

Torch



MOVEMENT EVENING

The Greatest Show



Wath
Academy

Roald Dahl Censorship
Easter Egg Test • Eurovision
Reading Week • STEM Events

Torch

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

You can contribute to *Torch* by attending the enrichment club on Tuesday afternoons at 2:50 pm in G20 or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

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**Wath
Academy**

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HOUSE UPDATE



Welcome to the Half Term 4 House Update. What a half term it has been so far, with more people taking part and some changes in position both in the overall competition and Work Cup. With 10 events every week for both staff and students, there are still hundreds of thousands of points up for grabs.

Troy is still out in front; however, they are no longer pulling away from Athens

HT4 Student Points	
Athens	11,075
Troy	9,640
Rome	7,395
Thebes	6,700
Sparta	6,440
Carthage	5,250

in second place. Thanks to fantastic efforts this half term, Athens are currently leading the Half Term 4 league table (left) and look to be on course to finish ahead of Troy for the first half term this academic year.

Whilst this is obviously excellent news for Athens, the resurgence of Rome has been the major story since the turn of the year. With staff and students competing consistently in high numbers, and with several wins in the online quiz amongst other events, they have leapfrogged not one but two houses and moved into 4th place behind Carthage. As head of Carthage, I am more than a little scared that they will catch us. Carthage are only just hanging on to third place thanks to strong placing in the staff competitions.

Staff have also been competing in events throughout the year and their league table is included to the right. It has been great to see so many staff, especially new members of staff to the school, getting involved in departmental and Friday activities.

Staff Points	
Troy	41,750
Athens	28,335
Carthage	26,725
Sparta	19,520
Thebes	19,040
Rome	16,795

Recent events have included the Science airplane throw, won by Carthage, and the Mathematics Department's pi dingbats challenge, won by Athens. Can you work out what it means?



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

Mr Marriott • Head of Carthage

READING WEEK

At Wath Academy, we decided that one day to celebrate reading wasn't enough!

As well as World Book Day, Wath Academy had 'Reading Week' across the whole academy with departments shining spotlights on authors and texts throughout the week. The house system also had a reading takeover. Here's what we got up to:

Reading Spotlights in Lessons

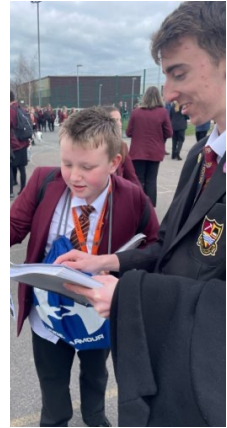
At the start of each Science lesson across all year groups, scientific texts were spotlighted and students had the opportunity to discuss ideas and concepts central to the texts.

In Maths, students read the 'Daily Rigour' to recognise just how much maths we have in the news every day!

House Activities

To kick off the week, we had an online Roald

Dahl quiz where staff and students were cast back into their childhoods, trying to remember the name of characters and plot lines to the fantastic stories. Can you remember the name of the character who always wanted to own a sweet shop in *The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me?*



Friday's lunchtime challenge saw students of all ages meet on the tennis courts for a huge book hunt. Students had to look at the opening lines from books and match them to the title. Athens took the win!

Science Reading Spotlight

Extract: Look at yourself in the mirror and reflect upon the fact that you are beholding ten thousand trillion cells, and that almost every one of them holds two yards of densely compacted DNA, and you begin to appreciate how much of this stuff you carry around with you. If your DNA were woven into a single strand, there would be enough of it to stretch from the Earth to the moon and back, not once or twice but again and again. Altogether, according to one calculation, you have as much as 20 million kilometres of DNA bundled up inside you.

This extract is taken from **A Short History of Nearly Everything** by **Bill Bryson**. This links to your cell biology topic.

Learning Objective: To be able to develop a love of reading

The Daily Rigour
Sun 26th February 2023
Issue No. 316

Year 10 Free weekly newspaper!

Fasto price almost doubles as cost of basic rises
The price of pasta has nearly doubled in two years, says research by experts...
Scientists have discovered the maximum size a human can live to
Researchers at the University of California...
Tommy Fury wins grudge match versus Jake Paul by split decision
Tommy Fury beat Jake Paul by a split decision in arguably the most controversial fight in boxing history...
Three airports want to California
Three airports in California want to be the state's largest...
Bill Bryson
A Short History of Nearly Everything

Finally, students were given the opportunity to design their own Wath Academy bookmark. There were some great creative examples and Elliot R in Rome took the win this time. You may even see the design professionally printed in the library.

Tutor Time

Tutor time also had a reading takeover! Each day students were introduced to popular books, authors and clips from original screenplays. Assembly took students round the world to recognise where reading can take you. All students had taken part in the 'Around the World' competitions. Don't worry – the winners will be announced soon!

Sponsored Read-a-thon

Every day Year 7 and Year 8 students had the opportunity to 'drop everything in read' to support their efforts with the sponsored read. We raised over £400 for Sheffield Children's Hospital and our school library.

The Read for Good charity provides new books to children's hospitals across the UK. Sadly, children in hospitals cannot have second-hand books due to infection control so the charity brings joy to these students through books!

Well done and thank you to all sponsors!

Miss Majer • Key Stage 3 Coordinator English



Coming Up...

Author Visit

Children's author Stuart Rowson is visiting the academy on Friday 24th March and is talking about his new children's novel *Izzy and The Thunder Tumbler*. Stuart has had a successful career on CBBC and felt inspired to write children's stories after reading Harry Potter with his daughter. We are excited for Stuart to share his passion for reading. Read the next edition of *Torch* to find out more about his visit.

Scholastic Book Fair

From Friday 24th of March to Thursday 30th March, we have a mobile Scholastic Book Fair in our library. The book fair will include a range of the most popular books and a diverse range of authors. You can visit the library at break and lunch times and fill out a wish-list should you wish to buy a book.

SCIENCE CLUB

An update on the Year 7 and 8 enrichment club.



In Science Club, we have been exploring lots of different experiments this half term such as food tests – testing foods for different substances to link with allergies and the importance of food manufacturers accurately labelling their ingredients on packaging.

We have also watched demonstrations of lots of ‘fizz, bang’ experiments such as the Thermite demonstration to learn how iron is made to weld together railway tracks. We also saw the whoosh bottle demonstrating how flammable ethanol is – creating a ‘flaming bottle’ – to highlight some of the hazards with science chemicals.

From displacement reactions, to making parachutes, to crystal making, to flame tests and STEM cross-Trust competitions – Science Club is unmissable! You’ll be a Scientist in the making in no time!

Mrs Yellott • Teacher of Science





Wath competed against other Maltby Learning Trust schools in a STEM salt market competition.

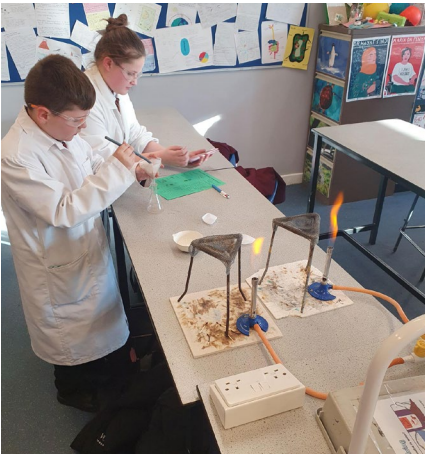
This half-term the Faculty of Science hosted a STEM salt market competition against Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy. Not only did we host this event, but our expert Science students led us to an outstanding victory against both schools!

Despite our winning team being comprised of Year 7 students who were up against much older students (including Year 10s), their dedication to the event, analytical thinking, precise planning and exceptional teamwork made us the clear winners! Staff

from both Maltby Academy and Sir Thomas Wharton Academy were so impressed and cannot wait for the next competition to try and defeat us!

Mrs Yellott and Miss Bishton are so proud of their winning team, and cannot wait for the next STEM event, as our amazing team of eleven budding scientists are sure to lead Wath Academy to victory again – an elite STEM Team!

Mrs Yellott • *Teacher of Science*



MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP

Mr Omidi reports on the Problem Solving Workshop that proved to be no problem for our Year 12 mathematicians.

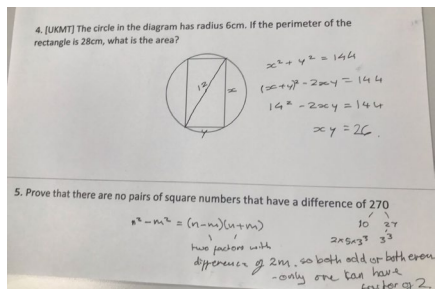
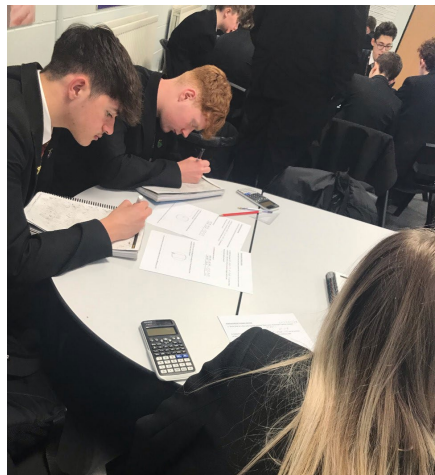
On 8th March, we hosted our first Problem Solving Workshop run by Advance Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) for our Year 12 students.

The event offered students the opportunity to develop mathematical problem-solving skills through discussion and collaboration. The workshop was designed to help students to develop strategies and confidence when tackling unfamiliar problems in Maths and help with preparations for those students taking advanced papers such as the MAT, TMUA and STEP examinations.

The session has enriched students' mathematical experience and helped them to develop a better understanding of A Level Mathematics.

Overall, all our students worked incredibly hard and managed to tackle some challenging mathematical problems.

Mr Omidi • Key Stage 5 Coordinator Maths





MOVEMENT EVENING 2023

— THE —
GREATEST SHOW



Over three nights in late January and early February, we held Movement Evening 2023. The theme was 'The Greatest Show' – and let me tell you something: it really was the greatest show.

This was a night full of dancing, singing and humour. We started to learn routines in September last year ready to perform them in January/February this year so this had taken so long to put together, especially rehearsals and making sure everyone had a costume.

In the end, everyone worked together. A big thanks must go to the sixth formers who choreographed the dances for Years 7, 8 and

9 and also the Dance teachers in school for organising everything.

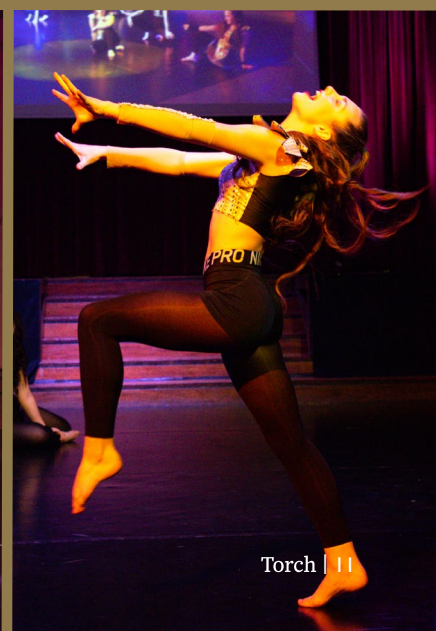
In my opinion the best part of Movement Evening was what happened backstage as all of the dancers were put into a room together and we all got along.

Movement Evening is something that anyone can do as it doesn't matter if you're amazing or not because it's about if you're enjoying it and the memories you make. I have done Movement Evening since I was in primary school and hope to do it for the rest of my time at school.

Millie R • Year 9



Photos by Adam Galliford Photography



From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). As our cover feature is on this year's Movement Evening, we're looking back at the 2010 event, as reported by the fifteenth (and final) edition of *Connexions*, Wath Comprehensive School's magazine from 1996 until 2010.



A Night with the Stars (2010)

It was only a few weeks ago that the film industry came to Wath. The annual Movement Evening took 'Hollywood' as its theme, and sell-out audiences on three nights marvelled at performances of dance, gymnastics and acrobatics inspired by some of the great movies and movie stars of all time.

In keeping with the theme, there was a cast of thousands – well, almost. Over 200 students and staff from Wath Comprehensive took part, along with pupils from many of our feeder schools: Brampton Ellis Infant and Junior, Cortonwood Infants, Our Lady and St Joseph's, Wath Church of England, Wath Victoria, Wentworth and West Melton.

Special mentions must go to Vicki Bell, Kody Heathcote and Emily Sowerby, Year 13 studnets who have taken part in every Movement Evening since joining the school, to Jonathan Hays and Elliot Ormondroyd, who were masterful Masters of Ceremonies, and to the staff of the PE Department who put the programme together.

But everyone who took part deserves congratulations for helping to ensure that Movement Evening will remain one of the highlights of the Wath Comprehensive School calendar for many years to come.



Some of the cast of
Movement Evening 2010

Makeup tips

Lip Plumpers

Visible makeup may not be allowed in school, but you can wear it in your leisure time. With that in mind, we take a look at lip plumpers.

As the makeup industry grows, it is vital to make sure you buy the right and best quality products. Because of the price rises, it is important that you get your money's worth in long lasting products. Today I will be comparing lip plumpers.

The **Revolution Pout Bomb Max** has a very glossy finish and is long lasting throughout the day. However, the sting only lasts a couple of minutes. I would recommend this plumper and it is affordable and comes in different sizes. You can get this product from various different high street shops and online websites.

Up next is the **W7 Hot Shot Plumper**. Compared to the Revolution Gloss, the sting is unbearable and can send you into shock. It is also a lip oil which leaves your lips looking voluptuous and it makes them very soft and silky. This is a massive positive as it doesn't leave a sticky texture to your

lips. This product is also very cheap at only £2.50 per tube. You can get this product everywhere! An example could be Tesco.

The **Essence What the Fake! Plumper** has both lip gloss and oil in it so it leaves your lips extra glossy. The reviews on this plumper show that it really does work and people say it's like having lip filler but not permanent, so this is perfect for the people that like that lip filler look but not all the time. Out of all the lip plumpers I have reviewed this is certainly the most expensive at £24 a tube.

Overall, I think the W7 Hot Shot Plumper is the best as it is very affordable and easy to get. Personally, it also shows the best results.

O. S. • Year 9

CENSORSHIP OF ROALD DAHL RIGHTEOUS OR RIDICULOUS?



Roald Dahl's well-loved children's novels have been republished with some wording changed to make them more appropriate for the 21st century. Sixth former Abi M investigates whether these modifications are justified.

Hundreds of edits have recently been made to some of Roald Dahl's classic children's stories, with the intention of removing 'offensive' language to ensure that the books' contents are suitable for the readers of today.

Working with Inclusive Minds, Puffin, the publisher, hired sensitivity readers to rewrite sections of text, particularly focussing on that concerning weight, mental health, gender, race, and violence.

“Mrs Twit is now ‘beastly’, rather than ‘ugly’.”

The books edited include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Twits*, *Matilda*, *The Witches*, and *The BFG*.

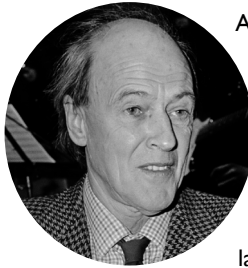
The UK public has been outraged at the prospect of their childhood memories being destroyed by the changes.

While alterations to remove sexist, racist, and generally offensive content seem completely justified, it may be shocking to discover just how sweeping these edits have become.

Willy Wonka's Oompa Loompas are now labelled 'small' instead of 'tiny' and Miss Trunchbull is a 'formidable woman' instead of a 'formidable female'. Did the editors just Google synonyms? And what do they have against amazing alliteration?

Mrs Twit is now ‘beastly’ rather than ‘ugly’; I don’t know about you, but I would rather just be called ‘ugly’.

The BFG can no longer wear a ‘black’ cloak... but I’m certainly not offended by the colour of someone’s coat.



Also, it is imperative that we consider the society in which those books were written (largely between 1960 and 1990), where gender-neutral terms were not commonplace and what would now be considered ‘problematic’ language was used every day.

And, worst of all, Augustus Gloop is now just ‘enormous’ instead of ‘enormously fat’. In an age of reclaiming words, and the amelioration of words like ‘fat’, the removal of this perpetuates the idea that it is a bad word with negative connotations when, in reality, it is becoming simply a describing word – just like ‘skinny’ or ‘tall’ or ‘small’. But clearly they aren’t allowed in the Roald Dahl universe either. After all, we wouldn’t want the fictional Oompa Loompas to be offended!

Not only are the general public disgusted by these unexpected alterations, but even celebrities and politicians have spoken out.

A spokesperson for UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated: “We shouldn’t gobblefunk around with [Roald Dahl’s] words.”

And actor Brian Cox told Times Radio that the sanitisation of Roald Dahl’s stories is “disgraceful” and said: “We can’t start rewriting works of literature because it suits our so-called moral code.”

In that one sentence, he articulates perfectly what many people are thinking. We wouldn’t rewrite classics like *The Great Gatsby* or *To Kill a Mockingbird*, despite the controversy both have caused, so why change a series of children’s books which have brought nothing but joy and childhood memories for generations?

In response to the controversy, Puffin has now announced that the original versions of these will also still be available, saying in a press release: “We are offering readers the choice to decide how they experience Roald Dahl’s magical, marvellous stories.”

However, instead of trying to erase the past, and the influence of this past society on its media, why not learn from it? Let children enjoy the magic of Roald Dahl’s books while they’re young, and then when they grow up you can say to them: “*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is a flawed story for this reason and this reason.”

“*Instead of trying to erase the past, why not learn from it?*”

We cannot pretend that a past society where women, people of colour, and LGBTQ+ people were discriminated against didn’t exist, and so maybe a children’s book with a couple of over-the-line descriptions can act as the first step of an important history lesson.

And no one is hurt by the word ‘small’, unless there are some sensitive Oompa Loompas hiding somewhere...

Abi M • Year 13

ORIGINS OF EASTER

Ruby R in Year 10 explores where the celebration of Easter came from.

In modern day, we all know and love Easter as the holiday in which we give our loved ones chocolate eggs (via the Easter Bunny, of course). Nowadays, no one really knows the meaning of Easter or why we celebrate it. Like many other holidays, it has become known for its places in the media and not for their importance in religion.

Easter became a religious holiday when Jesus was resurrected after being crucified by the Roman army in Jerusalem. The day is a very important day for the Christian faith and is a part of the holy week. This begins with Palm Sunday followed by Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, then with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The week finishes with Holy Saturday and then Easter Sunday. It is also known as the last week of Lent.

“Easter wasn’t always celebrated on Easter Sunday.”

Good Friday marks the day in which Jesus was crucified during ‘The Three Hours’ Agony’, which took place between noon and 3 pm. Easter Sunday is the day in which Jesus was supernaturally resurrected.

However, Easter actually started off as a Pagan holiday in the Northern

Hemisphere, long before Christianity came into existence. It was after the advent of Christianity that Easter was associated with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. It is also celebrated around the same time as Jewish Passover and during Ramadan, meaning this period of time has significance for many religions, especially those associated with Christianity.

“Since pre-historic times, people have celebrated the equinoxes and the solstices as sacred times,” says Professor Carole Cusack of the University of Sydney.

Easter wasn’t always celebrated on Easter Sunday, though, as there was no such thing as weekends until around the early-mid fourth century. In the past, many would spend the day celebrating Jesus’ sacrifice whereas now, it is more about chocolate egg hunts and spending time around the dinner table with family.

Easter has almost, if not completely, lost its Pagan roots and commemorates the Christian tradition, whilst many don’t understand the roots at all, especially in this generation. Hopefully, we can tell the story of how this globally celebrated holiday started out and make sure it doesn’t change into a day it isn’t, keeping the origins of Easter known.

Ruby R • Year 10

EGG TOSSING

Grace M explains this Easter game.



Image: Camp Pinewood, CC BY 2.0, via Flickr

Everyone loves Easter activities! One of the many examples of Easter games suggested for teens is Easter egg toss, a game where you get many hard boiled eggs and paint them.

To add a little more fun to this magnificent game, throw some raw painted eggs in there as well. This game is fun for all the family. This game consists of two or more pairs of players standing face-to-face, taking an egg out of a bucket, bowl etc. and throwing the egg to each other, trying not to drop the egg. The team that drops their egg are eliminated, last team standing wins.

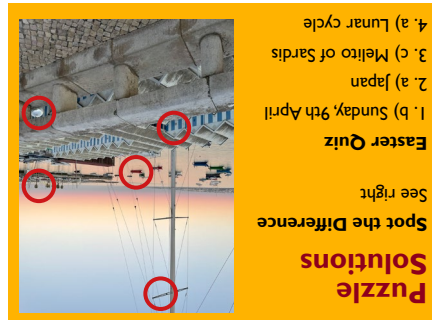
To make this exciting game more fun, make each player take one step back every time they catch their egg.

If you want to add even more drama to your already thrilling game, you can make

each person throw the egg to their partner and the person who catches it then throws it to the person on their left. Keep going until one team is left then make them throw the egg until one person misses.

This game I personally recommend, it will make your Easter even more special!

Grace M • Year 8



Easter Egg Ratings



In preparation for Easter, members of Torch magazine tested four different Easter eggs to help you decide which are the best options for you to buy or recommend to your loved ones.

Everyone loves Easter eggs, but which is the best? To decide, we rated four different Easter eggs out of 10 to get an overall opinion of the best Easter egg of all!

Mini Eggs



Mini Eggs are always a must have when doing shopping in preparation for Easter. Whether it's the tasty chocolate flavour or the shell adding that little bit of extra flavour, they are top priority of everyone's shopping lists. Now when

it came to voting, we took a lot of things into consideration, including presentation, flavour and value.

We rated the Mini Eggs Easter egg at a **7 out of 10**. This is because the egg itself had amazing flavour. However, we felt that it was quite boring as it didn't have anything that made it stand out from any other egg you can buy at the shop. The Mini Eggs are what we feel brought the score as high as it did as it is a fan favourite when it comes to Easter treats.

Chocolate Orange



Personally, Chocolate Orange isn't my favourite but for many, getting anything close to resembling a Terry's Chocolate Orange, is a dream. They aren't like any other type of chocolate, as it bursts with flavour that you cannot avoid. Some may say that it is a taste that they can never forget, and hope that at least one person will allow them to indulge in this sweet treat.

The Chocolate Orange also averaged at a **7 out of 10**, as, like the Mini Eggs, it is also a great option to please those who will love it. However, it is definitely for those who have a taste for it and, for us, it was a hit or miss. So definitely look to buying one of these but only if you know that people will enjoy it, or otherwise, it will be straight in the bin.

Galaxy Enchanted Eggs



For us, the Galaxy Enchanted Egg did not fail and was one of, if not the best, of our options. Many argue whether they prefer Galaxy or Cadbury's and even though it may be controversial, on this occasion, we had to go with the Galaxy. Not only were the added Enchanted Eggs such an amazing experience, but the egg itself was the best of what we've tried.

At the top of our list, the Galaxy came out on top, scoring a whopping **9 out of 10**. It was no match in comparison to all the other eggs we tested as the chocolate was so smooth and the Enchanted Eggs were rich in flavour yet were classy with the

taste. We recommend trying these at least once over the holidays, and we would be shocked if anyone said otherwise.

“ We took a lot of things into consideration, including presentation, flavour and value.”

KitKat Chunky

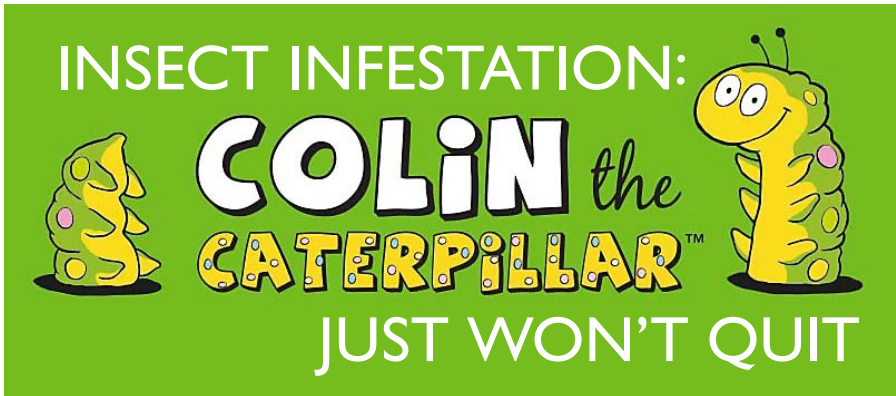


All in all, KitKats are one of the best chocolate bars out on the shelves, but, for us, we were rather disappointed with the contents of the Easter egg. Don't get me wrong: it is definitely one you should consider, but not if you wanted something with an extra wow factor.

Coming in at a surprising **6 out of 10**, the KitKat let us down. The chocolate bars included in the box were nice as always, but it was rather bland considering the season and were just like buying a pack off of the shelf any time of the year. And the egg was the same as you would find in most other Easter egg boxes as it was plain chocolate, with no added flavours to even merely represent a KitKat. Therefore, we felt we could not rate it any higher.

Written by:
Ruby R • Year 10

Ratings:
Abi G • Year 10
Isobel G • Year 10
Olivia S • Year 9



Marks and Spencer's Colin the Caterpillar is undoubtedly a national treasure, sitting alongside the likes of David Attenborough and Paddington Bear, and providing a delicious birthday cake treat for UK children and adults alike. But has this critter gone a step too far?

Colin the Caterpillar self-describes as both the 'world's most famous caterpillar' and a 'British icon', and this rings true upon the discovery that 15 million Colin cakes have been sold since his introduction to M&S stores in 1990.

It would be an insult to call Tesco's 'Curly' and Aldi's 'Cuthbert' competitors of Colin's, as he so obviously and effortlessly outshines them along with a multitude of other dubious doppelgängers.

However, some concerned citizens worry that after Colin crushed his cakey competition, he might be getting a bit too big for his boots. All three pairs.

This concern was born after noticing M&S's new Colin variation, the 'Chocolate Cake Jar'. Not only is the product's name hugely underwhelming, but it lacks the passion and personality which lies at the heart of Colin. While the efficiency of this Colin-on-



Colin the Caterpillar Chocolate Cake Jar



Images: M&S

The classic Colin the Caterpillar cake

the-Go cannot be criticised, its haphazard production and ridiculous price leave much to be desired. At over £4 for one pot, it is clear that M&S neglected to consider a cheaper alternative – Colin in the Cost of Living Crisis.

“At over £4 for one pot, it is clear that M&S neglected to consider a cheaper alternative – Colin in the Cost of Living Crisis.”

And this cake jar is not the only caterpillar catastrophe M&S has served the UK; it is accompanied by fruit gums, sour sweets, mini cakes, a brownie baking mix, and even a plush toy – all sporting Colin’s face. While it is clear that the original cake is a British birthday delicacy, it seems the

supermarket behind the tasty treat have capitalised on Colin’s adorable complexion, creating anything and everything they can to increase their own profits.

Colin is not the only product of M&S’s animal-related antics, either. Percy Pig has also risen to the top of the food chain, and recently overstayed his welcome. From a raspberry-shaped jelly to a pyjama design, Percy has had his hoof in every door – as an unwanted visitor.

Colin has similarly crawled back onto the shelves in his newest form, but he hasn’t blossomed into a loveable butterfly: he has become an annoying bug which needs exterminating.

Colin the Caterpillar? More like the very hungry-for-attention caterpillar.

Abi M • Year 13

PREVIEW OF THE EURO♡VISION SONG CONTEST

Ruby R looks forward to Eurovision 2023 in May.

This year, the 67th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest will be taking place in Liverpool for the first time. Despite Ukraine winning last year, the United Kingdom placed second and was given the chance to host due to Ukraine being unable to do so because of on going conflict with Russia. Kalush Orchestra, who represented Ukraine in 2022, won the contest with their song 'Stefania' which is written in Ukrainian and has a deeper meaning of 'I'll always find my way home. Even if all roads are destroyed'. This links into the war, which was happening during the production of this song and the men were lucky to be able to compete as they were at fighting age. Sam Ryder, who represented the United Kingdom, was the runner up with his popular and catchy song 'Spaceman'.

The United Kingdom's entry this year is 'I Wrote a Song' by Mae Muller. The English-born singer and songwriter revealed she was representing the UK on 9th March by releasing her song and putting it on her

social media platforms. So far, people aren't that keen on it, but it is starting to grow on others and is slowly gaining popularity.

As the contest is in the UK, there was a high demand for tickets before they got released. On the day of release, every ticket including semi-finals, previews and hospitality sold out in 36 minutes. Many people were left devastated as they were unable to secure tickets. However, throughout the week that Eurovision is set to take place, there are many different events happening in the city of Liverpool. Entries from previous years are set to participate in Euroclub where people can buy tickets for the week or just the day. This enables people to enjoy the atmosphere without having to find a ticket for the actual show.

Eurovision 2023 will take place in Liverpool's M&S Bank Arena 9th May until 13th May.

Ruby R • Year 10

25 YEARS OF TITANIC

Abi G re-watches the famous film based on the real-life sinking of the RMS Titanic.

In February half term, the *Titanic* film experienced its 25th anniversary of being released in cinemas to the public. It is on record the third-highest grossing film of all time. At one point, it was overtaken by *Avatar: Way of Water*, but the re-release allowed it to get back up to the third spot.

I went to see the re-release in Meadowhall's Vue cinema. It was the remastered version in 3D. Despite my seat being kicked behind me by an annoying individual and an unfortunate accident involving my friend Ruby spilling half the popcorn as soon as we sat down, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Kate Winslet (playing Rose Dewitt-Bukater) is a phenomenal actress and plays the role of a rich girl very well. And Leonardo DiCaprio (playing Jack Dawson) is such a raw and emotional actor and he never fails to impress, especially in *Titanic*.

I thought that the movie overall was very beautiful and really pulls on your heartstrings no matter how many times you watch it. My sister and cousin left the theatre in a state and were bawling like there was no tomorrow.

It was truly beautiful to experience it in 3D, as it felt like I was even more immersed in the story and was almost with the cast on the real boat.

I would personally give the acting a 10/10 as they perfectly narrated the storyline with emotion.

The story is an 8/10 the deduction of points is due to the **three hours** I had to sit there and also for the ending being absolutely heart-breaking. If you have seen it, you know what I'm talking about.

If there is ever a 50th – or if I live to see the 100th – anniversary re-release, I will (without a doubt) make sure that I leave my care home, get in my mobility scooter and drive all the way to the cinemas and watch it!

Abi G • Year 10



REVIEWS

***Almost There: A Twisted Tale Novel* by Farrah Rochon**

The *Twisted Tales* books have a reputation of being clever, well written and overall being very capable successors to the original material of their Disney movie counterparts. The 13th installation *Almost There*, based on *The Princess and the Frog*, is no different. In fact, it pushes the series as a whole to be as exceptional as it is.

For those unfamiliar with the series, each *Twisted Tale* novel takes the plot of a classic Disney film but shows us how differently the narrative would play out if just one plot point was changed – for example, what if Aladdin had never found the lamp?

Almost There starts at the point in *The Princess and the Frog* where Tiana is about to defeat Dr Facilier, also known as The Shadow Man. He shows her what life could be like if she takes his deal to hand over the talisman and finally get her restaurant that she has been working towards her whole life.

The start is practically the exact same as the movie, with minor dialogue changes and removals of small moments to keep the chapter's pacing smooth. However, where Tiana smashes the talisman in the movie, Dr Facilier offers to bring her passed away Father back, a deal that Tiana can't refuse.

She accepts and the book diverts from the movie and turns into its own retelling.

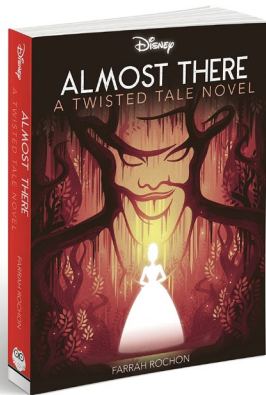
A year passes from the deal being made and Tiana has everything she could want. It's Mardi Gras again and her restaurant is thriving, her father and mother are happy and she is finally there. But, because of the deal wiping out every other deal Facilier had made and setting everything back before Prince Naveen arrived, no-one

remembers a thing, apart from Tiana, Dr Facilier and Louis, the alligator that had been involved in the deal so long as he could be human and play at Tiana's restaurant in the band.

As time goes on, Tiana finds it harder and harder to face Naveen, (who has taken a job at Mr La Bouff's sugar mill) and notices

that strange changes and consequences are beginning to take place – like locusts, a blinding fog in the city and a growing frequency in Dr Facilier visiting her to give her more 'keeping her father alive' potion. (As a part of their deal she had to put it in her gumbo every time she made and sold it, or her father would die again.)

The novel goes into the historical and cultural context of the time and the attention to detail is impeccable, from the



Mardi Gras Indians, to historically accurate songs being played in Tiana's restaurant (and the length of the song is realistic to the time spent in the book and in real life, meaning if you put the song on and read the book, it will end at the same time it says it does in the book).

Farrah Rochon, the author, doesn't sugar coat the racism Tiana has to face and her portrayal of Charlotte finding out about the struggles Tiana has to go through and resolving to help is amazing to read. She writes the characters perfectly and creates new and important-to-her-plot characters that add to the original story even more.

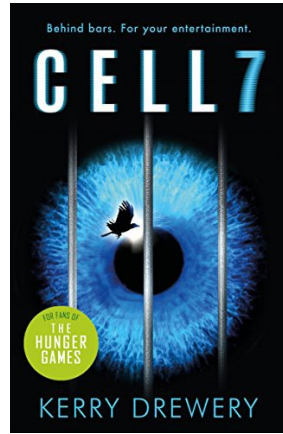
All the characters are written realistically, with chapters switching between Tiana, Naveen and Facilier to give you the most information you need about each character and what they're thinking, feeling, and what they know (or don't as the case may be). She gives Dr Facilier a plausible background (something the movie didn't), a character arc, a terrifying defeat (seriously, it's mad) and, most importantly, a reason for you to care about him. The story itself is entertaining, paced perfectly, incredibly interesting and something I would recommend highly if you want to get out of a reading slump or if you just want to read a smashing book.

Rating: 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼

Pages: 453 (I finished in two days)

Twisted Tales also has books based on almost every Disney movie, such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Hercules*, *Peter Pan*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Pinocchio*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Snow White*, *Tangled*, *Mulan*, *Frozen*, *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Sword In The Stone*.

Emily J • Year 13



Cell 7 by Kerry Drewery

Cell 7 is an amazing, interesting book about a 16 year-old girl who is fighting against a corrupt society. The name of this girl is Martha Honeydew. She was sentenced to death row after killing the world-wide famous celebrity who appears on reality TV shows, Jackson Paige.

This book has taken reality TV to the extreme as it has a futuristic based theme that intrigues the reader. This book builds tension as Honeydew gets closer to death.

Martha knows what she has done wrong though as she does not try to escape, despite all the options she has.

The question that should be asked is...

Should she live or die?

I personally recommend the book to others as it is a book to die for. The Amazon rating of this book is 4 stars suggesting that many others agree with my opinion. To me, this book is something you can use to escape reality. ★★★★★

Jess M • Year 8

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

When I got this book for Christmas a couple of years ago I was thrilled, as Neil Gaiman is one of the best authors I know. If you're interested in reading, then I would highly recommend his works. Following that pattern, *The Graveyard Book* is truly one of the best books I have ever read.

The book has a fascinating cohort of unique characters that you will find yourself getting incredibly emotionally attached to, rooting for them the whole time as they go through the most bizarre challenges you could imagine. Of course, one of the most important things in a story, at least in my opinion, is a good villain. Well, the villain in this book is written in such a way that you cannot help but be enthralled by him. The man Jack is sly, sneaky, and ever so good at his job. I'd recommend the book for him alone.

Alas, however, fantastic characters alone do not a good book make. Luckily, the plot is also incredible, with high tension, alluring mysteries and sudden plot twists. The story is not at all predictable or formulaic and has you on the edge of your

seat the whole time. You will travel through worlds you could never have even dreamed of.

It is worth noting, though, that this is still Neil Gaiman we're talking about. This book is far from happiness and rainbows.

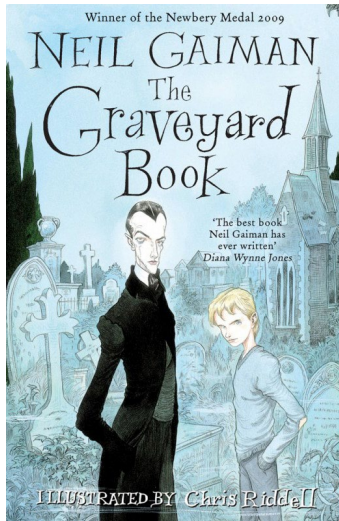
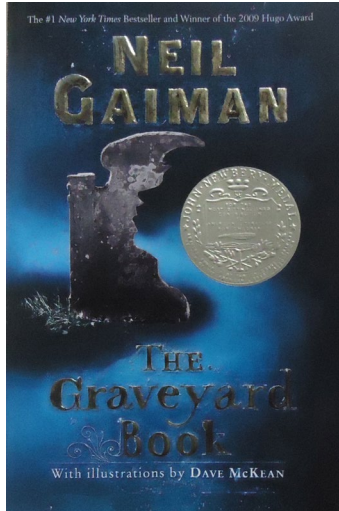
Of course the end is gut-wrenching in an open-ended way that I adore with books, a bittersweet goodbye to the characters you've grown to love and care for over the time you've been reading.

But there are also other things to look out for if you're sensitive, like the repeated mention of attempted child murder. Note that I did say 'attempted' – but still be wary if you're sensitive to that sort of thing.

Overall, if you couldn't tell, I can't recommend this book more. Its one of my favourites that I come back to time and time again and I would tell anybody that would listen about how good it was as I was reading it. Trust me, you won't regret it.

Arrow C • Year 13

The book is available with covers for both adult and younger readers



PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 17

Spot the Difference

Can you spot the five differences from this scene in Cascais, Portugal?



Photo by **Alice S** • Year 13

Easter Quiz

- 1. What day is Easter Sunday this year?**

 - a) Sunday, 12th April
 - b) Sunday, 9th April
 - c) Saturday, 8th April
- 2. Which of these countries celebrates Easter with eggs?**

 - a) Japan
 - b) France
 - c) Norway
- 3. Who originally declared Easter a holiday?**

 - a) Pascha
 - b) Boris Johnson
 - c) Melito of Sardis
- 4. Why does the date for Easter change every year?**

 - a) Lunar cycle
 - b) Months
 - c) Just does

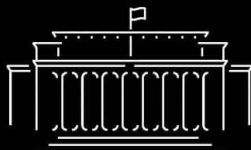
Grace M • Year 8



WATH ACADEMY
AWARDS

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday 19th July 2023

Arrive 6.30pm (7pm start)



Sheffield City Hall