



## WATH MUSICAL SUCCESS



This half term has witnessed the largest number of students to ever receive an ABRSM (The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) qualification for their chosen musical instrument.

A huge well done to the following pupils for all their hard work:

- Lori Grainger: Grade 4 Piano Distinction and Grade 4 Flute Distinction
- Abigail Darrell Grade 5 Singing Pass
- Rebecca Swift Grade 5 Clarinet Merit
- Leah Saxton Grade 2 Singing Distinction
- James Jones Grade 4 Acoustic Guitar Merit
- Ben Maguire Grade 2 Guitar Distinction
- Simone Moore Grade 7 Violin Pass
- Caitie Swallow Grade 4 Violin Pass
- Alicja Hopko Grade 4 Violin Pass
- Abi King Grade 2 Violin Merit

- Kate Harrison Grade 3 Saxophone Merit
- Isobel Buttigieg-Cook Grade 6 Clarinet Pass
- Niamh Hazlewood Grade 4 Clarinet Pass
- Holly Moore Grade 4 Clarinet Pass
- Georgia Clarke Grade 4 Clarinet Pass
- Emma Walters Grade 4 Musical Theatre Distinction
- Kirin Howat Grade 5 Theory Merit

Special praise should go to Lori Grainger, who managed to receive grade 4s for two separate instruments, and also to Isobel Buttigieg-Cook and Simone Moore, whose respective Grade 6 and Grade 7 qualifications translate into UCAS points they can use to get into university!

It is always important to celebrate achievements in creative subjects such as music and recognise the importance that such creative individuals can contribute to a vibrant and balanced society.

### Summer Crossword

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

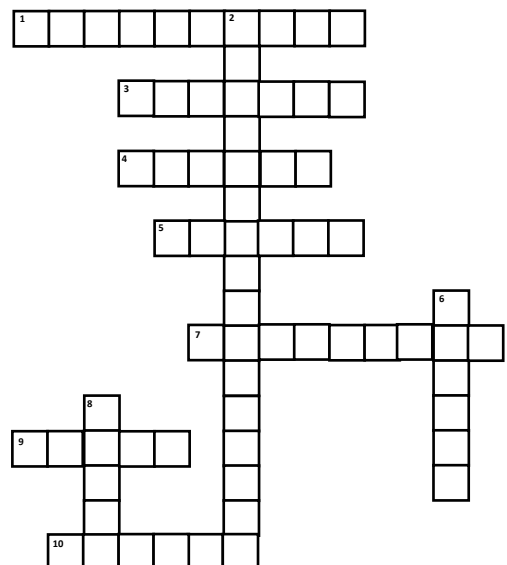
Across:

- Helps you protect your eyes from the sun (10)
- After the last day of school, we have a summer \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- Spring, \_\_\_\_\_, Autumn, Winter (6)
- Helps you stay cool in the sun (6)
- A cold and icy food (3,5)
- Near the sea (5)
- A kind of weather that makes you cooler (6)

Down:

- Clothes you wear when you swim (8,7)
- A type of shoe that lets your feet breathe (6).
- Drink lots of this to keep hydrated (5)

**Return your solved puzzle to Miss Taylor for three merits.**



# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the final half term of the school year, the examination 'season' is well under way. The Year 11 GCSE examinations have already started and a programme of revision classes will continue to run throughout this period. The A-levels for Year 13 students begin immediately after the half term break, with examinations then running through until the end of June. Year 13 will begin their Study Leave on Friday 25 May. Year 9 have already had examinations in the Main Hall for Maths and English, and the Year 10 End of Year Exams are in the week beginning Monday 25 June.

Just before the examinations started, Year 11 students had a final opportunity to meet together in a celebration assembly. This was a very special occasion where staff and students could share memories and highlights from their years together at Wath. Many students received certificates and awards in recognition of such as outstanding attendance, motivation and achievement. The presentations were interspersed with entertainment items, which included singing and instrumental performances – what a wealth of talent we have! Thank you to the students who contributed so willingly to this. It is no mean feat to stand up in front of the rest of (the 300 students in) your year group and perform. The whole staff involvement in a final, pre-filmed, event left a great deal to be desired in terms of the quality of staff singing and dancing! This lovely occasion ended with refreshments and an opportunity for photographs to be taken and memory books to be signed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to the contribution Year 11 students have made to the extra-curricular life of the school and the example they have set to our younger students. There have been significant contributions in terms of music, drama and dance but, in terms of recent sporting achievements, the girls got through to the Rotherham schools finals in netball and the Year 11 boys contributed significantly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI football team that won the Rotherham schools' final, on 'sudden-death' penalties, against Wickersley.



We were pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted no-notice, one day, inspection on 9 March 2018. The letter from Ofsted, published on 27 March, is available on the school website and recognises the progress the school is making. The last time I wrote, we were due to academise on 1 June. Please be aware that we have since been advised by the Department for Education that the planned date for conversion is now 1 August. Nevertheless, we are already continuing to plan for further improvement, working closely with our sponsor trust, Maltby Learning Trust, and its executive leaders. At the point of conversion, the school will become known as Wath Academy; however, there will be no change to the school uniform, either in Years 7-11 or in the sixth form.

From September, there will be 5 hour-long lessons per day rather than 6 fifty minute periods. There will be two lessons before mid-morning break, one after, and then two following lunch. This will bring the school in line with other secondary schools within the Trust but also reduce the amount of time students are out of lessons, on corridors, and increase the amount of learning time. The timings for the start and finish of the school day, from September, will remain the same. We will add 5 minutes to the morning tutor period to enhance students' preparation for learning for the rest of the school day, and that 5 minutes will be removed from the end of the existing lunch break. We will modify our dinner arrangements to ensure every student has the opportunity of eating their lunch

before the start of the afternoon session. We are adding some further fencing around the school site to enhance security and safeguarding of students. Could I please respectfully remind parents to not bring their own cars onto the school site at the start and end of the school day as we do not have the space, and the vehicular entrance can get very busy, putting both drivers and pedestrians at risk.

As we plan ahead for the next academic year, we are looking forward to welcoming our prospective Year 7 students to Wath for 3 days between 25 & 27 June. They will get the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school and get a flavour of the range of subjects they can look forward to in September. Similarly, our current Year 11 students who have applied to join the sixth form will be joined by external applicants for their own induction days on 28 & 29 June.

May I offer my very best wishes to all students taking examinations. I am sure that they will reap the rewards they deserve following all their hard work. I would particularly like to thank all the staff for the tremendous amount of time and effort they have given, not only in lessons but also after school, at lunchtimes and in the holidays, in support of our students. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and dedicated group of staff; I am sure that their efforts are much appreciated by our students and yourselves.

This half term ends at 2.45pm on Friday 25 May and students return on Monday 4 June. A-level examination results will be published, and available in school, on 16 August, and Y11 examination results on 23 August.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Headteacher

## News in Brief

### Important Dates

Here are some dates for your diary:

- Friday 25th May: Break for spring bank holiday
- Monday 4th June: Beginning of half term 6
- Thursday 19th July: Break for summer holiday
- Thursday 16th August: Publication of Year 13 examination results
- Thursday 23rd August: Publication of Year 11 examination results

### Romeo and Juliet in Fair Liverpool (Where We Lay Our Scene)



A coach-load of Year 11 students gave up their Saturday on 14th April to receive some invaluable GCSE English Literature exam preparation by seeing a live performance of Romeo and Juliet at the Epstein Theatre in Liverpool.

Despite transposing the play from Verona to Merseyside, the production effectively captured the characters and themes of Shakespeare most famous tragedy and was delivered in a lively style, with much of the action taking place amongst the audience.

“It was a fantastic afternoon watching a great production with 47 amazing students,” Mrs Eyre, the visit organiser, said.

### Accelerated Reader

Since the start of the year, students in Year 7 and Year 8 have taken part in Accelerated Reader lessons in English, where the books and words they have read are recorded. The best readers at the end of the school year will win much coveted English badges.

At the moment, the leader board looks like this:

1. Grace Clowrey (Y7) = 3,735,255 words
2. Olivia Wydell (Y8) = 2,759,414 words
3. Bradley Wallis (Y8) = 2,445,701 words
4. Cadence Taylor (Y7) = 2,323,825 words
5. Jack Adams (Y7) = 1,991,391 words

This could all change in the next nine weeks, however!

# Latest News and Updates from

## Arek Hersch- Holocaust survivor

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

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On Sunday 13th May at Thrybergh Academy, Arek Hersch gave a talk on how he survived three concentration camps including the biggest of all, Auschwitz.

It started with a short film on his childhood before the Nazis came to power. Arek was the second youngest in his family but became the youngest when his little sister, Dvora tragically died of complications due to whooping cough just aged three. He grew up in Konin in Poland and then moved to Sieradz which was an army garrison town with a population of eleven thousand – six thousand Christians and five thousand Jews. After the invasion of Poland, he and his family

were forced into living into the ghetto near them. One night, the SS came and knocked on the door and made his father get dressed and they took him away. Thankfully, he escaped. But the SS came back and made Tovia, his brother, go along with them. However, Tovia also escaped. And the SS came back again and made Arek get dressed and even though he was only 11 and quite small for his age, took him to his first camp, Otoschno: the camp of death. Here, a doctor checked everyone over and told Arek to go back home and that he was too small. But Arek knew from a young age that going home would mean getting gassed. So, of course, he didn't want to go. A camp guard came to his barracks and asked them who wanted to go and work in the camp kitchen. Arek went.

Arek managed to get sent back home and see his family once more and lived once again in the ghetto. The ghetto inhabitants were liquidised by the German police. They were all marched to the Kloister church and after a long hour in the church, they were told to go outside. Two SS officers asked them what their trade was and Arek said he was a tailor. He was with his mother, sister and brother again until Arek went to get some water and he was asked again what his trade was. But being 13 years old at this stage, he said something completely different so Arek had to join the selected workers. He looked back for one last glimpse of his mother, sister and brother. This was the last time Arek would ever see them as those along with his family in the church were had all been taken to the Chelmno extermination camp and murdered. Arek was taken to an orphanage in a ghetto and on 25th August 1944 they were taken to Auschwitz.

At Auschwitz, everyone was told to undress and leave all of their clothes and belongings behind. Which meant for Arek that the guards took away the only photos of his family which was his only link with his home. The average lifespan in Auschwitz was three months, and that was if people were lucky. Arek had only been in the camp for a few days when he had to watch two prisoners being hanged. On 18th January 1945, only nine days before Auschwitz was liberated, (it was liberated on 27th January 194), he was started on a death march towards Germany. Arek, along with

### THE TORCH Journalists

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

**If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.**



# Wath Comprehensive School

lots of others, were forced to march in their thin striped pyjamas in freezing temperatures with clogs on and no coats and no provisions. Arek knew that even though he was almost falling from exhaustion, he had to keep walking as those who couldn't were shot in the back of the head. The road was littered with bodies. Arek ended up in Buchenwald which was another camp. It was similar to Auschwitz and every day he saw men pushing dead bodies from the blocks and taking them to the crematorium. On 7th April 1945, Arek and others were put on a march again. They marched to Weimar and were loaded onto open goods wagon which was 120 people per wagon and in all the transport had 4,500 people. He was only 15 at this time. This journey had no purpose apart from to make the prisoners die a slow death. Each night more people died and the wagon that had a pile dead people in grew bigger and bigger. More and more people starved, and Nazis put a lot of salt into the soup so that they couldn't eat it. Arek saw people resort to cannibalism as a result. On 29th April 1945, the train stopped at a station in a place called Roundnice in Czechoslovakia and on the platform, Arek saw several Czechoslovakian policemen. They saw the starved bodies on the train and the horrible conditions and the policemen asked if they wanted food. One of the policemen went and got them some food. One of the Ukrainian SS guards saw a boy just hold the bread in his hand and hit him over his head. A Czech policeman saw this and drew his revolver and the SS soldier dropped his gun and walked away otherwise the policeman would have shot the SS officer. Soon after, Czech police rounded up all the SS officers and took them away. It was said later that they were shot.

The train was then slowly taken to Theresienstadt on 4th May 1945. The Russian army liberated Arek on 8th May. After the war, he was taken to England with three hundred other children who survived the Holocaust. Eventually, he found his other sister, Mania who survived by escaping to Russia. Arek married after contributing to the War of Independence in Israel and had three daughters. Now he talks about his experience in the Holocaust Museum and in different places.

## Turn of the Screw Review

By Emily Balais, Year 10

**Warning: This article contains spoilers for the book and play!**

On March 13th, years 9-13 went on a trip to the West Yorkshire Playhouse to watch a production of The Turn of the Screw, a horror book written by Henry James and adapted to the stage by Tim Luscombe.

The Turn of the Screw is about a nanny called Miss Jessel who is employed by a woman named Flora (who is narrating the play) and 30 years ago, she was employed by her uncle to look after Flora and her brother Miles, after their parents recently died. Little did Miss Jessel know, Flora and Miles were supposedly contacting their dead parents. Miss Jessel thinks that these two children are as sweet as can be, but on the inside they are planning something horrific.

With help of the house caretaker, she and Miss Jessel are able to take care of the two children for around two years before the horrific events were about to take place. Miss Jessel, Miles and Flora were having an argument which lead to Miss Jessel suffocating Miles.

## Word Ladder

By Grace Clowrey, Year 7

COLD
WARM

Change just one letter at a time to change the word from cold to warm

e.g.

BATH

PATH

PATS

POTS

**Complete and return to Miss Taylor for some merits.**

# News, Politics and Current Affairs:

## Why did England launch an attack on Syria?

By Ellisia Bowmen, Year 7

On the night of Saturday 14th April, Theresa May ordered an airstrike on Syria, although many people disagreed and felt that she should've asked members of parliament to agree as well. Theresa May order the attack because the Syrian government (including Assad) are said to have launched a chemical attack on their own people.

There is currently a seven year long civil war being fought out in Syria, between the soldiers who support the Syrian President Assad, rebels who don't want Assad in charge anymore and the group that calls itself Islamic State (IS), who moved into eastern parts of Syria when the fighting started. Even though IS has now lost most of its power, the war is still ongoing, and other countries have also got involved. Russia and Iran are supporting the Syrian Government while the US, Turkey and Saudi Arabia support the rebels.

The chemical attack is said to have taken place in Douma where dozens of people are said to have died, although the number is not known. It's hard to be certain about the facts because of the on-going war. The Syrian Government and Russia say they didn't launch the attack.

## Royal Air Force turns 100!

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

On 1st April, the RAF began its 100th birthday celebration. The RAF was formed as a separate British military service on 1st April 1918, independent of the British Army and Royal Navy. It was the first time a completely independent air force had been set up anywhere in the world.

The RAF has played a crucial role defending the UK, particularly during the Second World War where they protected the UK from the Luftwaffe. More recently, the RAF has worked to protect the UK's airspace and to monitor the skies abroad, as well as providing aid such as food, shelter and airlifting people to safety-to protect those affected any natural disasters and war.

This year, the RAF's centenary celebrations began with a Royal Gala at London's Royal Albert Hall on 31st March. This event featured music, comedy, ceremonial drills and recollections from those who served in the RAF and those who continue to do so.

On 1st April, a specially designed baton, crafted using materials used in aircraft manufacture, started its 100-day tour which visits 100 RAF-associated sites.

At the end of the tour, on 10th July, there will be a special centenary service held in Westminster Abbey and a parade along the Mall before a flypast in the sky above Buckingham Palace.

There will also be a wide variety of events and activities to enjoy up and down the country until November, including the RAF100 Aircraft tour, which will give visitors in cities such as Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester the chance to get up close to a selection of aircraft. There will also be a number of spectacular air shows at sites such as RAF Cosford in Shropshire and Portrush in Northern Ireland.

## Meghan Markle's Father: Not Coming to the Wedding?

By Alex Burrows and Anna Gray, Year 7

Meghan Markle has recently told the public that her father will not be attending her wedding with Prince Harry. In a statement of her behalf on Thursday 17th May, after days of speculation, Markle said, "Sadly, my father will not be attending our wedding. I have always cared for my father and hope he can be given the space he needs to focus on his health."

He will not be attending the wedding due to recent heart surgery that he underwent on Wednesday 16th May. Thomas Markle said, "I'm OK. It will take a long time to heal. Staying in the hospital for a few more days. Not allowed to get excited."

On Tuesday, her father reportedly did change his mind, with reporters saying his daughter had rung him, and after failing to get him on the phone, had texted him telling him she loved him and was concerned about him. He then was reported to be planning to attend, provided doctors gave him the go-ahead. But, he was said to be suffering chest pains, and later that day it was reported that he would require surgery.

## Van in Germany Kills Two

By Charlotte Ting, Y9

Two people have been killed after a van drove into people sitting outside restaurants in the western city of Muenster, on Saturday 7th April, 2018. The driver, who is yet to be identified, died after shooting himself after the crash. Around twenty other people were injured, six

# Updates from around the Globe

seriously.

It was reported that a van, supposedly a grey VW, was driven into a restaurant terrace area at 15:27 local time (14:27 BST). An employee at one of the cafes near the Kiepenkerl statue in the city's old town area told local media that she heard a bang and people screaming.

"I'm angry - it's cowardly to do something like this," she told German television channel N24.

The suspect's motive and exact identity still remains unclear, but German media reported he was a national with mental health problems.

An eyewitness, a student named Daniel Kollenberg, who observed the aftermath told BBC: "I think it is a deliberate attack because it's not allowed for cars to go in this area." He also added, "People are calm, but really shocked," adding how people were scared and disbelieving that such an attack would happen in Muenster.

This incident comes at a time of a sensitive concern, following a flood of jihadist attacks using vehicles to kill pedestrians in the UK and around Europe.

Local police have repeatedly urged people on Saturday afternoon not to speculate about the nature of the incident and wait for authorised information.

## Southwest Airlines accident

Rebeka Brinkus, Y9

On Tuesday 17th April, a female passenger was killed on a Southwest Airline passenger jet after a faulty fan blade in the engine punctured a window. The woman was partially sucked out of the cabin before the other passengers pulled her back into the aircraft. The plane made an emergency landing at Philadelphia International airport,

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

where several people were treated for their injuries.

Witnesses of the incident retold the chain of events from when the engine first exploded to when the plane touched down at the airport. One individual, Marty Martinez, told news reporters: "There was blood everywhere. First, there was an explosion, and then, almost immediately, the oxygen masks came down and probably within a matter of 10 seconds the engine hit a window and busted it wide open."

Several officials investigating the incident said that the initial descent happened in "a fairly rapid manner" and that the whole descent took approximately 15 minutes. Investigators of the incident reported that there was a small fire and a fuel leak in one of the engines.

The airline was described as one of the world's safest airlines and held a record of zero previous deaths since starting operations in 1971.

## Taj Mahal Changing colour

By Hari Sukumar, Year 7

Did you know that the Taj Mahal is turning green? It started off as a white/creamy marble piece of architecture built in the 17th century by the Mughal emperor Saha Jahan. Here are some of the ways the Taj Mahal is changing colour...

### Insect poo

This is causing the Taj Mahal to go green. The sewage waste pile is attracting insects along and then after they hover over by the sewage, then come over to the Taj Mahal and obviously do their business. This is one of the ways that the Taj Mahal is changing colour, but it is also one of the most disgusting ways that it could happen!

### Pollution

This is also causing the piece of architecture to go a horrible green. There is a place near the Taj Mahal called Agra. There is an oil refinery nearby that has been polluting with thick lumpy smoke and this is being blown up against the walls of the building, causing it to go this colour.

So what do you think about the Taj Mahal turning green? Can it be reversed? Why not head over to (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-36366733>) for more information about the whole story?

# Animal Updates

Inspired by a half term about the 'magic of animals', students share their views...

## World's last male northern white rhino dies

By Tania Chibwana, Year 7 and Caitie Swallow, Year 9

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On 20th March, it was announced that the last remaining male northern white rhino on Earth, who was called Sudan, had been put to sleep after months of poor health due to old age. Workers at the Ol Pejeta Wildlife Conservancy in Northern Kenya made the decision, which means there are now only 2 (female) white rhinos left in the world.

In 1960, it was estimated that 2,000 northern white rhinoceroses roamed Central Africa. However, years of fighting, habitat loss and poaching has sadly driven the species to the very brink of extinction. As a result of the passing of 45-year-old Sudan, there are just two northern white rhinos left in the entire world: his daughter Najin, aged 27, and his granddaughter, Fatu, who is 17. Najin, a female, was born in captivity in 1989. She is the mother of Fatu. Her mother was Nasima and her father was Sudan. Fatu, also a female, was born in captivity in 2000. Her mother is Najin and her father was Saut.

They were put on a 24 hour surveillance with armed guards, but now that Sudan has died, it seems very likely that it is a matter of time before the northern white rhino becomes extinct. Barring the existence of unknown or misclassified male northern white rhinos elsewhere in Africa, the subspecies is functionally extinct, and any hope of preserving the northern white rhino now lies with scientists and their ability to use Sudan's genetic material to artificially reproduce the animal.

Every year, more than 668 rhinos are poached for

their horns, which are used for ornamental or traditional medicinal purposes. East Asia, specifically Vietnam, is the largest market for rhino horns. It is not only the northern white rhino that is being pushed to extinction, either: estimates suggest there are only between 5000-4000 black rhinos (which are also critically endangered) left in the world. Of all the threats facing the black rhino, poaching is the worst they have 2 horns which make them even more of a target, especially in Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia.

There are many other endangered animals almost on the brink of extinction, animals like the amur leopard (which is critically endangered as there are more than 84 individuals alive). The amur leopard is poached largely for its beautiful spotted fur they can be sold for between \$500 and \$1000 by poachers in Russia.

But the main thing is that we should try to protect all animals and donate to save them from poaching! We should let them live their own life as they let us live ours!

## Tigers: Will They Become Extinct?

By Teddy Handley, Year 7

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Tigers, the striped wonders of the jungle, have been around for many years. They roam around parts of Asia and India searching for prey. But will that end soon? Some recent studies have been suggesting that tigers will become extinct by 2050 if no action is taken to protect them. This would have a dramatic



impact in the numbers of all the other animals in the areas where the tigers should live.

In the last 100 years, tigers have lost 93% of their territory in the wild, due to tree felling and the human population increase. India's gigantic population has grown by around 50% in the last twenty years. This has forced tigers to move into more enclosed spaces, now having less room to roam, live and hunt. This has made tigers' lives a lot harder and very different from what it should have been.

Some subspecies of tiger have already become extinct; the Javan tiger, the Caspian tiger and the Balinese tiger. Now only six species of tiger remain; the Siberian tiger, Bengal tiger, Sumatran tiger, South-China tiger, Indochinese tiger and the Malayan tiger. All the remaining tigers in the wild are endangered, with the Sumatran and South-China tigers flagged as critically endangered.

I recently heard that tigers are now seriously in danger and have a VERY high chance of becoming extinct in the wild within the next 12 years if we don't act soon. If you want to help and not see this species become extinct, you could look for a charity and make a donation, also you could make sure that you never buy any products from a tiger - like its fur or a food/drinks made from tiger meat.

We can help to show respect to these creatures and try to do our own little bit to help tigers survive!

## Hen lays monstrous egg

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

By Caitie Swallow,  
Year 9

It's not unusual for chicken's eggs to vary slightly in size. However, farm owners Scott and Kimberly Stockman were shocked to discover one of their hens had laid an egg three times the size of a regular egg. The

pair, who look after thousands of hens on their farm in Australia, have no idea which one was responsible for laying the gigantic egg. The enormous egg weighed 176 grammes, and that's not all; when they cracked it open, they found another egg inside!

## The Flash Season 4

By Emily Balaiss, Year 10

**Warning: Contains Spoilers!**

To understand what I'm about to tell you, you need to do something first, you need to believe in the impossible. Can you do that? Good.

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This season of *The Flash* has been a roller-coaster of events, starting with Barry and Iris' wedding which lead to the cross over Crisis on Earth-X, the reveal of DeVoe and the death and losses we have witnessed. Recently, DeVoe's wife and sidekick (Marlize) left DeVoe after she realised that his plan was too extreme and activated an electronic barrier to stop DeVoe from coming after her.

But before that, other things happened... First, Barry went into the Speed Force to stop it from exploding, and we also know that Caitlin couldn't decide whether she was Killer Frost or Caitlin Snow; Cisco found her and brought her back to Star Labs where the team was able to get Barry out of the Speed Force. But in doing that he created a bus full of meta-humans.

'Flash' forward a few episodes...

Barry meets an old foe, Ralph Dibney who we learned was a police detective until he tampered with evidence and was kicked off the force because of Barry. We then learn that he was on the bus that was in the speed force and was then named the Elongated Man. Altogether there are 12 bus metas and DeVoe was looking for them all.

'Flash' Forward a few episodes...

DeVoe has found all of the bus metas, including Ralph and that is where we left off.

# Opinion and Comment

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

## Will the world run out of chocolate in 30 years?

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

With the issues like climate change and global warming, the world is fast running out of cacao beans – the main ingredient for chocolate. How will the world react to losing our favourite sweet treat?

While 30 years may seem a long time, it will sure come around. So what's really causing the rapid decrease in stock of chocolate? Cacao beans can only grow in certain places near to the equator in highly specific conditions, and with temperature rise of just 2.1C (caused by global warming) there isn't much hope for this vital plant at the minute. Officials have said 'the trees are perishing in the warm weather'. This is pretty bad, because the trees must have abundant rain, not droughts.

But it isn't just about us. Think about all the businesses that will have a huge decrease in stock of their products. Take Cadbury for example. They have so many products it's impossible to list them all. My

personal favourites are bound to disappear in the chocolate deadline: Fudge, Mini Eggs, Creme Egg, Classic and Oreo. Imagine going into a shop and all the chocolate is gone. Shops will also be affected as a lot of their sales depend on chocolate themed products.

Finally, my personal thoughts on what will happen to us when there is officially NO chocolate left. It wouldn't affect me entirely as I only enjoy a little bit of it. But as for the rest of the world... well that would end in a complete meltdown. Maybe even a global depression?

## Staff's Favourite Food

By Elena Cretu, Year 7

We asked various members of staff here at Wath to tell us what their favourite foods were. Each one had a different answer, and the results are as follows:

1. Spaghetti
2. Fish and chips
3. Pizza
4. Chinese food
5. Seafood salad
6. Curry
7. Lasagne
8. Sausages
9. Thai food
10. Tarte Tatin
11. Chocolate ice cream
12. Cheeseburgers
13. Indian food
14. Roasted lamb

Yum!

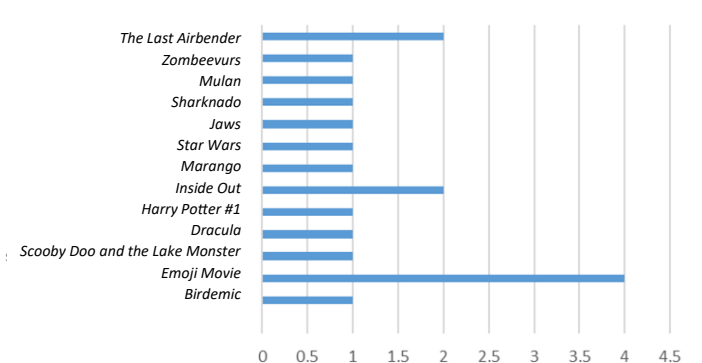
Why not take inspiration from these over the half term holiday and cook up something truly delicious?

Let us know what you've been cooking—take a picture, bring it to Miss Taylor, and we'll feature it in the summer edition of *The Torch*!

## The worst movies members of *The Torch* have ever watched

By Jacob Bleu Linney, Year 7

In the past there have been some pretty good movies but in this you will see what movies each member hates and think they should have been on the ideas list not the big screen. but are some of the opinions one of a kind or are some of them fact?



## Pen 'Friend'

By Anonymous

One day I'm going to school as normal as I can. During one of the lessons, a student asked me to lend a pen to him, so I did. After period 6, I asked him to give back the pen and he said, "I'll give it back to you tomorrow." I trusted him so I asked again the day after and he said, "Can I use it for today please?" From my kindness, I lent him the pen again and repeated that he must give me back the pen after period 6. Still, he said the same sentence again and because I'm his friend, I gave him just one more chance.

However, he betrayed our promises, he lost my pen and he was making an excuse for it!!!! He said, "I dropped the pen at my nan's, I'll give you back tomorrow, k?"

At that point, a small midget millisecond passed and I was almost shouting at him but I managed to calm down by reasoning that it would be a shame for the friendship to break because of a pen. As the day passed by, I started to forget that I ever had a pen or a pencil to lend out.

If this happens to you, remember to calm down, because your friends may help you in the future!

## Best Star Wars Characters

By Emily Balaiss and Alex Law, Year 10

5) Del Meeko - Del Meeko is from Coruscant: he is 36 years old and worked for the Imperial Navy until he joined the Rebellion. He is one of the best Star Wars character because he helps the Rebellion win the Battle of Jakku and he helped end the tyrannical Galactic Empire.

4) Captain Rex – He gets a spot in the top four because he is a war hero and he looks out for his friends.

3) Obi Wan Kenobi (prequels) – "Hello there" is probably one of the most iconic moments in the *Star Wars* franchise. He's also a very good Jedi.

2) Ahsoka Tano – She has an interesting story from what we know: from being Anakin Skywalker's padawan to being expelled from the Jedi Order.

1) BB-8 – He has to secure the top spot because he's so incredibly CUTE!

## Weird and Wonderful Around the World

By Caitie Swallow, Year 9

### Praise for hero policeman (France)

A French policeman has been hailed a hero after he volunteered to swap places with a female hostage who was being held by a gunman at a supermarket. The hostage was saved, but Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame was attacked by the gunman and later died of his injuries.

### Rocket man aims to prove the Earth is flat (Mojave Desert, US)

Now, we all know that the Earth is round but Mike Hughes, 61, a self-taught rocket man is convinced that the Earth is flat. So, he has attempted to find out once and for all by blasting himself into the sky. He flew 571 metres above the Mojave Desert in California, in his home-made rocket, before deploying his parachute and landing safely back on Earth. Mike spent £14,000 on his mission but was unable to reach space to take photos and see for himself whether Earth is flat or not.

### First non-stop flight from Australia to UK (London, UK)

It was an amazing journey that took roughly 17 hours and covered more than 9,000 miles. On 25th March, the first ever non-stop passenger flight from Australia to the UK landed at London's Heathrow Airport. Passengers said they enjoyed the uninterrupted journey, which set off from Perth. On arrival in the UK they were greeted by costumed characters, including a kangaroo.

### Dozens die in shopping-centre fire (Kemerovo, Russia)

A fire at a shopping centre in Kemerovo in Siberia has left at least 64 people dead. The blaze broke out on a busy Sunday afternoon, sweeping through the top floors of the Winter Cherry complex and engulfing a cinema, ice-skating rink and children's play centre. Hundreds of firefighters rushed to the scene and eventually put the fire out which is thought to be one of the deadliest in Russia in recent years. Four arrests have been made.



# Media and Review:

## ***The Grinning Man: A Musical***

By Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Year 10

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, the new musical, *The Grinning Man*, is an enchanting and beautiful experience that all should have. This amazing spectacle stars Louis Maskell as Grinpayne, the main character, Julian Bleach (who plays Davros in the new Doctor Who series) as Barkilphedro, Sanne Den Besten as Dea and Sean Kingsley as Ursus, Grinpayne and Dea's adoptive father.

The story revolves around the mystery of the grotesque mutilation of Grinpayne's mouth, which has caused him to carry a maniacal grin through his childhood into his adult life and has only been masked by a bandage. The reason why it is a mystery is because, for some unknown reason, Grinpayne has no recollection of who inflicted the scar upon him, nor does he remember his mother and any of his life before he was adopted by Ursus. Since then, the family of misfits travelled around as a freak show, performing a dramatic retelling of the events that came after Grinpayne's mutilation, including how he found his love Dea in the snow, blind from birth (though, in order to add a touch of the dramatic, they often say that Dea became blind by staring at Grinpayne's smile). These travels take them to Trafalgar Fair, in the miserable capital city of Lonn'Donn, where they enchant the Lord David Dirry-Moir with their tragic tale. The rest of the musical that follows tumbles out of control as new revelations and old ties are revealed.

As well as having the accompaniment of a moving and powerful soundtrack (my personal favourite song being 'Labyrinth'), the musical also features some incredible puppetry, which is not surprising as the co-director of the play adaptation of *War Horse*, Tom Morris, also directs *The Grinning Man*. Instead of having children play the parts of young Grinpayne and Dea, the actors use puppets to tell the story, as well as having a puppet for the huge wolf called Mojo.

Other captivating features of the musical are the miniscule details that help to bring the tale to life for the audience, such as how Grinpayne moves like a puppet, with limp wrists and dragging movements, which all help to show how the characters, particularly Grinpayne, are controlled by others. Moreover, the puppeteers of Mojo make the puppet look like it is breathing and licking its

paws. All these features give a certain charm to the performance and, in my opinion, make the tragic, gothic fairy-tale a true work of art.

Unfortunately, *The Grinning Man* took its final bow on 5th May, but hopefully it will return to theatres at some point.

## ***Love, Simon* Movie Review**

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

Based on the novel of the same name, *Love, Simon* is about a boy called Simon who is secretly gay and no one knows, even his friends. Simon, one day, goes on a webpage that shares secrets and he and 'Blue' start speaking. They are both secretly gay and soon Simon's secret spills out from the digital world.

Personally, I enjoyed it and glad it's getting recognition. *Love, Simon* has amazing themes, as well as amazing and supportive characters—I liked Leah the best. Played by Hannah Baker from *13 Reasons Why*, she was an understanding character who also talked about boys with him. She also accepted him and didn't judge him.

Overall, the film was tender and sweet, with sad and happy moments, as well as being affecting for some LGBT people, as it is the first time a big Hollywood Blockbuster has made the main character gay. I'd like another movie like this to come out, but about a girl and girl next time. In the meantime, I can't wait to read the book!

## ***Avengers Infinity War* Review**

By Emily Balais, Year 10

The moment we have all been waiting for FINALLY arrived: *Avengers Infinity War* came out in cinemas on April 26th and it was awesome!

This film combined characters from most of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) movies, including *The Avengers*, *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Doctor Strange*. It is centred on the six infinity stones, the power stone, the mind stone, the time stone, the soul stone, the reality stone and the space stone. It shows us the lengths that Thanos, from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, is willing to go to in order to collect all six stones, including the Soul stone, which, before the film, was missing. This is a dark episode in the *Avengers* series, which will conclude in the next film, scheduled for release in 2019.

# Film, Music and More



## Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery

By Lauren Williams and Elizabeth Gray, Year 9

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Finally, the moment has come that all *Harry Potter* fans have been waiting for...a *Harry Potter* app! Yes, that's right, on the 25th April 2018, the first ever *Harry Potter* role-play game was introduced!

The game takes us back years before Harry Potter attended the school, where you play as your own unique character that you can personalise, and learn various lessons over three years there. Without giving too much away, we can tell you that the story is an interesting yet mysterious one. The story pits you against an immediate nemesis, Merula Snyde, but you'll learn more about HER in the game.

Characters we know and love from the books and films feature in this app, including Nymphadora Tonks, Bill Weasley, Professor McGonogall, Snape, Madam Hooch and many more. The story tells us that your brother, being expelled from Hogwarts, after going in search of the mystery vaults, has disappeared, disgracing your chosen Hogwarts house and bringing a certain degree of embarrassment and bullying your way.

Revisit the place we all know and love, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, play as your character, navigate the amazing castle and finally get your magic education, uncovering the mysteries of your family's past in the process.

## Dan and Phil's Interactive Introverts

By Olivia Storey, Elizabeth Gray and Charlotte Ting, Year 9

Dan and Phil are two British YouTubers who live in a London apartment together; they are best friends, and, as well as making many hilarious videos, they also have two books (called *The Amazing Book Is Not On Fire*

(TABINOF for short) and *Dan and Phil Go Outside* (DAPGO) and have previously done a tour to celebrate their first book (TABINOF).

They are currently on tour again in the UK but will also be going to Ireland, Netherlands, Russia, Germany, Poland, Finland, Sweden, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong and India. Their stage show is called Interactive Introverts.

We went to see their amazing show in Sheffield on 7th May. They did a friendship test and if they got it wrong then they got an electric shock; they did a role reversal (see Wholesome Howell and X-Rated Lester for more details); Phil created his very own diss-track; they created a song called Interactive Introverts; and many, many more fabulously, wonderfully, stupendously, fantastically great things! Needless to say, this show was the best thing to ever happen to us and you should definitely go and see them if you love them as much as we do: there are still tickets available for the UK so book them quickly.

## Upcoming Movie Dates







By Emily Balaiss, Year 10

Put these dates in your diary so you can be sure not to miss these Marvel and DC blockbusters!

### Upcoming Marvel Movies

-  Ant-Man and the Wasp (5<sup>th</sup> July 2018)
-  Venom (October 2018)
-  Captain Marvel (March 2019)
-  Gambit (2019)
-  Untitled Marvel Movie (2019)
-  Spider-Man Homecoming 2 (2019)
-  Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.3 (2020)
-  Untitled Marvel Movie (2020)

### Upcoming DC Movies

-  Aquaman (December 2018)
-  Shazam (April 2019)
-  Justice League Part 2 (June 2019)
-  Wonder Woman 2 (November 2019)
-  Cyborg (April 2020)
-  Green Lantern Corps (June 2020)



# More Sport Updates

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

## Gold Coast 2018 Round Up:

### More Details

By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

*Continued from the back page...*

First of all, what is the Commonwealth? Well, it is a collection of states and countries most of which used to be part of the British Empire. The Commonwealth Games is a multi sporting championships for the countries that are members of the Commonwealth. It takes place every 4 years and when it was first held in 1930 was called the British Empire games. Since then the name has been changed to British Empire and Commonwealth games and then to the British Commonwealth Games before becoming the Commonwealth Games as we know it.

The Commonwealth Games are quite similar to the Olympics, as it is a festival of sport and there are similarities such as some of the events, and the opening and closing ceremonies. However, there are many other differences that make it unique such as some of the events that are completed at the commonwealth games have never been at the Olympics so it is a massive feature of exposure for their sports if they do not have the chance to win an Olympic medal. Also with only certain countries competing, some of the heavy weights of each sport might not be at the games meaning there is chance for other nations to shine. Another change from the Olympics for us in the UK is that the home nations all compete as individual countries.

A final difference between the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games is that Paralympic sport is combined within the same competition as fully abled sport rather than having two separate competitions e.g. the Paralympics and Olympics. Each para athlete will be given a category, such as T54 for wheelchair marathon, based upon their movement and how able they are.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

*Able-bodied and para-athletes stand side by side at the closing ceremony as there is no division at the Commonwealth Games.*

So, what were the results like? Host country Australia came top of the league table with an impressive 198 medals in total, with 80 of those being gold. The UK came in a respectable second place, with some surprising victories, as mentioned on the back page.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

*Australian swim team celebrates gold.*

How did the UK achieve gold in netball? Well, the two usual heavy weights of netball (Australia and New Zealand) were matched against each other in the semi-finals, where hosts Australia dispatched Oceania neighbours New Zealand to progress to the final. In the other semi-final England staged a dramatic comeback against Jamaica who they were six goals behind to at half time, turned the game

around winning narrowly 56-55. This meant that the England team had made it to the final for the first time ever and they would be to face the mighty Australia. And the win was quite something! It was an extremely tight game but the England team just managed to win scoring in the literal last second of the fixture with a goal from Jo Harten.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

*UK Netball team proudly clutch their gold medals.*

## MotoGP Race: Updates to Date

By Lucille Lowrey, Year 8

MotoGP is a motorbike racing show. For those of you who may have heard of Isle Of Man TT, MotoGP isn't as dangerous, but it's basically the same concept. It began a few weeks ago, and these are the latest results.

### The First Race

The guy I'm rooting for, Dovizioso, got first place on the first race of 2018. Márquez was in second and Rossi was next, in third place. It was in the Qatar Grand Prix. Dovizioso had tricked Márquez on the last lap, making him the proud winner.

Dovi got 25 points, Márquez got 20 and Valentino Rossi got 16. So far, Dovi is in the lead with 25 points and a trophy for being first.

There was obviously a few crashes and some rivalry going on. Valentino Rossi didn't cheat luckily.

### The Second Race

On Sunday 8th May, Cal Crutchlow won but some drama happened with Márquez.

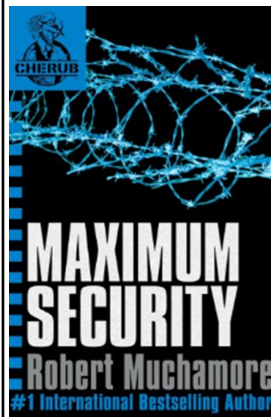
First, he was called to the pit to start but he went back on the grid, where they start, which was a sneaky move to do. Later on, he had to go on a road

at a certain speed then continue racing. He then sped and knocked over a few people earning the 18th spot in MotoGP.

While that was happening, the battle for first place was on and Jack Miller, a Australian Ducati rider, was in first for a long time until he slipped on the side. That's when the other 3 got in front. Their names were J. Zarco, A.Rins and obviously Cal Crutchlow.

This race was probably the craziest yet...but there are plenty more to come!

## Book of the Month



Maximum Security by Robert Muchamore

Reviewed by Elena Cretu

Over the years, CHERUB has put plenty of criminals behind bars. Now, for the first time ever, they've got to break one out...

Under American law, kids convicted of serious crimes can be sentenced as adults. Two hundred and eighty of these child criminals live in the sun-baked desert prison of Arizona Max.

In one of the most daring CHERUB missions ever, James Adams has to go undercover inside Arizona Max, along with Dave Moss and his little sister, Lauren.

CHERUB kids are trained professionals, working in everyday situations. Their essential advantage: adults never suspect that children are spying on them.

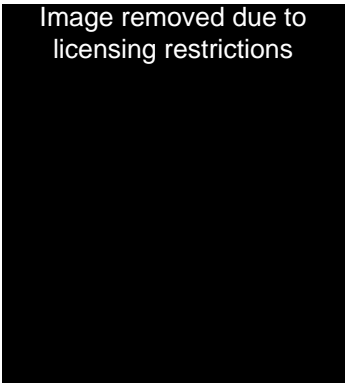
Will he get crushed and beaten by the big brutes at the prison or can he succeed in his mission?

If you've never read a CHERUB book, this is the third instalment in the series, so it's worth going back to the first one. As with the rest of the series, *Maximum Security* is a high action page-turner, which is sure to have you gripped from start to finish.

So what are you waiting for?

# Sport Update

## Gold Coast 2018 Roundup



By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

When 6,600 athletes from 71 nations/territories travelled to the Gold Coast in Australia for the Commonwealth Games, it was destined to be a brilliant showcase of some of the best sport in the world and it certainly didn't disappoint. For full details about the event, please turn to pages 14 and 15.

Here is a compilation of all the best bits and most interesting stories:

### England Success

The Lions and Lionesses did fantastically well at the games, finishing second in the medal table behind hosts Australia, with a grand total of 136 medals, 45 of those being gold.

### Sibling Power

One of England's gold medals was won by the women's netball team, coached by ex-footballers Gary

and Phil Neville's sister, Tracey Neville. To find out more about this shock victory (England were ranked third in the world netball rankings behind New Zealand and Australia, who also competed at the games), turn to pages 14 and 15.

### Youngest Competitor

How would you feel to compete at one of the world's biggest sporting events aged just eleven years old? Well, at such a young age, Wales had a surprise contestant competing for them in table tennis. Anna Hursey was the youngest ever contestant in a Commonwealth games. She breezed through her first match in just 17 minutes showing huge potential but a heart-breaking defeat in her second match meant that she was out of the games in the group stages. However, when competing against people over twice her age, her accolades don't compare.

For more details about the games, turn to page 14.

