on one side, with the answer on the back, and go through the cards, testing yourself to see if you remember everything.

Blurting is a method of revision that I find works when you're close to the exam. By getting a piece of paper and writing down everything you know about a certain topic, you can close gaps in your knowledge. This is most effective if repeated multiple times after revisiting things you may have missed before.

Practice Questions

The best form of revision to do throughout the year, but especially before your exams, is practice questions. Not only are you testing your knowledge of the content, but you are familiarising yourself with what the exam will look like. For instance, in English, you may time yourself doing an essay without your notes. This emulates what you will go through in the exam.

This makes it less stressful on exam day because you've already faced it before. Ask your teacher for sample questions and go online to find past papers to try out.

Health

Taking care of yourself is a big part of success. In exam season, this can become more difficult, as you feel your workload increasing and stress levels rising.

One worry may be that you are falling behind with your current schoolwork. This is especially true for mock exams, as you have not completed all the content for your finals, so you will be learning new content at the same time as revising what you've previously covered. One way to handle this is by completing all your homework on the day it is set. This leaves evenings and weekends with more flexibility to revise.

However, your physical and mental health is a priority too. Nobody is expecting you to revise for 24 hours a day - you would most likely end up doing worse due to burnout. Taking breaks is integral to being successful. One way of implementing this is the hour/twenty minutes rule. For every hour of work you do, take a twenty-minute break. If your homework, for example, takes half an hour, take a ten-minute break. If you have done a practice paper for two hours, take a forty-minute break (although these long periods of work should be rare - aiming for short bursts of revision helps concentration). During these breaks, take time

for yourself. You may choose to chat with your family or friends, go for a walk, on your phone, watch television, read a book, anything you find relaxing that is completely detached from the work you are doing.

However, with the rise of technology, many of us find it hard to remove these distractions and do the work we need to. These devices aren't best for our health when we use them constantly, even though they are a part of life. Taking breaks from our phones, laptops, televisions, and other devices can help us feel more awake and focus on things that can improve our health. Taking a break from social media for at least two hours a day is beneficial for improving productivity and health, both mental and physical, leading to an increased chance of success and happiness.

Taking time out of your week for something you love to do is equally important during exam season. It takes your focus to something entirely different, which improves concentration and stress levels. Although you may choose to decrease the amount of time you spend doing your hobby as it gets closer to exam season, it is integral to maintain that break until you're on top of the date your exams begin. This could be, for instance, going to football/dance/band once a week. The benefits of this are unparalleled: making you a well-rounded individual and keeping you doing something you enjoy.

Final Takeaways

To summarise, here are some top tips:

1. Find a technique that works for you
2. Manage your time effectively
3. Test your knowledge frequently
4. Take regular breaks

Think of the post-exam benefits - results day, moving on to college/sixth form/ an apprenticeship/ university, the long summer!

By working in a smart, effective way throughout the year, the more productive you can be, the more time you will have to balance work and life, and the more confident you will be. This means you will be in the best position to succeed in your exams.

From Fact to Fiction:

Abigail G in Year 10 has been researching into the Princes in the Tower. Here, she presents two versions of the tale, the historical backstory and her own story inspired by the historical account.

Backstory:

The story of the Princes in the Tower is one of the most famous historical mysteries. In history, the Tower of London was the epicentre for torture, holding famous figures such as Anne Boleyn, Queen Elizabeth I and Guy Fawkes hostage. Many of the prisoners held in the Tower of London were executed due to demands from the monarchy but others, such as Elizabeth I, were released after a while.

The Princes in the Tower refers to the sons of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville: Edward and his younger brother Richard. Their murder took place in the 1480s and the most controversial part of this story is the question concerning the murderer. In fact, were these young princes even murdered in the first place?

There is evidence, though not substantial, to support the murders of these boys as, in 1933, the skeletons of two young males (aged around ten and thirteen) were discovered in Westminster Abbey. Scientists concluded that the princes were murdered in the summer of 1483.

The most popular suspect of this murder was, and still is, Richard III: the uncle to the young princes. According to sources from the time, Richard III was hungry for power and desperate for the throne. Many historical characters who visited London around the time also believed Richard III was guilty. For example, in his writings, Sir Thomas More claimed that the uncle was the murderer and so did an Italian Friar who was in the capital during the murder. According to the friar, the princes were seen gradually less until they were never seen again.

The media also agreed with the rumours; Shakespeare presents Richard – in his play, Richard III – as villainous and responsible for the murders.

Reports also claim that Richard III hired three men (Sir

James Tyrell, John Dighton and Miles Forest) to do his work and that Tyrell confessed to the murder in 1502 when sentenced to death for treason.

Story:

Bleak, secluded, unchanging. Every lifeless stone brick remained a haunting reminder of the time that had passed. Yes, there was more dust now but, even so, all one-thousand-nine-hundred-and-twenty-five slabs of stone stared back in the same, helpless manner they always did.

Edward decided to count the bricks for a hundredth time, merely because it was a way to consume the time which he had far too much of these days. Anyway, it was healthier than his brother's method of lying there, breaking down and sobbing frequently. When you cry every day, eventually it becomes rather fatiguing; you could see the weariness in Richard's eyes and the dark circles which encompassed the olive shade which used to exist as pigments in his skin.

The room was so monochrome, sucking all life and colour into its void of fear.

A sudden knock at the heavily bolted door caused the boys to jolt, their hearts beginning to palpitate madly. Edward was not as naïve as his brother, for he had no other option but to sacrifice his childish innocence for the benefit of his country; he knew his fate would be decided during this visit.

The anticipated shadow loomed in the doorway, appearing even before the jutting chin which made him especially striking alongside the pale complexion and protruding nose. Slowly but surely, the hunched man appeared, breathing heavily as he knew that his kismet would too be predetermined by this encounter.

"Uncle," Edward greeted him, finally working up the courage to face the imposing figure.

Richard III nodded in acknowledgement, scanning the sombre surroundings and the tear-stained faces

The Princes in the Tower

of the young princes with clear satisfaction.

The expression on the villainous face filled Edward with a sizzling, acrid anger. How dare this man look at his brother in such a way that a lion would at his prey, licking his lips in lamentable content? This lion had already had his fair share of meat, but he wanted more; he would stop at nothing until he had consumed every zebra in his path to becoming king of the jungle.

Realising the exasperation on his eldest nephew's face, Richard decided that his visit had been long enough. No words had been exchanged and none would be.

All's well that ends well, he thought to himself.

Within a matter of minutes, the door was bolted again. For a short while, Edward stared blatantly at the mass chain of locks which confirmed what he already knew. There was no escape.

He then realised how little time he had left and regretted the weeks he had spent staring at the wall rather than his exquisite little brother who he loved so dearly. Even with the colour drained from his delicate skin and his eyes red and puffy, Edward still

viewed him as the toddler who clung to his ankles and followed him like a shadow.

It was so cruel that his perfect little brother had to share his name with such a monster.

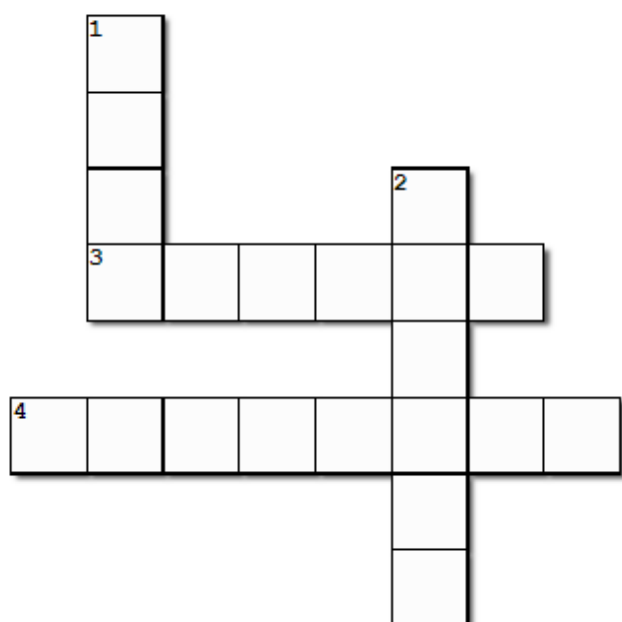
"Richard," Edward choked out, trying to sound strong for the sake of his brother. "I love you. I just wanted you to know that..."

"I love you too, Edward," Richard replied weakly, the corners of his chapped lips turning up in a feeble smile.

That night, the brothers laid side by side and reminisced on the past, laughing and smiling more than they had ever done. Rather than tears of the deepest depression, these were the product of laughter and they rolled down the cheeks in slow-motion, preserving the time they had left.

The pillows clamped over their faces muffled their helpless, terrified screams as their beautiful souls floated towards the sky, finally resting in the bodies of angels after being tortured for so long.

Crossword Puzzle



Puzzle designed by Scarlett B, Year 7

Can you complete this animal-themed cross word?

Down:

1. This animal is an extraordinarily intelligent animal. (4)
2. A widespread group of squamate reptiles, with over 6,000 species. (6)

Across:

3. This female animal is called a doe (not a deer). (6)
4. This animal is the largest living land animal. (8)

Return your completed word search to Miss Taylor in F30 for a positive conduct card mention.

Wath Students Get Creative:

Story (Part Three): Chimaera

By Daniel G, Y7

James is on an odyssey to save his mum. He has defeated various monsters but will this be the time he finally succeeds?

James carefully got out of his boat and kissed Sweetland. On the other hand, the boys were standing there quietly. He then stood up and started to get ready for his next encounter.

James asked the boys where they lived.

They replied joyfully, "Just over in that town, ten miles north of the mountain." So, they would arrive by sunrise.

Once they got there, it was burned to a crisp. "What happened?" shouted the boys.

"I don't know," said James.

"A beast named Chimera came."

They turned in surprise. An old man disappeared into the mist that surrounded them.

They needed to wait until morning, so they set up camp and went to sleep. When the boys woke from their smoky sleep, they found a huge wildfire ten meters away from them. In the blink of an eye, they got up and sprinted to the boat and paddled away from the fire to a safe place to rest up.

They went to check on the fire. It was all gone by the time they got there and James found a crater in the ground. There sat a small glass bottle with a little lightning spirit. He was a little bigger than a clay ball and had a message from Zeus: "Defeat Typhoon to gain your reward." James accepted the quest and started to find Typhoon.

After he reunited the boys with their father, he headed into the mountains. At a sound of flapping, he turned around, but it was only a small sparrow so he turned to continue. Then the chimera ambushed him. An angry beast, lion in the front, goat in the middle and dragon in the back. The dragon's fangs full of venom tried to bite him and finish the fight instantly but he

failed.

The chimera's goat legs beat at him, but the shield saved him and he slashed at the legs. It hit but the dragon part came again. It bit the shield and took it away. The lion lunged and bruised him on his chest, but he did not give up; he slashed and slashed until he chopped off one of the goat's horns. Then he tried to hit the chimera and it hurt him a lot more than his sword, so James hit and hit and finally sliced off the dragon part of the chimera plus one of its wings. He kept going and finally defeated the goat part and to finish it off he through the sword into the lion's face.

He took some stuff with him such as lion fur, goat horn, dragon fang and headed to a camping spot to finally have a good night's sleep... *Will he get closer to his mum? Find out in the next edition.*

A Short Story

By Freya W, Y7

Bleep. "Where am I?"

"Oh my god, Noah," Granny said with tears in her eyes, "We have missed you unbearably."

"Wait, where am I? What happened?"

"Some silly men rode into the car and your mother tried to protect you but well, um... the doctor had to amputate your arm so you could live without the pain. Don't cry, Noah, you are going to set me off."

"But, Granny," Noah said in a small voice, "where is Mum, is she okay?"

"It's going to be okay, the doctor told me you would be up and raring to go in no time."

"I have sorted out a—"

"Hello Mar— oh my... Jack, wait, no, Noah, that's the one, we are so glad to see you," said the doctor said. "Nurse Judy, this is Noah. He was the kid in the crash."

.... a few weeks later later....

"See ya, Doc. Hope to see you soon," said Noah.

Short Stories and Poetry

“Don’t go getting yourself in any other accidents, grandma has the hospital’s number if anything else happens – which it won’t! But just in case. Have a happy Christmas, Noah, see you in the future maybe...”

The Trilogy of Demon Society

The Moonswirl Prophecies (Part 1)

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Igrayne W, Year 8

Lavandula was busy taking extracts of her DNA in her bedroom by cutting small chunks of skin from her thighs – a place no one would see the bloody gaps she had made.

The blood began to stain the bedding as it dripped down her leg. In agony, she limped across the room to her desk where she had her test tubes and instructions and swiftly clutched at the test tubes as she felt her leg give way; now the blood was dripping on the floor which was laminated luckily so she could wash it off. Abruptly her husky, Tank, pushed open her door and waded through the pools of Lavandula’s blood and started licking her wound.

It stung like a wasp; Tank’s carefulness was vague as he tried to clean off the dried blood but Lavandula had had enough. She gently pushed him away and continued with her experiment. *Find out what she is doing in the next edition!*

Bereavement

By Isobel R, Year 8

Bereavement is tricky,
It brings so much loss,
We reminisce about memories,
That are suddenly out of touch.

Some may not know how to cope,
They don’t know what to say,
We should talk about it,
Help people find a way.

Death could come at any time,
No matter who you are,
People die from time to time,
Passing, near and far.

It’s a subject that’s avoided,
So an ear we should lend,
Offer a shoulder to cry on,
When life comes to an end.

February Poem

By Scarlett B, Y7

February is the month with the least amount of days
Although it is special in so many ways
February is a suitable time to wear a hat
Or play cricket with a baseball bat
Give a friend a chocolate box
Or an Xbox
Pisces are loving and kind
But they are quite sensitive and like to unwind
Send them some heart shape candy
When it is Valentine's Day.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Harry Chadwick, Evie Whitehead, Freya Wilby, Sophie Bradley, Scarlett Bailey, Daniel Gabor, Jessica Moore, Isobel Robertson, Igrayne Whitlam, Isobelle Fenton, Elliott Rodgers, Abigail Germany, Mya McVeigh-Judd, Liv Smith, Isand Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, please join us in F30 afterschool on Thursday each week, or find Miss Taylor in F30 for more information about how you can get involved!

Sport and House Update

WATH ACADEMY HOUSE UPDATE



Wath Academy is very proud of its varied programme of House activities, which aim to create positive memories that will last a lifetime.

Each week there is an online house event. These can be anything from book quizzes to quizzes about Minecraft and popular culture.

Every two weeks, there is also a box task. These tasks are posted into the clear boxes in reception and can be anything from art to poems, origami to portraits.

There is a Friday House Challenge every Friday Lunchtime. The challenge is always good fun and winners can gain up to 600 points for their house, alongside fame on the TV screens around school.

We are always looking for suggestions to include in the Friday Challenges. These need to be able to be played with more than 200 people. It needs to have a

clear winner and take no longer than 10 mins. To suggest an event, please see your Head of House, House Captain, Vice Captain, or a House Rep.

The league table as it stands at the end of half term:

	HOUSE	POINTS
1st	ATHENS	99829
2nd	CARTHAGE	93754
3rd	SPARTA	92256
4th	THEBES	84948
5th	TROY	83420
6th	ROME	80293

Everything is still very much to play for, going into the second half of the year. Each student who participates will earn their house a few extra points, which could make all the difference! So, if you've never participated so far, what are you waiting for?