

Torch



Wath
Academy

*Year 11 Prom
at Wentworth Woodhouse*

*Plus
Year 13
Summer
Ball*

Torch

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Torch is Wath Academy's student-produced magazine, published every half term

You can contribute to *Torch* by opting into the enrichment club or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

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**Wath
Academy**

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Update!
Torch will be part of the new school enrichment timetable next year, with Miss Storey and Mrs Thompson taking the reins

HOUSE UPDATE



Welcome to the Half Term 6 House Update. With only sports day, the comedy club box task and a Thursday event still to go, it looks like Troy and Athens have first place sewn up. Troy's position at the top is a result of

Overall House Points	
Troy	166,750
Athens	143,765
Rome	109,095
Thebes	108,295
Carthage	105,525
Sparta	101,445

dominating both the sixth form and staff paper quizzes throughout the first two half terms, and even though other houses in the sixth form took up the challenge Troy's dominance of both the paper and online quizzes has kept their points racking up.

Total Student Points	
Troy	105,330
Athens	98,665
Rome	80,025
Thebes	73,470
Sparta	70,730
Carthage	65,935

Whilst the other houses may not be able to catch Troy overall, they have a shot at the half term win. Also, the kudos and bragging rights from winning sports day and the points it will bring mean the battle for third really is a four-house race. Carthage need something special to reverse

HT6 Student Points	
Troy	10,245
Rome	9,805
Athens	9,050
Thebes	8,330
Sparta	6,055
Carthage	5,580

their fortunes of the past four weeks and climb up the table. Sparta have had a recent upturn on Friday and sixth form results. The stand-out houses,

though, are Rome and Thebes, who have really turned in the performances and surged up from sixth and fifth to now sit in third and fourth places.

Staff have also been competing in events throughout the year; their league tables for total points and points this half term are included on the right. It has been great to see so many staff, especially new members of staff to the school, getting involved in departmental and Friday activities. The overall positions show no changes, but there has been some movement in the half term league table.

Total Staff Points	
Troy	61,420
Athens	45,100
Carthage	39,590
Thebes	34,825
Sparta	30,715
Rome	29,070

HT6 Staff Points	
Troy	6,990
Athens	6,205
Thebes	5,005
Rome	4,800
Sparta	4,370
Carthage	3,920

The house challenges are a fun way to build confidence through teamwork and competition. Thanks to all staff for their continued excellent support: it really does encourage student participation, which makes the events as successful and rewarding as they are.

Mr Marriott • Head of Carthage

MAGISTRATES' MOCK TRIAL

Having won the first round, the Wath Academy mock trial team travelled to Manchester to compete in the regional final of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial competition.

On 17th June 2023, a team of both Year 8s and 9s attended Manchester Metropolitan University's mock courtrooms to compete in the regional round of the Young Citizens Magistrates' Court Mock Trial competition, having comfortably won the first round in Bradford earlier in the year.

The defence team were up first. The defence lawyers (Evie S as defence one

and Liam A as defence two) performed extremely well when their time came, with confident presentation throughout and (what could be mistaken as) professional execution of both examinations in chief and the cross examinations. Our defence witnesses (Dylan R playing Briar West and Chloe C playing the defendant, Ari Roberts) impressed us all with their ability to stay

“Everyone adapted to unexpected answers in an effective way.”

in character under lots of pressure and harsh questions from the opposing team. It would be difficult not to be proud of the performance of this half of the team.

It was the turn of the prosecution in the second heat. Isobel R (prosecution lawyer one) and Alex E (prosecution lawyer two) were also a credit to the team. They adapted to unexpected answers and communicated with the others in an effective way. Prosecution witnesses – Amy



The Wath team in Manchester for the North West Regional Final, where they came fourth

M as Devin Parks and Nyah H as Frankie Taylor – were challenged with the questions asked, but (as we knew they could) answered in a calm way and stuck very well to their characters.

I must also congratulate Freddie H who took on two roles within the team (usher and legal adviser). His performance as the usher was flawless, with him watching like a hawk for phones and taking in court. Legal adviser wasn't a familiar role to Freddie, but he still gave it his all and impressed the entire team with his remarkable grasp of his new role.

Isobel R • Year 9



Our students with their winners' certificates after victory in the first round at Bradford Magistrates' Court

Teachers' Views

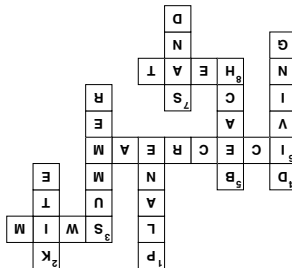
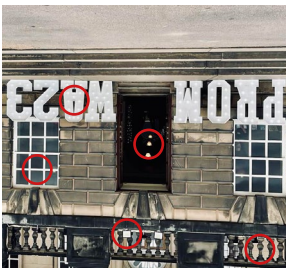
The teachers who helped the students prepare for this experience were Mr Gardner, Miss Mason and Mr Smith, with Mr Bishop attending as first aider on the day. Here's what they said about the competition:

"It has been fantastic to work with students on the Magistrates' Court Competition this year. Working with you on the case preparation was quite the cerebral challenge and, although nerve-racking, it was brilliant to see you all perform so well in your roles at Bradford Magistrates' Court. The less said about the second round the better, but we aim to be magnanimous in victory and gracious in defeat so we shall endeavor to see it as a learning point for future competitions."

– Mr Gardiner

"I was stunned by how good our students were. Because I was only attending the day as the first aider, I had not seen any preparation beforehand and was therefore privileged to see the cases unfold 'live'. Everyone was so articulate and prosecuted and defended so well against some very talented other schools."

– Mr Bishop



Puzzle Solutions

Summer Crossword

See immediate right

Spot the Difference

See far right

THE BIG BANG FAIR

A group of Year 8 students embarked on an exhilarating voyage of scientific discovery on a trip to The Big Bang Fair 2023 at the Birmingham NEC.

For a day filled with awe-inspiring exhibits and hands-on experiences, The Big Bang Fair 2023 proved to be a catalyst for igniting curiosity and sparking a passion for science among the young minds of our school.

As we stepped into the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement enveloped us. The vast exhibition hall unfolded before our eyes, revealing a multitude of interactive displays and captivating demonstrations that celebrated the wonders of science,

technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

One of the first stops on our journey was a robotics exhibit, where our students were introduced to the fascinating world of automation and artificial intelligence. They marvelled at the precision and agility of the robots, interacting with them and even participating in friendly robot races. Witnessing the fusion of engineering and technology, our students gained first-hand experience of the boundless possibilities that lay ahead in these fields.





The chemistry and physics exhibits offered a series of hands-on experiments and mind-bending demonstrations. From creating colourful chemical reactions to witnessing the power of electromagnetism, our students eagerly participated, broadening their understanding of these fundamental scientific principles. Engaging with enthusiastic scientists and educators, our students realized that science was not just confined to textbooks but came alive through practical application.

Beyond the exhibits, our students had the opportunity to attend informative talks and workshops led by renowned scientists and industry experts. These sessions provided valuable insights into the latest scientific advancements and their impact on our world. The students were inspired by the stories of innovation and perseverance, understanding that their own aspirations and contributions were vital to shaping the future.

Reflecting on the school trip to The Big Bang Fair 2023, it is clear that this fabulous event has left an indelible mark on our students' scientific journey. It has sparked a renewed passion for STEM subjects, nurturing a curiosity that will drive them to explore the mysteries of the universe and embrace the challenges of scientific inquiry.

Ms Stocks • Head of Science



Year 11 Prom

On Friday 30th June, Year 11 students descended on Wentworth Woodhouse to celebrate the end of their GCSEs and their time at Wath Academy.

It was fantastic to visit Wentworth Woodhouse for the second time to host our Year 11 Prom. All our students certainly dressed for the occasion and looked absolutely stunning.

The arrival cars never fail to surprise and get bigger and crazier every year. This year we managed to have a horse, a horse and carriage, a tractor and a pack (around 15 to 20!) of motorcycles.

We are excited that we have managed to get a booking at the venue for next year,

with a date to be confirmed soon, and hope that it is just the start of a long partnership with Wentworth Woodhouse. We would certainly struggle to get a better venue than that!

Our current Year 11 certainly enjoyed their night and their behaviour was impeccable all evening.

It was a wonderful end to a wonderful time at Wath Academy.

Mr Lines • Year 11 Pastoral Year Leader

Image: Chris Smith/Capture Photography





Prom Award Winners

Prom Queen:	Evie M
Prom King:	Ethan H
Best Dressed:	Courtney L Luke M
Most Inspiring:	Nhat D
Most Improved:	Lily W
Top Joker:	Harry H



Year 13 Summer Ball

The Wath Academy Sixth Form Class of 2023 celebrated the end of their A Level and vocational courses with a Summer Ball at Kenwood Hall in Sheffield on Thursday 6th July.

There was a new venue for this year's Year 13 Summer Ball. Kenwood Hall, Sheffield, held our annual event in its picturesque grounds, providing a lovely backdrop and plenty of photo opportunities for Mr Bishop. On arrival, students were greeted by the Sixth Form team and a large number of supporting staff from the academy, all of whom were blown away by how much the students have grown and matured, even in the small time from leaving.

As the evening progressed, and following students exchanging of stories from recent holiday experiences, a lovely three-course meal was enjoyed by all. The usual awards were handed out, such as 'Best Dressed' and 'Most Likely To Be Prime Minister', and Miss Slasor closed the formalities with an emotional 'goodbye and good luck' address.

Huge thanks go to Mrs Lines and Miss Slasor for being the driving force behind what was a delightful final evening. It certainly was an occasion for creating positive memories that will last a lifetime for our magnificent Year 13 students.

Mr Barlow • Head of Year 13





Summer Ball Awards

Worst Driver

Kai G

Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize

Hannah M

Most Likely to Go on Love Island

Louis B

Most Likely to Be Famous

Alice S

Most Likely to Break a World Record

Mollie F

Most Likely to Be Prime Minister

Mitchell W

Best Dressed

Pip S & Josh B

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

We look back at the 2022–2023 academic year.

Throughout this academic year, many events have taken place, which have included students from all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13.

September

In September, the academy opened back up ready for the new academic year after record results in the summer of 2022. Unfortunately, a couple of weeks after returning to school, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away and the whole of the United Kingdom went into a mourning period. During this time, Wath Academy's social media accounts were paused and profile pictures were made monochrome to respect her death. Also, during September, the academy hosted the annual Year 6 Open Evening which allowed current Year 6s to visit the site and see what is on offer when they join us for the new academic year.

October

Events in October included a Year 11 revision evening, as well as the Murder

Mystery evening which was produced and performed by our very own Sixth Form students. Additionally, at the end of October, students were given the opportunity to carve pumpkins for Halloween which were entered into a competition for house points.

November

In November, students were able to purchase poppies and write a message on a cross to show respect for Remembrance Day. The current Year 11 were also invited to Sixth Form open evening to see what options they have on offer to choose after GCSEs. As the World Cup was being held in Qatar, students were allowed to watch England's 6-2 victory over Iran in designated areas. The Sixth Form's Performing Arts students also hosted their Cabaret Evening. For students Years 7–9, the annual Careers Fair was held in the main hall. This gave Key Stage 3 students an opportunity to see what jobs are on offer locally and nationally.

December

In the run up to Christmas, the Music Department showcased their annual concert, where students were able to show off their musical abilities. The whole school participated in Christmas lunch on the last day of the term. In the first week of the Christmas holiday, a number of students travelled to Passo del Tonale, Italy, to



Pumpkin carving competition entries

participate in skiing. These students were able to build up skills as well as having a trip of a lifetime with friends.

January/February

At the very end of January and early February, Movement Evening was hosted with the theme being 'The Greatest Show'. This event was held over three nights with different primary schools also taking part each night.

March

The Faculty of English recognised Reading Week and World Book Day by asking Year 8s to create posters of their favourite books. A handful of students were given the opportunity to meet astronaut Tim Peake at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy where they engaged in STEM-based activities. Rotherham Finals Day also took place in March at Wickersley School and Sports College. The Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams came back victorious along with the Sixth Form football squad, while Year 11 netballers were runners-up.

April

In April, some Year 9s took part in the trip to the Lyceum in Sheffield to watch a live production of *Blood Brothers*, which they had been studying in English lessons.

May

May saw some Year 10s take part in a trip to the Lyceum in Sheffield to watch a live production of *An Inspector Calls* as they had been studying it in English as part of their English Literature GCSE. As King Charles III was crowned this year, Wath Academy held their own Coronation Tea for staff, students, parents and the community.

June

After their exams, Year 11 and Year 13 had their leavers' assemblies as their time at



Wimbledon trip

school had come to an end. In addition to this, Year 11 had their prom at Wentworth Woodhouse to finish off their five years spent at Wath.

July

The school was inspected by Ofsted on 3rd and 4th July. Later that week, Year 13 enjoyed their Summer Ball at Kenwood Hall, Sheffield. Younger students went on a trip to Wimbledon. Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions also took place. A whole-school careers day included university visits. All students took part in the six-mile sponsored walk and funds was split seven ways. The charities were:

- **Athens:** Barnsley Animal Rescue Charity
- **Carthage:** Macmillan Cancer Support
- **Rome:** Rotherham and Barnsley Mind
- **Sparta:** Cancer Research UK
- **Thebes:** Young Minds
- **Troy:** Rotherham Hospice
- **Whole School:** Wentworth Woodhouse

Still to Come

The second Wath Academy Awards are due to held at Sheffield City Hall on Wednesday 19th July and Year 6 transition takes place on the last three days of term.

Ruby R • Year 10

THANK YOU FROM THE BRITISH LEGION



Wath students are invited to the RBL.

As some may know, a small number of students attended a 'thank you' event from the Royal British Legion (Wath Branch), who raised an incredible £33,000 in the 2022 Poppy Appeal. Wath Academy is very proud to have contributed £2,000 to this figure and hope to recreate this success later on this year.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) attended events at the school around the time of Remembrance in November 2022. They gave moving assemblies throughout the week about why we remember those fallen in wars, as well as one of their members masterfully playing 'The Last Post'.

At the 'thank you' event, the representatives from the school met the local MP, John Healy,

taking a photo with him and even accepting his offer of taking away the rubbish! They accepted the thanks of the RBL and were present for the unveiling of a new plaque in the St John's Rooms.

The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyable and (at times) tense with a game of bingo and a raffle. Our students were also provided with a buffet lunch and some very nice (as well as customised) cake. As a whole academy, we would like to thank the Royal British Legion for the invitation to the event. We hope to continue this good relationship by raising even more next year for this worthy cause, so we implore everyone to buy a poppy this coming November!

From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). In 1984, home computers were rare, but *The New Wathonian* had all the latest information.



Computers (1984)

To the uneducated, computers are simply machines to play Space Invaders on, and whose games are cheaper than the Atari and similar consoles. Little do they know that the computer can be an invaluable learning tool.

Having trouble with your Maths?

The computer can not only teach you practically every subject under the sun, but test you as well. The computer itself is a very complex machine but it is fairly simple to understand if you remember two things:

- a. Read your instruction manual carefully and do exactly what it says (they are nearly always right) and do not 'mess about' with the computer.
- b. You do not have to understand what you are doing, but as you grow more addicted to the hobby you will want to know what is going on inside the computer when you press such and such a key, what happens to the circuits, micro chips etc. Then you can purchase one of the many BASIC (a common computer 'language') tutorial books. This will teach you everything you need to know about the computer, its language and its workings.

Of course there are games lurking in the shadows, ready to lure us off the Geography homework and get us into trouble next day. But having criticised them, they are very good and show you

the use of graphics and sound. They do not cost as much as the Atari cartridges as they come mostly in cassette form and cost from between five and ten pounds. Some are cheaper, some are dearer, but the best ones for your pocket and for quality come within the price bracket mentioned.

There are several different computers on the market and these include the Dragon 32, the Commodore 64 and the Sinclair Spectrum. These are three of the most popular computers; they all cost from one hundred to two hundred pounds and are an excellent investment. Others are the BBC Micro (Model A or B), the ZX81 (which, in my opinion, is the most useless computer ever created) and the VIC-20. The average 'K' memory of the average home micro is around 28K and a computer with around this memory is about right for the tasks you will be setting it.

The most popular computers have already been mentioned and are all very good (apart from the ZX81), but there are other companies making computers. Sharp, the well known electronics firm, have a few different types but mostly for business. The Sword MS is another obscure make. There are many others, including the Lynx and Casio computer firms and subsidiaries. So I conclude by saying that if you are going to buy a computer, buy a fairly expensive one as it will last longer and give more enjoyment.

Richard Cooke • Form 20 (1984)



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Ruby R previews this summer's World Cup and assesses England's squad.

After last year's European Championship victory in England, the Lionesses are off to Australia and New Zealand to compete in the World Cup to try and win another major trophy. Despite key players such as Beth Mead and the captain Leah Williamson missing out on being selected due to anterior cruciate ligament injuries, Sarina Wiegman has named her 23-women squad for the upcoming tournament. Chloe Kelly returns after scoring the winning goal to secure the Euro trophy for the Lionesses as well as scoring the winning penalty against Brazil in the first ever Women's Finalissima back in April. Also making a return to the squad is Rachel Daly who joined Aston Villa after seven years at Houston Dash and has scored 24 goals in 26 matches. Despite there being doubt about her being included, Lucy Bronze is back in defence after recovering successfully from knee surgery.

As the tournament is in Australia and New Zealand this year, people back home in the UK are facing kickoffs as early as 2 am some days. During the group stages, there will be at least two matches on either the BBC or ITV each day to enable people to watch the games. The BBC and ITV have been able to gain the rights to this year's World Cup after the public were told that

they wouldn't have access to any games at all. Luckily, all 64 matches will be shown.

England's first match is on Saturday 22nd July at 10:30 am against Haiti in Group D at the Suncorp Stadium in Milton, Australia. The Lionesses will also face Denmark on 28th July at 9:30 am and China on 1st August at 12 pm.

The tournament officially starts on 29th July with New Zealand playing Norway.

Ruby R • Year 10

The Full England Squad



Goalkeepers: Mary Earps (Manchester United), Hannah Hampton (Aston Villa) and Ellie Roebuck (Manchester City)

Defenders: Millie Bright (Chelsea), Lucy Bronze (Barcelona), Jess Carter (Chelsea), Niamh Charles (Chelsea), Alex Greenwood (Manchester City), Esme Morgan (Manchester City) and Lotte Wubben-Moy (Arsenal)

Midfielders: Laura Coombs (Manchester City), Jordan Nobbs (Aston Villa), Georgia Stanway (Bayern Munich), Ella Toone (Manchester United), Keira Walsh (Barcelona) and Katie Zelem (Manchester United)

Forwards: Rachel Daly (Aston Villa), Bethany England (Tottenham Hotspur), Lauren Hemp (Manchester City), Lauren James (Chelsea), Chloe Kelly (Manchester City), Katie Robinson (Brighton & Hove Albion) and Alessia Russo (Manchester City)

REVIEWS

We Hunt the Flame by Hafsa Faizal

We Hunt the Flame is a young adult fantasy novel inspired by Ancient Arabia. This book follows Zafira, a skilled hunter who sacrifices her identity to feed her people, and Nasir, the feared assassin and son of the corrupt and brutal ruler. They live in the kingdom of Arawiya, which has been plagued by the Arz, a deadly forest surrounding the kingdom and slowly creeping inwards towards civilization. Nobody has ventured into the forest and lived – except Zafira. Together, Zafira and Nasir begrudgingly go on a treacherous mission to retrieve a powerful artefact that can restore magic in the kingdom and destroy the Arz.

The main protagonist, Zafira, is a strong character who uses her skills as a way to serve the people of Arawiya. However, to do this she must abandon her gender identity and take on the identity of a man due to societal expectations. This plot line was especially compelling to read about as it showed Zafira's compassion towards people who would not accept her true identity despite her risking her life to feed them. However, Nasir the 'Prince of Death' is a brutal assassin who surprisingly experiences immense internal conflict surrounding his title and duty to the kingdom. Reading about Nasir's thought process and justification – despite knowing his actions are wrong – was fascinating and I was eager to read about how his character would develop throughout the book. Both characters, as different as they may seem, experience the same conflict. If Zafira was to be exposed as a girl, she

would be rejected by society and if Nasir were to show compassion, he would be punished by his father. This makes their journey of finding a magical artefact also a journey of finding courage and overcoming these conflicts.



In addition to the characters, I also found the Middle Eastern mythology-inspired world to be immersive and captivating. With the addition of Arabic phrases and terminology, I felt it was both an educational and enjoyable way to learn about Arabic culture. This is a particular aspect I enjoyed as it was something I know very little about and is often not featured in young adult fantasy. Faizal's attention to detail when describing landscapes, political schemes and magical beasts really aids in immersing the readers and building an enchanting world that is easy for readers to get lost in.

Occasionally, this book did suffer from minor pacing issues. However, I believe these are overshadowed by the intricate world and characters Faizal has created. This book has surprising friendships, political conflicts, and captivating characters perfect for readers with a passion for learning about different cultures or who just want to read a well-developed immersive fantasy book. ★★★★★

Kate B • Year 12

Arctic Monkeys at Hillsborough Park (9th/10th June 2023)

The second weekend of June marked the first concerts the Arctic Monkeys have held in Sheffield for years, and many travelled far and wide to see them (one man travelled over 8,000 miles, according to Google).

My experience of the event was by far one of the best memories I have and most likely it is a best memory to many more people.

When we arrived at Hillsborough Park, I realised the website I looked at made a typo, and that there wasn't five but fifty thousand people who attended. There were crowds gathering at every corner: at the drink and food stalls, around the stage, on entrance, around the park and anywhere that your eyes fell upon.

The supporting acts were amazing and put on one hell of a show, with the lead singer

of the band The Hives crowd surfing like he has done on many other occasions.

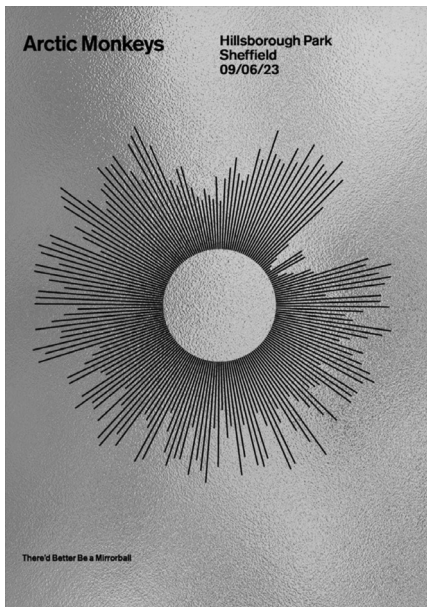
Then we made our way back to the crowd and waited for the Arctic Monkeys to come out on stage and perform in their home town for the first time in ages. When they came on, they opened with 'A Certain Romance', which was obviously an amazing choice judging by how loud the crowd was, and the band continued playing a great set.

Later, what they said was the end of the show turned out to be a short break and soon came back and played a few more tunes. They closed the show with 'R U Mine?', which they have closed every show with for the past ten years and I can understand why. The entire crowd sang so loud that at some points during the song I couldn't hear the band over the people singing near me.

It was nice to know how that many people love to come together and listen to the music of what started off as a local band who managed to become one of, if not the, most well-known indie bands to exist.

The concert was definitely one of the best that's visited Sheffield judging by how badly my brother and I had lost our voices and took many Strepsils to speak, without remembering the effort we put into joining in on all the songs that had been played.

Overall, I recommend going to a concert if you haven't in a while and to ensure you have the full experience, even by trying out new foods and spending time with those who you usually wouldn't do.



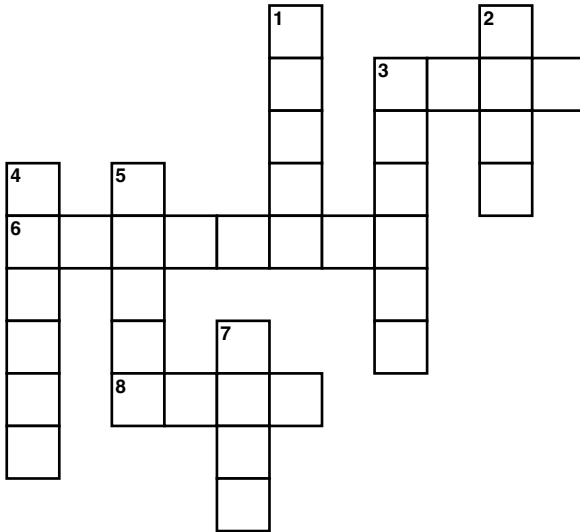
Artist Alex Szabo-Haslam from Heeley in Sheffield designed the posters for the homecoming gigs

Ruby R • Year 10
(different from the Ruby R writing elsewhere)

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 5

Summer Crossword



Across

- 3. Always done in water (4)
- 6. Delicious treat enjoyed by many (3, 5)
- 8. Experienced due to high temperature (4)

Down

- 1. Type of transport (5)
- 2. Flown by the sea (4)
- 3. Hot season (6)
- 4. Action completed off a board (6)
- 5. Somewhere where you find sand (5)
- 7. Warm, golden grains (4)

Ruby R • Year 10

Spot the Difference

Can you spot the five differences between these photos from the Year 11 prom?





The first girls to attend Wath Secondary School, 1923



The first boys to attend Wath Secondary School, 1923

Wath Academy Is Turning 100!

Save the Date:
Sunday, 17th September 2023



The building for Wath Grammar School, 1930