



THE TORCH

Wath Student Newspaper
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Meliora Spectare

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YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING



By Alex C, Year 10

As many of you may already know, on 30th September, the Year 6 Open Evening was in full swing. Departments all around school had a blast creating fun-filled evenings in the theme of Disney.

With rights to Disney music, and a budget for each Department, no expenses were spared to make this a truly unforgettable evening for current and prospective students alike. Many students and teachers volunteered to work late into the evening to demonstrate the very best of what Wath Academy has to offer.

In Food Technology (in the images above), the team that were cooking had little friends. Adorned to their shoulders were small rats with chefs' hats atop their heads. Their chosen Disney film was, of course, *Ratatouille*! Mrs. Code took in only her best students to cook up a feast for those attending. Flat breads, with a range of flavours, and smarties cookies kept the students busy, alongside the small French food quiz that lay on the table of the entrance. It was a wonderful time filled with laughs and delicious food and we hope the visitors had a great time too!

Message from the Principal

22 October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

This week marks the end of the first half term of the year. Although we are still ensuring a range of COVID-19 precautions are in place, it has been great to have some sort of normality back for the students. I, for one, have enjoyed seeing large numbers of students engage in enrichment activities and sporting fixtures which have been severely limited over the last couple of years.

Below are some of the highlights of the year so far:

Year 7

Having taken part in a comprehensive transition programme, and having had the opportunity to engage with our Summer School, the Year 7s have settled in remarkably well. They have adapted to our systems quickly and their attitude towards learning has been excellent. We look forward to watching them develop with us over the next 5 years.

Developing High Levels of Cultural and Global Awareness

With a view to broadening students' horizons and understanding of the world around them, we have launched our Diversity and Inclusion Calendar. Each month has a theme which students can engage with via display boards, tutor sessions and house activities. This half term we have celebrated 'Languages of the World' and 'Black History Month'. It has been great to listen to the conversations these themes have generated amongst students and we look forward to next half term which includes celebrations for Diwali and Bandi Chorh, as well as International Day of Disabled Persons.

Charity

Having raised £9,351.52 for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice at the end of the last academic year, we have decided to continue to support them this year as an academy. In addition to working with Bluebell Wood, each House will be electing their own House charity for whom they raise money through a series of House competitions. All students will have the opportunity to



vote, for which charity their House raises funds. Therefore, in total, we will be consistently working with 7 charities each academic year.

Y6 Transition

We delivered 2000 transition packs to 70 local primary schools. We welcomed over 900 people to our open evening and have now conducted a large number of Golden Ticket Tours. Parents have been welcome to simply arrive at reception, without prior notice, and request a tour of the academy at any point during the school day. This demonstrates our confidence in the day to day routines, quality of teaching and learning and standards of behaviour within the academy. We are very proud to be able to showcase the academy in this way.

New Staff

As well as the Y6 students, our new staff have adapted well to life at the academy. We were very happy with our recruitment for September and have been

delighted so far to see how well they have started. The quality of teaching & learning remains the absolute focus at the academy and the new staff have added to the significant improvements made over the past two years.

Y11 Revision Evening

We hosted a fantastic open evening for Y11 where we provided each student with a personalised revision pack; these included revision guides for each of their subjects and stationary to help them revise. On the evening, Mrs Weatherhall also presented her top revision tips which will help students prepare for their exams.

These are just some of many highlights from the first half term. We also have a lot to look forward to over the coming months:

Our Y12 open evening takes place on November 11th at the academy. This is a great opportunity to have a look at the extensive range of subjects we have on offer within the Sixth Form, as well as our scholarship programmes.

Following on from the Murder Mystery evening, the next productions from the Performing Arts Departments will be the Christmas Pantomime and the Christmas Music Concert. These events are scheduled to take place in December. More information will be released after half term.

On the final day of the second half term, all students will take part in a Christmas celebration day in which they receive a free Christmas dinner, as well as engaging in a number of fun activities. More details will be released nearer to the event.

I hope you have a fantastic half term and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 1st November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome
Principal

Year 11 Prom

There was a double celebration on Thursday, 12th August: not only did Year 11 students receive the results of their GCSE and vocational qualifications, but it was also the night of their leavers' prom.

The most remarkable aspect of the prom was that it took place at all. With the COVID-19 pandemic making organisation difficult, many schools did not attempt to hold a prom, cancelled it altogether, or held a much smaller scale event. This was not the case at Wath Academy, where the full prom experience was put on at the usual venue of the New York Stadium in Rotherham. Even the delay to the Government's lifting of coronavirus restrictions was overcome, with the date being moved from early July to results day. Mr and Mrs Lines, the chief organisers of the prom, really did move heaven and earth to make the event happen.

And their efforts were well worth it. The hospitality suite at the stadium was decked out with balloons in the school colours of maroon and gold, with giant light-up letters reading 'Wath Prom'.

But proms are not about the interior decorations – they are about the attendees. Here, our departing students did not let us down. There was a stunning array of dresses and suits on show. A special mention must go to the dozen boys who all attended in matching pink suits and deservedly took home the prize for best dressed males.

A DJ was on hand to provide music for dancing to throughout the evening. Prom-goers also enjoyed a buffet. A professional photographer also ensured students could take away photographic memories.

After 18 months of disruption, the night was a welcome reward for the Class of 2021.

Year 11 Prom Awards 2021

Most Improved: Connor Peace

Top Joker: Billy Black

Best-Dressed Female: Immy Oughton

Best-Dressed Male(s): Pink Suit Boys

Most Inspiring: Ellie Thompson

Prom King: Nathan Hazlewood

Prom Queen: Lydia Annetts

Latest News and Updates

The Student Leaders of Wath Academy

By Isobel R, Year 8

The student voice of Wath Academy have a clear aim: to change the school for the better. Our council consists of two Year 8 students (Alex Evans and Isobel Robertson), four Year 9s (Emmy Jenkinson, Oliver Jacques, Lily-May Jackson and Lewis Helliwell), and three Year 10s (Ruby Birch, Holly McMaster and Jake Grantham). Applications for Year 7s, and possibly Year 8s, will be open soon, and we believe that this is a great opportunity in developing character and enrolling in exciting leadership roles.

Our first meeting this academic year was held on 22nd September. Our current focus is to contribute to helping the environment. Ideas include: coloured recycling bins in classrooms to improve sustainability, more litter picking competitions, a recycling logo competition and many more. We all play a part in making our school what it is; this is why we have talked about holding drop-in sessions for any ideas students have that will help us improve the school.

Due to the pandemic, we were restricted in what we could do last year, but now comes a new year and exciting opportunities await us.

Psychology Club

Annabel P, Year 10

Welcome back to all school students, and a warm welcome to new Year 7s embarking on your first proper year at this fine academy. This academy has tried its best to keep up with the current regulations regarding the global pandemic and is happy to announce that after school clubs are now open again.

I have recently attended the Psychology club in G7, Week A. I personally enjoyed it, as all year groups were welcome, and they still have open spaces. The first week we learnt about memory and how different conditions and environments affect it.

The club was fun and games, but it was also an educational experience. It is for all ages, and it is not required that you pick Psychology as a subject to attend.

Last Monday, we did activities such as trying to memorize photos in a certain amount of time and see how many we could remember. Personally, I only remembered 9/20. Afterwards, we spoke about how different conditions affect how your brain processes information such as, if you were to do a test in the room that you studied for that subject, your brain would automatically make pathways and recall information easier.

Psychology is also a hands on experience, such as seeing how much your mind can remember when given two sets of information at once. Participation in the activities is completely optional and a personal choice.

There isn't a set list of subjects to cover, so if you have any recommendations of lessons, or aspects that you're interested in, you are allowed to share your opinion and see if you can cover it in a session. I would recommend attending, as it is a fun experience for you to learn more about the mind.

Careers Fair

By Elliott R, Year 10

Recently, years 7-11 were offered the opportunity to speak with various colleges and employers, with the army, Sheffield College, and some of our own Sixth Form students in attendance. Everyone was also given the chance to express their opinions using our feedback tables. Lots of useful information was given by many of the years, which will hopefully be taken into account for the next time we are lucky enough to have another careers fair.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the Year 7s, for whom this was their first experience of a careers fair, with one saying, 'It was a great opportunity to learn about engineering' and another taking it as 'a



Abigail G in Year 10 reviews both the classic novel *Emma* and its most recent film adaptation.

Published in 1815, Jane Austen's *Emma* has been capturing hearts for over two centuries and even now, in 2021, the classic novel is still at its prime. Only last year, a second film adaptation was released (starring rising star Anya Taylor-Joy and Johnny Flynn) and it's everything the fans could wish for: funny and graphically aesthetic in every way.

Jane Austen's *Emma*

Jane Austen's fourth novel follows the story of a twenty-one-year-old woman named Emma. 'Handsome, clever and rich', Emma spends her days delighting in matchmaking the people in her life and, after great luck with her most recent candidates, her governess, Miss Taylor, and the widowed Mr Weston, she befriends young Harriet Smith in the pursuit of finding her a suitor of high status. When Emma begins to see the signs that the owner of the Vicarage, Mr Elton, has taken a fancy to her friend, she finds herself doing everything in her power to aid the relationship. Mr Knightley, an old friend, scolds Emma for her mistakes and debates with her constantly. However, little do the conflicting pair know about the depth and emptiness of their own hearts.

Within the first few pages, Emma already had me hooked. There was no part of it that made me cringe or lessened my opinion of it, even when Miss Bates talked nonsense for pages on end. Personally, my favourite part was the carriage ride with Mr Elton; Emma finally

realised she had been so wrong in perceiving his affection. If anything, my least favourite part was the ending; not because there was anything wrong with the conclusion – it was everything the readers could have wished for, and I just wished it wasn't over!

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Emma 2020

Emma 2020, like every adaptation, has its differences to the original novel but, even so, most of them were positive. Most of these additions were for humorous purposes, when Mr Woodhouse claimed that Mr John Knightley was 'very weak', for example.

The costumes were really quite accurate too! For one, the designers definitely understood how fashionable the higher waistlines were in the Regency Era and most of the colours were suitable too. There were some bold choices, such as Emma's mustard coat, that may have not passed for the early 1800s but, overall, the costume department did a great job.

For me, the best part of this newest adaptation is the fact that neither Anya Taylor-Joy nor the directors try to conceal how selfish and prone to making mistakes Emma is. Austen even admitted that she didn't think anyone would like Emma apart from herself; she is certainly far from the perfect character.

Overall, I would rate the book five stars and the film adaptation four and a half stars. Jane Austen's *Emma* gets a half-a-star-higher rating because it captured my emotions more than the movie. I found myself smiling at the wit and beauty of it all more than I did when watching the onscreen interpretation. However, I could not recommend the two more!

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Harry Chadwick, Evie Whitehead, Freya Wilby, Daniel Gabor, Jessica Moore, Isobel Robertson, Isobelle Fenton, Elliot Rodgers, Annabel Pearson, Abigail Germany, Mya McVeigh-Judd, Maxx Hutchinson, Alex Cook, Emily Shentall, Liv Smith and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Mr Bishop and Mrs Thompson.

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!

Feature: Working with Sheep

Sixth Form Biology student Megan P in Year 12 plans to pursue a career in veterinary science. She recently completed a work experience that involved artificially inseminating sheep. She now writes to share her in-depth knowledge and understanding of the process.

AI&ET preparation

The process leading up to the artificial insemination and embryo transfer procedures are very important, as both the sheep being conceived, and also the surrogate mothers must be prepared fully for the procedure.

Artificial Insemination

Initially, the semen sample must be collected from the ram. After it has been looked at under a microscope, to check its suitability, the sample is kept warm in a heated water bath.

The females are then injected with penicillin.

The semen sample is diluted, and egg whites are added. The females are strapped in on their backs, injected with a small dosage of ketamine, and pushed upside down. A laparoscope is used to view the insides of the sheep, and compressed air is used to give a clearer image. It is then pushed inside in the abdomen to see the uterus opening.

The use of the laparoscope, rather than cervical insemination, is due to the narrow structure of the sheep's cervix and the low conception rates of that method.

The diluted semen sample is then put in a small syringe from the water bath. Once viewed to be in the right position, it is released into the uterus.

Embryo Flushing

The sheep are clipped and scrubbed, strapped in, injected with penicillin, and put under anaesthetic to prepare for the abdominal surgery.

An incision is made in the abdomen and the uterus is pulled out. Two small holes are made, with a syringe in one end, and a tube leading to a beaker in the other. The liquid is passed through to flush out all possible embryos and the sheep is stitched up. The liquid is then looked at under a microscope to count the

embryos and grade each one to see if they can be used.

Useful embryos are held in a petri dish in artificial uterine fluid at a constant temp of 25°C on a heat plate.

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Embryo Transfer

The sheep are jabbed, and the surrogate mother is clipped and sprayed to clean the abdomen. She is strapped in, and the teats are checked to make sure she would be a suitable mother for when the lamb is born. She is then given a small dose of ketamine and the laparoscope is used to check for internal abdominal adhesions and damage. A small incision is made with a scalpel and the uterus is partially extracted. A small hole in the uterus is made with a needle and an embryo is inserted into the surrogate mother's uterus, using a small syringe in the hole made in the uterus, and the sheep is stitched up.

Sixth Formers Leave in Style

Although Wath's sixth form was established in the 1920s (almost three decades before A Levels were invented!), there has never been a cohort of students that suffered as much disruption throughout their studies as the Class of 2021.

With school closures in both Year 12 and again in Year 13, students spent almost a third of their sixth form time learning remotely online. They were reliant on internal assessments to decide their grades after the cancellation of national exams.

The Year 13 Summer Ball was therefore a just reward for students' efforts. It took place on Friday 13th August – three days after A Level results were issued – at the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield.

The evening consisted of a drinks reception, three-course meal, awards and dancing.

"It was an enjoyable send-off for our Year 13 students," said Head of Sixth Form Mr Shaw. "We wish them well, be it at university or in other training."



Seasonal Specials

Black History Month

Evie W, Year 7

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Black History Month is a chance for people to celebrate the wonders of black history. It might be easy to think that a lot of black history is not very nice, but there are a lot of wonders about it.

The idea of celebrating black history was the brain child of a man called Carter G Woodson (1875-1950), who dedicated his life to educating African Americans about the achievements and contributions of their ancestors. It became an official month-long celebration in 1976.

Sadly, lots of people that are black are getting killed by white people. Take George Floyd: he was being arrested and a white police officer put his knee on his neck and the police officer continued, even though George Floyd was saying "I can't breathe" over and over. It is sad to imagine all the hate, simply because of a person's skin colour.

Just because people are black does not mean they are different and won't be successful. Some black people that are famous include: LeBron James, Beyonce, Raheem Sterling, Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford. Beyonce is known worldwide because she is a famous singer and LeBron James is known worldwide for being a legend at basketball.

So, these are some of the reasons why you should celebrate Black History Month, no matter what colour skin tone you have.

Poetry Corner

Autumn

By Abigail G, Year 10

Autumn's here, yet again,
With its leaves and heavy rain,
Woodland walks and Halloween,
Orange, brown and mossy green.

Spooky pumpkins lit with flames,
Evenings filled with sweets and games,
Children screaming, "Trick or treat!"
At everybody on the street.

People jumping in the leaves
And, for once, admiring trees.
Lightning, thunder, clouds and fog,
Drying off the soaking dog.

Danish whirls and apple pie,
Better baked; it's worth the try!
Polo necks and fluffy boots,
Pulling up the harvest roots.

Autumn time is here again,
Chirps the crow and little wren,
Pull on your wellies, grab a coat
Be sure not to catch a sore throat!

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Seasonal Specials

Languages Of The World (in a nutshell)

Isobel R, Year 8

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Some may know that October, in the UK, is European Languages Day. But do you know anything about languages other than your own?

Spanish:

Spanish is spoken by 414 million people around the world. It is phonetic and derived from what is known as Vulgar Latin. In the city of Toledo, the standard written form of Spanish was established in the 13th century. It is also known as Castilian in some areas, and has unique words that do not even exist in the English language. 21 countries have Spanish as their official language, making it the second largest native language in the world.

French:

French is the official language of 29 countries and is the 6th most spoken language in the world. The French language has many ties to our country. 45% of English words are derived from French, as it was the language of England for 300 years. It is also the second most learned language after English. French, as we know, it was created in the 17th century, but a former version of the language was being spoken by the Romans over 2000 years ago! It now has around 220 million speakers worldwide.

German:

German, like French and Spanish, has genders, but

unlike any other languages, it has three of them! There are 27 letters in the German language and 5.3 million words, many cannot be translated into English. The longest word in German is Grundstücksverkehrsgenehmigungszuständigkeitsübertragungsverordnung (meaning regulation on the delegation of authority concerning land conveyance permissions). It was first spoken in the 4th century and is now the 11th most spoken language in the world.

Why do people learn new languages?

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Learning a language can be very useful, for example, if you speak more than one language, your employability level shoots up. New languages can enhance your memory and listening skills as well as understanding your own language better than you ever have done. Most languages come with rich culture that you may not be used to, providing exciting opportunities to find out about something that is different from the norm. Foreign languages can lead to appreciation of cultural diversity and international travel is made more enjoyable if you speak a second language. They also create a sense of other countries culture and past. Learning a new language can provide you with opportunities to get to know people of different backgrounds.

Did you know?

- Norwegian is ranked as the easiest language to learn for English speakers
- Ziad Fazah, born in Liberia, managed to learn 59 languages in his lifetime
- The oldest language in the world is Sanskrit
- There is a language spoken by only 8 people

Features

Mental Health Spotlight

Capgras Delusion (Trigger Warning)

By Isobelle F, Year 10

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First identified in 1923 by French psychologist Joseph Capgras, the Capgras Delusion (also called Capgras Syndrome) makes someone believe that people around them has been replaced by an impostor. They believe these duplicates are there to hurt, or even kill them. It is a relatively rare disorder, affecting about .12% of the general population. It is more common in women, and rarely, can even be seen in children.

The first person diagnosed was Madame M, who believed wholeheartedly that her husband had been swapped for someone identical.

It is believed to be caused mainly by brain problems, such as atrophy (decrease in size of a body part, cell, organ, or other tissue), lesions (damage or abnormal change in the tissue of an organism), or cerebral dysfunction (impairment of intellectual ability, motor function, attention, and behaviour).

So far, there is no cure for Capgras Delusion, but the effects can be lessened with antipsychotic medications, like Aripiprazole, olanzapine, and pimozide.

Capgras is similar to another brain disorder called Reduplicative Paramnesia. This causes the person to believe wholeheartedly that a place exists twice, in two separate locations at once. It is seen mainly in people with neurodegenerative disorders, stroke victims, or in those who have intracerebral haemorrhages.

The word 'Paramnesia' means a distortion in memory, rather than the loss of memory, seen in amnesia. It also can involve mixtures between facts and fantasies, as seen in déjà vu.

Why Bigfoot Fascinated People

By Harry C, Year 7

The legend of Bigfoot begins in 1958 when a man named Andrew Genzoli of Humboldt Times highlighted an absurd letter about loggers in northern

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California saying they found mysterious giant footprints. Genzoli laughed it off, but people were interested in it. Later, Genzoli and journalist Betty Allen wrote up follow up articles about the mysterious creature to be known, henceforth, as Bigfoot.

Now, we all know Bigfoot doesn't exist; at least, I hope it is just a silly myth that people made up, so why do many still believe in it still?

Bigfoot is a furry, huge beast that is supposed to live in a wood, and people try to hunt him. One show, lasting 12 seasons, called *Finding Bigfoot*, was about a team of people travelling to a place where there has been audio, pictures or eyewitness accounts of the event. People in the show consist of the founder and head of the Bigfoot Field Researcher's Organisation (BFRO) Matt MoneyMaker and his team. Even though the show ran past 100 episodes, it never found Bigfoot in all the locations in the world. Most of the show they look for sub-species of Bigfoot, not even the actual Bigfoot!

All this evidence shows that no one has ever seen him, except for some sketchy pictures, which makes it seem like Bigfoot can change appearances! Furthermore, people from many places have supposedly spotted him, such as in New York, Utah, Colorado and Ohio—all miles from each other. All this proof shows it was never real, but why do people believe it?

Maybe because people are dumb, or maybe they want to believe that it's real. My thought is that they believe in it because they want something different in real life and want something cooler. So, the theory is, for me, that people were bored and got caught up in the excitement of hearing about a big-footed beast and start to spread lies that it's real for a joke. Now, many years later, people are still trying to find him.

Feature

Recipe: Lembas

By Maxx H, Year 10

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Looking for a mid-morning or afternoon snack? Look no further than this pocket-sized treat featured in *The Hobbit*. Made by the elves, “lembas” translates to “journey-bread” or “waybread” and is delicious.

Lembas is a simple recipe: it uses few ingredients compared to some other recipes and can be quickly made with use of a stand mixer.

If you have a stand mixer, and plan to make these, now is the time to get it out (with its flat beater attachment)! You want to start off by making a bread crumb like mix with the following:

- 1 tablespoon of baking powder
- 8 tablespoons of butter
- 2 ½ cups of plain flour

Once mixed to a bread crumb like mix, combine to a dough by adding:

- ½ cup of brown sugar
- 1 half tablespoon of cinnamon
- 2/3 cups of milk or heavy cream
- half a teaspoon lemon extract (optional)
- a teaspoon of vanilla extract

Ensure to be cautious if you add lemon extract as you may end up with a bread tasting of Lemsip; that is not a treat for yourself nor a friend if you are sharing!

These are fun and easy to make for a large age range; get the parents involved!

October National Days

Annabel P, Year 10

October is an exciting month, as it holds many events. Let me share some of them:

1st October – National Coffee Day

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3rd October – National Grandparents Day

5th October – National Teachers' Day

7th October National Smile Day

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9th – 15th October – National Curry Week

19th October – National Ballet Day

26th October – Ninja Day

29th October – National Cat Day

31st October – Halloween

There are many more events than this going on across Britain, and let's not forget that this entire month is Black History Month (see page 10 for more detail!)—where we celebrate humanity's differences and different cultures' accomplishments!

News, Politics and Opinion

Strictly Come Dancing is Back

Freya W, Year 7

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The launch night is out! Celebrities paired with their new dance partners, excitement through everyone ready to start, and the Strictly fans waiting for the contest. Three brand new celebrity dancers nervous to start, however with their amateur partners, their nerves slowly fades away.

Here are my favourites...

Tom Felton & Amy Dowden. Tilly Ramsey & Nikita Kuzmin (one of the new professional dancers) and Ugo Monye & Oti Mabuse. However, there are many other professional and celebrities to be excited to watch.

The contest runs every Saturday, and the night people sadly get voted out is on Sunday, so the contestants get a full week to have to practice on their unique dances.

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Here is some present news, Tom Fletcher and Amy Dowden have both sadly been tested positive for Covid 19 so they won't be dancing for Week 2 and 3.

AJ Odudu and Adam Peaty are the first male dance partners to enter the contest. And three unknown Strictly stars have refused to get the Covid 19 jab; could this be the reason why Tom and Amy are positive?

The contestants get another chance to dance, perform and be scored by the 4 judges. Will the judges give them a good score for their final dance?

La Palma Catastrophe

By Jessica M, Year 7

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A popular Spanish holiday island, La Palma, has seen a huge catastrophe this month: the volcanoes Cumbre Vieja erupted on Sunday 19th September causing massive damage to the islands infrastructure. Homes, schools and banana plantations have been wiped out.

As the river of lava flowed through the villages, it was initially moving 700 metres an hour. This slowed down to 4 metres an hour, giving people time to grab their belongings, dashing through the streets hoping they would survive.

In some places the lava rose up to 50ft high. Scientists say it could last for weeks, or even months. People in coastal villages are locked down in anticipation of the lava reaching the sea and releasing toxic gasses.

To date, over 1,500 houses have been destroyed on the island and the volcanic activity is showing no signs of slowing down.

Wath Students Have Their Say

Animal Agriculture and Climate Change

By Liv S, Year 13

The impact of animal agriculture on the environment is an issue that the government and the industry simply do not want you to know. The profitability of this business is too great and the corporations that control the industry are wealthy and powerful enough to influence the government and 'so-called' environmental activists away from speaking up about it.

The truth is that animal agriculture has the second most large impact on climate change of any negative source worldwide. This includes the keeping of livestock, fish farming and the crops used to specifically feed them, to name a few contributors to the industry. It has a bigger impact on climate change than the whole of transport. In fact, if the US reduced its meat consumption by 50%, it would have the same impact as taking 26 million cars off the road. Moreover, the animal agriculture industry is accountable for 14.5% of global greenhouse emissions. If this is combined with the fact it is the leading cause of deforestation, biodiversity loss and water pollution, then the reality is that this must be addressed...and immediately.

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Livestock and their by-products create 32,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. This astronomical amount is damaging our world and tearing it apart, not bit by bit, but nation by nation. In addition, there are more dangerous products that animal agriculture produces that only exacerbate the

problem. Methane is 25 to 100 times more destructive and has 86 times the global warming potential, over a 20-year period, than carbon dioxide. This is simply unacceptable.

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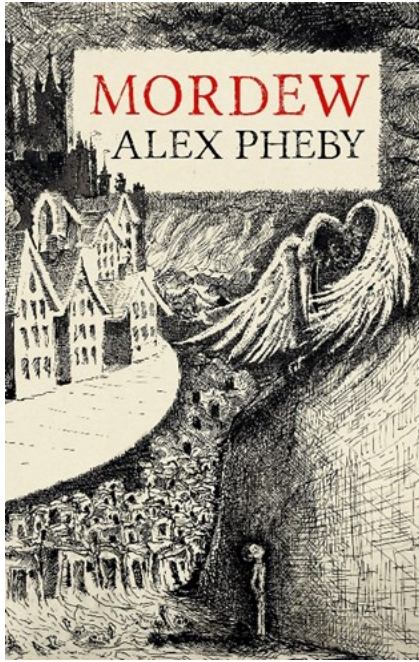
But what can we do to stop this tragedy?

Collectively, pressure on governments and corporations to handle this crisis is needed. We need to bring solutions. These include: the restoration of forests to restore balance to the climate; regular assessments of the impact of animal agriculture and the gradual scaling down of the industry; careful management of land to feed the growing population. Most crucially, we need to be holding the world leaders and businesses to account, ensuring their actions are focused on saving the environment and the people living within it, not the profit gained. Individually, you can get involved with climate change activism and bring light on the issue of animal agriculture. Additionally, taking steps towards a plant-based diet, making small alterations, or just going all in, is the most environmentally beneficial change you can make in your life. By moving towards a more sustainable future, we can prevent the destruction of our health and the planet, keeping the world alive for generations to come.

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Book Review

Mordew by Alex Pheby



Reviewed by Mya MJ,
Year 10

As Halloween approaches us, what's better than recommending a book full of unique monsters, ghouls, wizardry, and magic. Alex Pheby's *Mordew*, a first to the planned trilogy, is a book I'd recommend greatly anytime of the year,

however, during the spooky season you will never get enough!

Young Nathan Treeves, a common kid in the world of *Mordew*, lives in the slums with his weary mother and pallid father, hopeless to find a cure for his father's fatal lungworms. Treeves roams about the 'living mud' searching for scraps to sell for dinner, a meagre existence relying on grotesque short-lived creatures that spawn in the mud's void. On repeat, day by day, the boy grows tiresome, however there is one thing that keeps him alive. His Spark.

Nathan is no longer the common boy he thinks he is, his Spark is merely an entrance to the greater power he beholds, whether he uses it for good or evil is up to him. Surrounded by desperate needs and desperate measures within the world, Treeves struggles to find friends to trust with his newly grown magic. From thievery to talking to ghosts in abandoned taverns, Nathan suddenly feels to have a better purpose in the world.

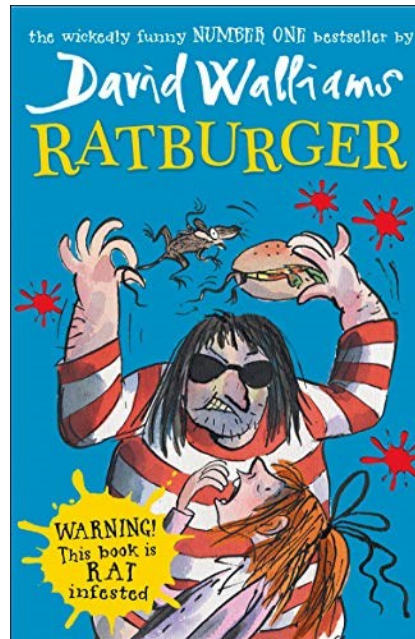
As a young kid lost in the world would do, he travels to the master of *Mordew*, to learn the ways of the magic within him and possibly cure his dying father. Merchant City is full of affluence and luxury, nothing

like the eyes of young slum-captive Treeves have seen—however—betrayal follows him throughout the rich ridden streets. Treeves experiences a new, temporary life full of vendettas and lies embedded to the bone, and this boy is utterly perished.

Fighting his way through the secrets of his true heritage, the master's hidden darkness continues to reign. Nathan has a power, a power he doesn't yet know how to control. This power has the ability to destroy everything the master has built, and the God that lies beneath it all.

Mordew is a cinematic piece simply written in words, with imagery unmatched by any other fantasy novel. Pheby crams inventiveness into every page, never missing a single detail.

Ratburger by David Walliams



Reviewed by Evie W,
Year 7

Ratburger is a book written by David Walliams. It has also come out as a movie. *Ratburger* is about a girl called Zoe who is very sad because her pet hamster, Gingernut, died. Zoe lives in a flat with her dad and her awful stepmother Sheila.

Sheila is so lazy that she gets Zoe to pick her nose for her! When Zoe finds a baby rat in the corner of her room, she can't help keeping it

I would recommend this book because it is funny; let me explain why. Zoe is being bullied by a classmate called Trina Trots, and she is looked down upon a teacher Miss Midge. She is also suspicious of Burt, who sells burgers to schoolchildren from his van.

Creative Writing

Epic Adventures (Part One)

By Daniel G, Year 7

Once upon a time, there was a baby called James. He and his mum lived in a cottage in the countryside. One day when James was twelve, a magical being took his mum away and he went running after it, but it flew away. He slept in the cottage before he started his journey after it.

Part One:

Medusa

After he slept in bed for the night, he packed his things and set off on his journey. He started trekking through the forest and grasslands until he got to a village. When he got there, he asked if they saw a beast; they said "no" so he continued his journey.

Later, he found a map. It showed Medusa and a sword and shield where he was. He pulled down his map and there was a sword and shield. He picked them up and he took them with him.

As time passed, he found the three sisters with one grey eye. He told them to tell him where he could find the Gorgon Medusa. They told him to go to the Lake of Hell and a person would take him to the Gorgon.

He arrived there and a skeleton took him to the Gorgon. He stood at the shore and thought this could be his last time seeing light. He slowly walked to the mouth of the cave. He could hear hissing and some stone pieces suddenly fell near his feet, shaped as bats in mid-flight.

He saw the Gorgon in the middle of the cave. She saw him in the corner of her eye. He jumped and sawed through the air, and swiped, but missed. Medusa swiped with her tail and made him fall over. Medusa was going to turn James to stone, but he used his shield to reflect it and then cut the Gorgon's head off, put it in a bag and walked out with the Gorgon's head in the bag.

He took the boat out of the hellish place...

But will he find his mum?

Check out the next edition for part two!

The Park

By Emily S, Year 13

It was a strangely warm evening in October. The girl felt a slight uneasiness. As though something out of a fantasy novel would jump out at her from behind one of the few trees that still clung onto a few brown leaves. She sat on the creaky wooden bench in the centre of the park, her usual spot. She liked to sit there and watch all the different creatures and nature around the park. She closed her eyes, as she felt a sense of peace as the uneasiness drifted away with the breeze, never to be seen again.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

She re-opened her eyes and took note of every little detail. The way the variety of roses rustled whenever there was a breeze, the way all the ducks joined together whenever there was a sign of any human, desperate for a piece of bread or bird seed, the way the swans all swam around together in pairs. The swans were her favourite. Their glorious white wings, their elegance, the fact that they mated for life. She wished for someone to be there with her through everything. The chaos of life. But she sighed as she realised it would never be, not for her anyway.

How to Pick the *Perfect* Violin:

Abigail Germany in Year 10 gives advice about what to consider when investing in a violin.

As musicians advance, the requirement for an instrument that can enhance their skills also becomes more prominent. This is the case for most students, but, in particular, for violinists.

Stradivari Violins

At some point in our lives, all violinists have dreamt of getting their hands upon one of the distinguished and desired Stradivari violins. Yet, so few of them understand what it is that makes these violins sound so unique.

A Stradivarius is a violin, viola, cello or other string instrument crafted by the name Stradivari: an Italian family that lived between the 17th and 18th centuries. The most reputable of this family was Antonio Stradivari. It is believed that these instruments have an unexplainable sound quality about them, though many believe this can be argued.

A scientific investigation that took place in Columbia, 2003, led to the claim that the lower solar activity during the 17th century may have been responsible. They also came to the conclusion that the colder winters and summers may have resulted in slower tree growth, meaning denser wood with special sound qualities. However, in 2006, US researchers came to believe that the Stradivari family used a chemical treatment to rid of woodworms and types of fungi. Others have claimed that the sound comes down to wood from 16th-17th century churches, an unidentifiable ingredient, type of varnish or historic techniques. Even though these theories are plausible, many choose to believe that Antonio Stradivari was just extremely skilled and experienced.

In his lifetime, Antonio Stradivari made approximately 1200 instruments but only around 500 of these are known of today. Due to their antique value, amazing sound and beauty, it is hardly a surprise that these instruments are sold for so much money. For example, the Lady Blunt, thought to be the second best preserved of Stradivari's violins, was sold for £10 million.

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(Above: The Lady Blunt Stradivarius)

My violin

Over the years, I've owned as many as four violins, including my current violin, due to starting at the age of seven. My first violin was a half size Stentor: a

Everything You Need to Know

beginner's model that gave me a great start. When I required a three quarter size, I was gifted a Westbury and then, when I needed a full size, another Stentor. These instruments were all exactly what I necessitated at the time and gave me the sound quality I needed up to Grade three. However, I soon found myself at Grade five and in need of something better – not just a branded violin but one which was special. In 2019, I took a trip to Gibertoni violins in Sheffield and found the perfect instrument for me. The Luthier laid out five violins for me and I played them all a few times until I narrowed it down to three. I took those home and played for about eight hours because I've always been extremely indecisive. By the end of that practise, I had fallen for one violin in particular. When I returned to Sheffield, all was revealed. As it turned out, I had picked the violin that Stefano thought would be the best for me.

My violin has a very interesting history too. Stefano was at a fair in China when he saw it. Immediately, it struck him as amazing when he plucked the strings so he bought it, took it to his workshop, altered a few things (such as the bridge) and then sold it to lucky me. My violin may not have the antiquity of a Stradivarius but it certainly has an angelic sound (hence its name) and is very beautiful with its golden-brown colour.

Checklist

Now, to the purpose of this article, here's how to pick the perfect violin:

Comfort

This is the number one thing to look for. If the chin rest sticks into you, then ask for it to be moved or look elsewhere. If it's too heavy, don't waste your time. Playing violin should be enjoyable and, for it to be so, you shouldn't be in constant irritation.

Sound

If the violin sounds like a cat being strangled, don't buy it. Your violin should have the ability to make people weep, but also dance. Find an instrument that can work alongside your technical ability and emotion to do this.

Experimentation

Don't just try one violin or order one from the internet. As you advance, the need for a great violin increases. You don't know what is right for you until you experiment. Try lots of violins like I did – you won't regret it when you find the instrument of your dreams – even if it means you have to visit a range of places.

Take your time

Don't find a nice instrument then decide that's it. The first violin you pick up might seem perfect in the moment but terrible compared to what you could have. Trust me, the Luthier won't start crying just because you don't want their creations... at least I hope not.

Price

Although it is one of the least important on this list, price does play a large role. Of course, you can only buy what you can afford. However, if you are a millionaire, please bear in mind that just because one instrument may be more expensive than another, it is not guaranteed to be the better choice for you.

Your level

Musicians tend to start off cheap and cheerful because they don't know if they will stick at it. In my opinion, this is the best way, but, just because you are a beginner, it doesn't mean you can't have a fabulous violin. Likewise, if you are a master, you don't necessarily need a Stradivarius or its connotations. A violin can enhance your playing largely but your level of advancement is more important.

To conclude...

There are many factors that contribute towards the perfect violin and all of them are equally important, in their own ways. If you want to make your sound even better, it is important to find the perfect bow too.

Sport and House Update

TEEN RADUCANU STEALS US OPEN

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By Isobel R, Year 8

British teen, Emma Raducanu, takes the win from Leylah Fernandez in the US open tennis competition on September 11th 2021. With 9.2 million people watching, Raducanu played the winning shot against Fernandez in the USTA Billie Jean King tennis centre, in Flushing Meadows, Queens, N.Y.

Emma stated that she booked her plane ticket back to Britain before the US open main draw, thinking that she would not even get past that stage. The 18-year-old player's coach was Andrew Richardson. From Peterborough, Richardson was previously head coach at Bromley tennis centre, Emma's local club. Raducanu is the first British woman to win a singles grand slam title in 44 years, and did not drop a set on her way to the final.

Leylah Fernandez (currently ranked 23 in the world) lost to Emma Raducanu (now ranked 28 in the world), afterwards saying she was "proud" of her

performance in the tournament. The match was stopped due to Emma scraping her knee while reaching for a wide defensive shot; during this delay, Raducanu's knee was bandaged, and play was afterwards resumed. As she congratulated the victor, Fernandez is thought to have fought back tears. "It is incredible, I have no idea what to say. Today is going to be hard but Emma played amazing. Congratulations. I am very proud of myself and having the New York crowd has been amazing. Thank you so much New York. Thank you everyone," stated Leylah in an on court interview after the match. She thanked her parents by saying, "You are amazing with me when I had my lows", she then thanked the rest of her family before sending a message of support to the crowd on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Raducanu never gave up during the tournament, meaning that she won \$1.8 million in prize money, rewarding all her efforts throughout the tournament.