



THE TORCH

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Meliora Spectare

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CHRISTMAS IS HERE

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By Ruby L, Year 8

Christmas is one of the most special events of the year. Some people think that it is all about spending time with family and having a break from work, but it isn't always. Christmas isn't about receiving gifts or presents: it's all about giving.

There are many traditions to what people do on Christmas, like seeing the family, going away, staying at home and many similar things. Every family has its own unique ways of bringing in the festive cheer from favourite Christmas films to foods.

Many religious people celebrate Christmas as an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25th: a religious and cultural celebration by billions of people around the world.

Most people love this time of the year so they can bond and take opportunities to see family more. Most of the time, it does snow and gets cold. Many children love the snow to build a snowman and even adults love the snow to have a snowball fight and more.

Message from the Principal

17 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the end of the first term of the school year, we have the opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy, yet successful few weeks.

In recent weeks, we welcomed back productions, and it has been great to see students enjoying doing what they love and engaging with the performing arts departments.

Christmas Pantomime

The Christmas Pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, was performed to local primary schools as well as students and parents. The standard of performance was excellent in all the shows with students thoroughly enjoying their time on stage.

Christmas Concert

It was also great to welcome back the annual Christmas Music Concert. A range of vocal and instrumental performances from students in all year groups was a joy to watch. The students and staff had worked incredibly hard to ensure the evening was a success.

Year 13 Presentation Evening

This week, we also held our Year 13 Presentation Evening, where we welcomed back last year's leavers to hand out a number of subject awards. We also had a speech from Mr Shaw, a number of performances and a light-hearted quiz to celebrate their return.

Christmas Lunch

I write this letter prior to our Christmas Lunch event. We are delighted that we have been able to put this event on this year and for our students to experience the House competitions, the reindeer and the Christmas lunch. Despite the challenges, we were passionate about going ahead with the event; however, we did make some last minute changes to eating arrangements in order to reduce the number of students eating in the hall at the same time.



Community Events

This academic year has also seen us launch our new community events. These events aim to engage with the community but also to develop a great cultural and global awareness of our students. So far this year, we have celebrated Diwali and Christmas, and in the coming months we will also be hosting A Chinese New Year event. We hope to see as many parents and members of the community attending as possible.

Charitable Work

This term each House has selected a charity who they wish to raise money for over the coming academy year, with Troy beginning the proceedings with its support for Rotherham Hospice.

Each house will be holding events in order to raise the profile of their charity as well as collecting money which will be donated.

The academy also paid its respects to fallen service personnel who have lost their lives serving their

country. Students donated money to the Royal British Legion in exchange for a cross and poppy on which they wrote a message (on the back) before it was planted as part of our display at the front of the academy. We also displayed 39 poppies on the gates of Sandygate to pay tribute to the 39 ex-students who have lost their lives in service. Students from the academy then attended the Remembrance service at Wath Cenotaph where they laid a wreath as part of the Remembrance parade.

Recently, we have had a staff Christmas collection for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. This money combined with money raised from the music concert has meant in total we have raised nearly £1,000 over the last week. We are delighted to be supporting such a fantastic charity.

Performance Reviews

Over the last half term, the academy has also received a successful Safeguarding Audit and underwent a developmental review day in which we were visited by leaders from other academies, Dave Sutton, the Trust CEO, trust leaders and governors. This was a highly successful day with visitors commenting positively on the academy's rapid improvement journey.

We can look back on this half term with pride: again, we have faced a number of challenges but staff and students have stepped up once more.

Finally, I wish you and your families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ransome

Principal

News In Brief

Humpty Dumpty goes Parachuting!



For the last few weeks, Year 7 students have been taking part in a cross-curricular Maths and Science project. In Science lessons, students costed out materials and then built a parachute to support the safe dropping of an egg from the bridges at the back of school. In Maths, students timed how long it took for their parachutes to reach the ground, and then calculated the speed of travel. They compared the time of descent to the surface area of the parachute. We are still awaiting the results of the best parachute, but poor Humpty is having a cracking time!

Trust 'Chris-Maths' Competition

On Tuesday 14th December, 24 students from Year 7 and Year 8 will compete against Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Maltby Academy in the first ever cross-trust Maths competition. Students will face a mixture of maths problems, logic puzzles and construction tasks. Which school will come out victorious? Come on, Team Wath!

Latest News and Updates

Year 9 Science Trip: Gulliver's Valley

By Ollie W, Year 9



On Wednesday 24th November, twelve Year 9 students, as well as Mr Fox and Mr Shaw, spent the day at Gulliver's Valley Theme Park in Sheffield. Sadly, we weren't there for the rides; however, we did have a great time at the North Star Science Event, a program that inspires young students to pursue a STEM based career, with the help of some big names, including Professor Brian Cox, even though he was only online. Not only did we listen to speakers from STEM careers, we took part in a multitude of different workshops, like building the tallest chocolate tower, or making bridges out of spaghetti, and even experimenting with spoons in microwaves, which I must add, PLEASE DO NOT TRY AT HOME. We all had a brilliant time, especially the team who won the chocolate building competition!

Year 13 Biology Field Trip

This week, our Year 13 A-level Biologist demonstrated a "no excuses" mindset and braved Storm Barra to investigate several ecological principles on the North Yorkshire Wolds. During their visit, they investigated succession on the sand dunes of Bridlington South Sands, gaining knowledge of how to effectively use a transect and a quadrat to identify ecological changes over the dunes, and used a variety of new techniques to measure both abiotic and biotic changes. They were also able to plan and carry out an investigation

into factors affecting biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems within the UK. As well as developing their knowledge and understanding of ecology for their A-level Biology exam, they also made memories that will last a lifetime, or at least the time it will take Ben to dry off.



Psychology Club

By Lewis H, Year 9

Psychology Club started this term in G7 and is a great springboard for anyone interested in the best social science. Even though psychology is not always looked at as an exact science, it very much is and in fact this is what we have been looking at recently.

Over the short time that psychology has been around, many controlled experiments have been performed by a plethora of psychologists all looking to answer a question in their field of research. These questions can help us understand how people generally think, potentially helping in many other fields of work.

One psychology experiment that we have learned about is Murdock's memory experiments. From his tests on many individuals and graphing his results, he concluded and coined the terms primacy effect and recency effect. These state that we remember most the things we encountered first in a sequence (primacy) and last (recency). Primacy is using long term memory and recency is a short-term recall.

from Wath Academy

In another session, we learned about Asch's social influence experiment, tested by using six actors and one real participant. The actors would say wrong answers to obvious questions. Eventually, the majority of the subjects would conform to the larger group. We used this to try and formulate our own social influence experiment, helped by Mrs Heselden.

In the same session, we were taught about American psychologist Stanley Milgram's shock experiment to test obedience. He would take two people, one an actor and one a subject. The subject would be the teacher and the student (the actor) would be in a different room strapped to an electric shock machine, which wasn't real but was controlled by the teacher. They would teach a set of words giving and increasing shocks each time one was wrong. Pre-recorded screams were played and even if they wanted to stop, they were instructed to carry on. Most participants would go to the full voltage. This couldn't be conducted in 2021 because of modern ethics.

Questions are always welcomed at Psychology Club and everyone is always welcome.

Year 12/13 UKMT challenge



In November, all Year 12 and 13 students in Maths took part in the Senior UK Mathematic Challenge (UKMT).

UKMT is one of the most recognised competitions and every year more than 1,000 students enter the competition. It encourages mathematical

reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Most are accessible, yet still challenge those with more experience.

On the day, all students worked hard and grappled with the problems. Fifty-five per cent of students achieved the well-deserved silver and bronze certificates.

Well done to Alicja for achieving the best score in the school.

Top of the Bench RSC Quiz



Wath Scientists have again entered the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition. The competition is usually held at Sheffield University, but because of the COVID pandemic the students competed it online.

Our students answered questions about different areas of chemistry, including Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry, along with some more trivial rounds such as Chemistry Dingbats where they had to identify elements from a range of pictures. The team from Wath was again very successful finishing third out of all the schools from the Sheffield District. Well Done!



Opinion and Review:

Is Jigglypuff Top Tier?

Aidan J, Year 11

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I usually do game reviews, but today I'm going to talk about the competitive scene of Smash Brothers (which I will shorten to SSBU for the remainder of this article). In this most recent patch, Jigglypuff got a lot of buffs, mostly increasing the speed of its attacks. Shortly after, a Jigglypuff player (called Bassmage) got to top eight in a tournament, and nearly beat one of the best players in the world (Tweek).

So, is Jigglypuff really good, or is Bassmage really good?

In game one, Bassmage was able to beat Tweek without losing a single life (stock). They battled at Pokémon Stadium 2, with Bassmage using jumps and aerial attacks expertly to keep Tweek from getting back to stage, and in the final stock, Tweek was sent under the stage and unable to recover, losing the game.

In game two, they go to Pokémon Stadium 2 again. Bassmage and Tweek both go to 1 stock each, and then Tweek takes the last stock without taking any damage.

In game three, both are taken to 1 stock again, and Bassmage nearly takes the game early with a sing, but Tweek dodges it, and retaliates with a back air attack which doesn't quite take the stock, but finally lands another back air, winning the game.

In game four, they played on Northern Cavan. Bassmage nearly won; if Tweek failed to survive his last hit, Bassmage would have won the set, but Tweek survived and won the game.

Finally, in game five, Tweek beats Bassmage, and only loses one stock. Both players shake hands when Tweek takes the set.

So is Jigglypuff top tier? No. Jigglypuff got that far because of Bassmage's precision movement, and incredibly edge guarding. If it weren't for Bassmage's skill, Jigglypuff would have gotten nowhere near top eight.

If you are interested in playing SSBU yourself, you'll need a Nintendo Switch and the game itself retails at around £45. Why not try it out yourself and see which character you feel is the best?

The Mitchells vs the Machines Review

By Harry C, Year 7

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Spoilers!

The Mitchells vs the Machines is a movie by Sony Pictures and is about the Mitchells (a family) who must fight robots that took over the world. The father doesn't know how to use technology like the rest of the family. The movie is all about the importance of sticking together as a family.

The reason I really like this movie is all the jokes and characters. The funniest joke is the robots not knowing what their dog is and having their heads explode. The characters are always funny and have good character growth with some sad bits.

Film, Game and More



I also really liked the villains and how they show the internet can be good and bad. The villain, who is a phone, is okay, but is just there for jokes really, but the robots who are still funny are pretty good for action scenes with the 2.0 bots, such as when the Mitchells went to the mall and fought appliances and even a giant robot Furby.

The main character was really good for how she makes movies and how there is a different art style which is more like a movie she'd make. I thought the dinosaur kid was funny and liked how he really liked dinosaurs.

To me, *The Mitchells vs the Machines* is a movie with great animation and characters with funny jokes, too. I give it a 10/10 rating.

The Christmas Chronicles

Evie W, Y7



The Christmas Chronicles, available on Netflix, is a movie about how two young people team up with Santa to save Christmas. The two young people are called Kate and Teddy Pierce.

The plot follows two children Kate and Teddy Pierce who notice Santa Claus in their home and jump into his sleigh with his reindeer: however, the sleigh eventually malfunctions and crashes and the presents are lost. The two children must help Santa deliver his presents as Christmas morning is approaching. Can they do it?

The Christmas Chronicles is a feel-good film with great animation and special effects, sure to evoke smiles, laughs and tears. With a PG rating, it's the perfect film if you are looking for something seasonal to suit the entire family on Christmas Day!

Christmas Songs – Fill in the Blanks

Puzzle by Abigail Germany, Y10

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Santa Claus won't make me happy with a ___ on Christmas day. --> All I Want for Christmas is You – Mariah Carey

The near and the ___ one, the old and the young. --> Happy Xmas (War is Over) – John Lennon and Yoko Ono

Do you ride on down the ____, in a buggy you have made? --> Merry Christmas Everybody - Slade

Room is ____, records playing. --> Merry Christmas Everyone – Shakin' Stevens

Got a lucky one, came in _____ to one. --> Fairytale of New York – The Pogues

Gone away is the ___ bird, here to stay is a new bird. --> Winter Wonderland

Oh, I got ___ lights all around. --> Driving Home for Christmas – Chris Rhea

Once _____ and twice shy. --> Last Christmas – Wham!

Let's take the road before us and sing a _____ or two. --> Sleigh Ride – The Ronettes

Where treetops glisten and _____ listen. --> White Christmas

Return to Miss Taylor in F30 for a positive conduct card signing.

Meet the New Staff at

Curious to learn more about the new staff faces you see on the corridor?

Year 9 Isobel C, Year 10 Mya M-J, Abigail G,

Miss Guirdham



Miss Guirdham, a Geography teacher, always wanted to go into teaching. This passion has been there from the age of five – even teaching stuffed animals when she was younger.

She inspired to start teaching by her Geography teacher when she was younger – she was amazing, cool, and Miss Guirdham voices that she had wanted to be like her. She also said she would be Elsa from *Frozen* if she could be any fictional character, as she is very powerful and independent, and always seems to be in control – a boss. Secondly, after a bit of thought, she told us she was most similar to a gazelle, because they are very graceful, a trait she relates to herself. For a bit of fun, we asked her to imagine the zombie apocalypse was here, and to select one member of staff to save her. She told us that she would choose teacher Mr Woodward. This is because she thinks he would be able to find and use maps to their advantage and run away – as well as making light of the situation – being able to make it funny.

Mr Meyerhoff

Mr Meyerhoff, a Maths teacher, wishes he had the ability to fly – as he would love to get around swiftly. He has recently joined



Wath Academy and has settled greatly. He would love to visit the future because it would be exciting to see the development in many years' time – plus, he believes it is dangerous to travel back in time. Mr Meyerhoff believes if you work hard now and give it your all in school, you will not regret it when you are older and is glad to be able to give back and teach students the wonder of maths. Ultimately, Mr Meyerhoff wishes to see Oasis live, but he doubts that would ever happen.

Mrs Goodyear



New Law teacher Mrs Goodyear was inspired to start teaching by her sixth form English Language teacher: a very funny, witty and knowledgeable man

who had a tendency to tell the time on his fake arm. However, before she decided teaching was the path for her, Mrs Goodyear wanted to be a lawyer and even has a degree in law! If she could be any fictional character, she would be Wonder Woman as the DC heroine is a strong, empowering, feminist role model. When asked what animal she thinks she is most similar to, Mrs Goodyear responded with a lioness as they are loyal and protective of their family. If the rare occurrence of a zombie apocalypse ever took place, she would choose Mr Shaw to help her escape because he knows every nook and cranny of Wath and would definitely succeed in getting her out!

Mr Omidi

Mr Omidi has recently joined our academy as a Maths teacher, who wants to pass his knowledge to students. His favourite band is The Killers. He



is amazing at running and martial arts, as he completed the London marathon along with a black belt in judo. He is an asset to the Maths department and hopes to demonstrate to students that they can do maths – as when he was younger, he did not believe he was able to do maths but was determined to succeed! Additionally, Mr Omidi would love to go back in time and visit his childhood and experience many fun, exciting adventures he didn't take part in before. His words of wisdom are "it's never too late to try something new" and "work hard and never give up".

Mr Fox

Mr Fox is a new staff member to Wath Academy as a chemistry teacher. If he were



a fictional character, he would be Iron Man because of the lifestyle, personality, and intelligence. He believes he relates to a Labrador as they are loyal creatures, fun to be around and very

excitable. Mr Fox did not always want to be a chemistry teacher, as he wanted to go into pharmaceuticals and drug design. A person that inspired Mr Fox to start teaching instead was his chemistry teacher Mr Fairburn, who influenced him to teach others and to be proud to do so. Finally, if a zombie apocalypse came to Wath Academy, he would choose Miss Tether to save him because she would keep his spirits up – although seemingly, she does not have many survival skills!

Miss Goultly

Maths teacher Miss Goultly would love to have the ability to fly, because, apart from loving the idea of the superpower in general, she also would love to be able to skip all the



traffic on the roads. Her advice to students is not to make big life decisions too early; it is important to live your life as a child. She would love to visit the year 3000, because she would be fascinated to see what life is like in the future...maybe even living underwater! Her favourite band is the rock group Hunna; she hoped to see them live but unfortunately couldn't go due to the pandemic. She wanted to go into teaching because every day is different, and she also feels that Maths is obviously the best subject so getting to deliver it every day was also part of the appeal.

Miss Hoar

If Miss Hoar could be any fictional character, she would choose to be Sophie from *Mamma Mia*. She would probably be a cat because, she told us, 'Well, I just really like cats!' Teaching wasn't part of

Wath Academy

A number of journalists from *The Torch* (Year 7 Freya W, Evie W, Sophie B, Alex C and Elliott R) have found out all about them!



her original career path as she wanted to be famous, that was until she realised that being famous was harder than she thought, so she decided to go into teaching. Her geography teacher was really inspiring and nice, which helped her make up her mind to support other children by becoming a teacher. In the event of a zombie apocalypse, she could choose to have Mr Marsh '100%' on her team. She doubted they would survive, but it would be hilarious to watch each other through it.

Mr Cooper

Maths teacher Mr Cooper would want to be able to fly if he could have any superpower. If he could offer any advice to students, it would be keep trying and smile more often. If he could visit any time period, he would visit the far future because there would be floating cars and people would be going to Mars. If he could see any band alive or dead at a concert, he would see the Arctic Monkeys. He said he wanted to be a teacher because Mr Marcroft said he would be a good teacher.

Mr Smith



Mr Smith wants to be the fictional character of Red from *The Shawshank Redemption*, which was written by Stephen King. He also thinks he is most like a deer because they are very graceful, but they have the potential to be clumsy. Mr Smith said that he was a broadcast journalist and read the news on a local radio station, before deciding to become a teacher after being inspired by his sister, who is also a teacher. After a final question about which other teacher would he choose to help if he was in a zombie apocalypse, he replied he would save Mr Cooper, who is an expert in Maths

and a fellow trainee teacher, because they could take down the zombies together.

Mrs Rutczyńska

Geography teacher Mrs Rutczyńska would love to be able to teleport because she would be able to visit her family in Poland. She would also like to give advice to children saying a quote she really likes: "Compare, yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today" (by Jordan Peterson). She also stated that if she could pick any time in life to visit, she would pick 30 years ago to see what life was like without phones and computers. She would also love to watch Adele play live as she has a beautiful voice. Lastly, when asked why she wanted to be a teacher, she said that she really likes working with kids and she finds it a privilege to take part in students' academic and personal development.

Mr Marsh



Mr Marsh has always wanted to teach. His mum was a teacher, which inspired him to join the profession. If he could be a fictional character, he would be Harry Potter because The Boy Who Lived never gives up. He thinks that the animal he is most like is a lion because it is the king of the jungle. If there was a zombie apocalypse, the teacher he would take would be Miss Hoar because they would be useless at fighting the zombies but they would have a great laugh.

Mr Hanson

Mr Hanson is a new History teacher, whose own History teacher showed him just how important the past is to the world we live in today, so he decided to go into teaching to help others understand that as well, as maybe the future can be a better place. If he could have any super ability, it

would be super speed so he can read much faster and have plenty of time to check his lessons before he starts the day. A key driver he feels he embodies is 'no excuses' because

he always believes there is a work around for any situation, and he never accepts an excuse. When asked which animal best represents him, he told us a giraffe, as he likes to look ahead to the future and likes to think of himself as calm, collected but also protective if needed. If he were in the middle of a zombie apocalypse, he'd hope to be with Mr Thorpe, because he always enjoys his conversations and he has access to all the Duke of Edinburgh supplies.

Mr Stanley



Mr Stanley, a Music teacher, worked in music before he went into teaching, playing in bands and the technical side. He was inspired into teaching when he

went to a performing arts school at sixth form, where he met all kinds of specialist teachers who had experience of working in the music industry. He feels he probably embodies the key drivers of "never give up" and "growth mindset" because, as a musician, he has to believe he can improve, and resilience is so important to work on good quality feedback when learning an instrument. He thinks he is most similar to a chocolate Labrador (a pet he owns) because if there's any food left lying around at the end of the day, he always wants to eat it! Finally, in the event of a zombie apocalypse, he would want everyone from the Performing Arts Department with him, because they would find lots of ways between them to fool the zombies—act like them, dance their way past them, lull them with music...





Christmas in the Woods

Short story by Isobel R, Y8

My life had been a rollercoaster before the events of 23rd December 1846. I was twenty-one, travelling to see my family over Christmas, and all I wanted was to have a relaxing time over the holidays. After all, my year had not been the easiest.

It started off with the passing of my uncle. We were close, and he was an inspiration to me: career driven (but not so much that he set aside his family), humble and caring. This set my year off to an awful start, but (to save time that I can't afford to spend) I will skip to the biggest day of my year.

It was night, and after a long day of travelling, I was on the last leg of my journey. It seemed so silent in that wood, like there was no life, like I was the only person in the world. It gave me time to think. And listen. While I was listening, a bell started ringing in the distance. Every few seconds or so, then it grew more rapid. My carriage, along with the bell, started increasing speed. Growing faster and faster, then faster again. Until it stopped. The ringing, the carriage, my heart. Stillness.

Then a figure appeared, a cloaked figure that was holding a bell. Standing right in the middle of the road. Holding a bell. The bell. He approached me slowly, one step, two steps, three steps. Ever so steadily, ever so sinisterly. He came alongside my window and asked my name. I only saw his eyes but it still made my heart skip a beat. Those eyes, I thought that they would terrify me, but there was a glint in them, a twinkle. An ever so friendly twinkle. I answered with, "William, sir, my name is William." All he said was, "Good to meet you, I do hope I did not give you a fright. Merry Christmas, William, let the ringing of the bell give you hope for the new year. Good day, sir."

I still do not know his name, but he made my day, my year even. His words still ring in my ear everyday, wishing me luck, giving me hope. My Christmas should not have been the best one of my life, but it was, all thanks to a stranger who decided to try to make it that way.

Seasonal Specials:

The Angel on the Tree

Mya M-J, Year 10

Christmas eve - as magical as it can be - is not only the time when Santa Claus delivers presents. An angel springs to life, her frilly, once white, dress billowing in the cool night air and her cheeks radiate rosy red blemishes. The twinkle in her eye, infused with Christmas spirit and mischief, glistens against the faint sparkly lights below her. Once matted hair falls into a chocolatey brown wave; her legs gain mobility and tiptoe into the mystic, festive night.

She dances along the greenery, and the forest-green ferns tickle her feet and brush against her shoulders. She leaps across the glittering tinsel, and almost tangles up in the mass of golden ribbons that enwraps the gigantic foliage. The night begins to dwindle, but the angel continues to swing amongst the multitude of rainbow lights, flashing inordinately with one another. The baubles sway softly as she giggles at her distorted features in the indistinct reflection. Glistening small beams of silver rays, the angel buries her petite feet in the shimmering pit, and the glitter engulfs her bit by bit. As time passes, the darkness is no longer lingering, and the sun's amber glow begins to rise, yet a tiny figure in an elegant gown twirls around the holly and mistletoe.

A warm, mellow streak enters between the ajar curtains, and simultaneously, child-like ardent feet stamp along the landing. With whispers and thrilled shrieks, the sound of stumbling beings ricochet down the set of - what seems like - never ending stairs. The weary, worn angel flickers her beady blue eyes and attempts to untangle herself from the fairy lights. The bundle of merry children's stampede grows louder, and panic crawls along the poor figure's face. THUMP! A furry energetic beast bursts headfirst into the wooden carved door, snuffling its way through with its nose buried in the mountainous presents.

The tiny children's gasps surround the dimmed but immaculate tree, as their gaze reaches an angel with crystal doll eyes, flowing glossy hair and a silky patterned minidress - she stands still on top of the tree looking down at the neatly wrapped presents waiting to be ripped open.

Festive Fiction



Christmas Poem

Evie W, Year 7

It was Christmas time
And the grand clock chimed
Everyone was fast asleep
No one made a peep

It was snowing
And the stars were glowing
Dasher and Prancer and
Comet and Cupid and
Donner and Vixen and
Blitzen and RUDOLPH.

The Christmas Story

Short Story by Scarlett B, Year 7

It was Christmas Eve, and the three children were excited with glee. They waited under the Christmas tree, all decorated with baubles, lights, and tinsel. Freya, Scarlett, and Isobel were these lucky three, and Isobel (the oldest) decided to go to bed. On the other hand, Freya and Scarlett, the youngest and only twins, stayed up until 8 o'clock!

Freya wanted a dog, a new-born baby doll, and sweets for Christmas. Scarlett wanted a dog, too, plus some nice books. The oldest Isobel wanted lots of clothes and some peace and quiet.

Finally, Freya and Scarlett went to bed at 9 o'clock and went to sleep in under ten minutes.

HO HO HO!

CRASH!

Santa landed on the roof with his trusty reindeers Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and, of course, Rudolph. With a whoosh, Santa slid down their chimney. He saw their empty Christmas tree and grabbed his sack.

The next day (Christmas Day), all three girls rushed down the stairs with a thud, thud, thud.

There were piles of presents.

Freya, Scarlett, and Isobel decided to open the mysterious glowing present. Inside, there was a... PUPPY!

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The Wath Academy A Christmas Poem

Freya W, Year 7

It was the night before Christmas,

All children are excited

To wake up tomorrow morning

Oh, how they will be delighted.

At 7 o'clock the kids wake up

Presents around the Christmas tree

To then find out that the best mum ever

Had brought them a cup of tea!

Nan cooking Christmas dinner

From the living room it smells so nice

When we sit down at the table

Dad pours on a lot of spice

After eating Nan's famous Christmas cake

At 10 o'clock the guests are still here

Brothers and sisters going to bed

Only 365 more days to again spread the Christmas cheer!

Feature: Historical Figures

Florence Nightingale

Sophie B, Year 7

Florence Nightingale is so famous, but for what reasons? Also known as “the lady with the lamp”, Florence is so famous because of her act of pure kindness during the Crimean War. She became a nurse even though her parents disliked the idea. It was Florence who helped to solve the humanitarian crisis that was leaving the soldier with untreated wounds.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The soldiers had given her the name “the lady with the lamp” because she would come every night with a lamp and help by talking and helping the soldiers. For helping the ill in the Crimean War between 5th October 1853 and 30th March 1856, she has become a role model for everyone for centuries after her death on 13th August 1910.

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Franz Schubert

By Abigail G, Year 10

The man who built the bridge between the romantic and classical genres

Franz Schubert was born on 31st January 1797 in Austria to a schoolmaster, Franz Theodor Schubert, and his wife, Elisabeth Schubert. He had three elder brothers (Ignaz, Karl and Ferdinand) and a younger sister named Maria Theresa. As a musical family, they encouraged the formation of a string quartet within their home and this was the beginning of Schubert’s rise to fame. At first, Schubert learnt the viola and then went on to learn the organ and music theory with the teaching of his local church parish.

In 1808, the boy received a scholarship which allowed him to join the imperial court chapel choir and a place at a boarding school in Vienna. Schubert was even tutored by the famous Antonio Salieri. Schubert learnt violin in his school’s student orchestra and was eventually promoted to lead violinist; he even conducted when the conductor was absent!

During his early life, Schubert’s love for piano and chamber music also flourished. Franz Schubert was a shy boy at school and, therefore, didn’t want to share his compositions; the first of these being ‘Fantasia for Piano Duet’, which was incredibly long, consisting of orchestral overtures, chamber music and three string quartets. Astonished by his compositions, Schubert’s friends encouraged him to share these, eventually gaining the attention of the highly acclaimed Salieri.

Schubert wrote a range of famous compositions during his lifetime (such as Elf King, Ave Maria and Three Sonatas for Violin and Piano) but his success did not come easily. He was plagued by depression in many areas of his life and often found himself penniless and largely unsatisfied.

Despite being an amazing musician, Schubert spent most of his life as a schoolteacher: a position he did not want or enjoy. Although he had many supporters, such as the whole population of Vienna, Schubert was detested by those who were jealous and viewed him spitefully. Many criticised his music but, most fortunately, the majority loved it.

and their Contributions

Most unfortunately, in October 1923, Schubert died of typhoid, caused by drinking contaminated water. However, his death wasn't a solitary one as he was surrounded by family and friends.

Schubert's legacy lives on today, over two hundred years after his death, and his music is played and celebrated by huge amounts of people from all over the world.

He is known as the man who built the bridge between the romantic and classical genres because his work contains elements that belong, typically, to both eras. For example, in Three Sonatinas for Violin and Piano, there are beautiful, song-like passages, dramatic changes in dynamics and pitch and emotional expression, but also the use of contrasting moods, homophonic elements and simple, though memorable, melodies.

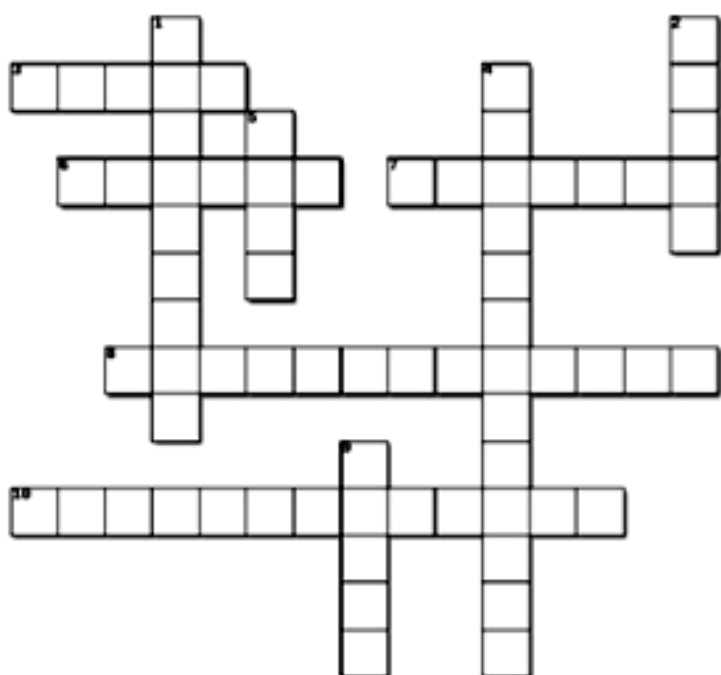
If you are interested in learning more, why not listen to his beautiful music on YouTube, or try to play it yourself?

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Crossword

Puzzle designed by Harry C, Year 7

Note: For answers with multiple words, please include the space in the puzzle above.



Across:

3. What is the name of the character in the *Metroid* series? (5)
6. Who is your ally in *Mario and the Origami King*? (6)
7. Which well known Nintendo character wears purple? (7)
8. Which *Zelda* game has a moon that will destroy everything? (8,1,4)
10. Which new horror game became very popular? (5,1,8)

Down

1. Which *FNAF* character has six legs? (5,1,3)
2. In *Metroid Dread*, who is the second boss? (5)
4. Which game is a *Metroidvania* all about bugs? (6,1,5)
5. Which game character wears all green? (4)
9. Who will be the main villain of *FNAF Security Breach*? (6,1,6)

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

Feature: The Year in Review —

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As we draw close to the time of Auld Lang Syne, Liv S in Y13 reviews the year to date.

2021 – another year dealing with Covid-19, climate change, and the trials and tribulations of politics and Hollywood. Here is a round-up of some of the biggest headlines of this year.

January

British schools remain closed for the new term due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trump supporters and white supremacists storm the Capitol building in Washington DC.

Biden is inaugurated as President of the United States, with Kamala Harris as the first Asian American, African American, female Vice President.

February

President and CEO of Amazon Jeff Bezos announces he is stepping down from his role, replaced by Andy Jassy.

Trump's second impeachment trial began, but the Senate later vote to acquit him.

March

Harry and Meghan sit down with Oprah Winfrey to reveal their narrative on the royal split.

Beyoncé becomes the most-awarded woman in Grammy history.

A cargo ship blocks the Suez Canal, impacting global trade.

April

Prince Phillip dies, aged 99.

President Biden declares the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Derek Chauvin is convicted of the murder of George Floyd.

May

Princess Diana's 1995 BBC interview revealed to have been secured via "deceitful behaviour" by interviewer Martin Bashir.

The Eurovision Song Contest won by Italian band Måneskin with 524 points.

Dominic Cummings reports the failings of the Prime Minister and his government in the pandemic.

The cast of "Friends" reunite after 17 years.

June

Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, announce the birth of Lilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor in California.

Cornwall hosts the G7 summit. Leaders announce a promise of one billion vaccine doses for poorer nations.

Britney Spears requests an end to her conservatorship, dubbing it "abusive".

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, resigns after damning photos emerge of him and his aide.

July

Boris Johnson announces an end to all lockdown measures, leaving England the most unrestricted country in Europe.

The Virgin Galactic rocket is flown by Richard Branson to the edge of space, testing the possibility of space tourism.

The 2021 Olympics officially open in Tokyo.

August

The 2021 Olympics close.

Reflections of Headlines in 2021

Afghanistan falls to Taliban control again; Biden says he “stands squarely behind [his] decision”.

Marvel’s first film with an Asian superhero (*Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings*) is released.

The 16th Paralympic Games officially opens in Tokyo.

September

A Texas law banning most abortions after six weeks comes into effect. This is the most restrictive in the US and has caused widespread protest.

El Salvador becomes the first country to accept Bitcoin as a legal currency.

People across the world remember those who died on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Space X launches the first fully civilian space flight in Florida. They orbit around Earth for three days.

A first edition print of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* sells for \$1.17 million, which sets a new record for a work by a woman.

Wayne Couzens given rare life-sentence for raping and killing Sarah Everard.

October

MP Sir David Amess is stabbed to death at a town hall meeting.

Alec Baldwin fires a prop gun on a film set, killing Halyna Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza.

Elon Musk makes \$25 billion in a single day. This pushes his net worth to \$255.2 billion, making him the richest person ever.

November

5 million people are reported to have died globally from Covid-19. It is said by experts to be much higher, perhaps double.

A crowd surge at a Travis Scott concert in Texas kills eight and hospitalises 13.

A 15-year-old in Michigan kills four and injures seven at America’s worst school shooting of 2021.

Julia Hawkins sets a world record as first woman her

age - a staggering 105 years old - to run 100 meters.

The conservatorship on Britney Spears, which lasted a total of 14 years, comes to an end.

ABBA release their first album in 40 years (*Voyage*) and Adele releases her fourth album (*30*).

This year has been a rollercoaster for the world, including us at Wath Academy. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Create Your Own Christmas Bauble

By Sophie B, Year 7

As we are getting closer to Christmas, we are starting to do crafts with the family, so here is one to get started.

Firstly, you need to get a clear bauble, red and green nail varnish, and room temperature water.

Then, put the room temperature water in a bowl and put your nail varnish colours in the water and, very gently, put the bauble on top of the water and the nail varnish will magically stick to the bauble to create an amazing marble effect bauble.

Then just hang it onto your tree and enjoy!

You may also like to coat it in white first! For more information visit: methemandtheothers.com.

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Wath Academy Pantomime 2021:

During the rehearsals for this year's pantomime, Year 10 Elliott R had the chance to interview some of his hard-working fellow cast members to ask about their experiences with this year's performance as well as their hopes for future pantomimes.



Jake G – Widow Puddleduck – Year 10

Jake, playing our hilarious Dame, said that he was extremely excited for the performance, specifically to see his costumes, but he also mentioned how difficult it was trying not to laugh during his scenes. Jake's highlight of rehearsals was when he found out he got the part, which I'm sure was the same for many others, but if he could pick any other part to play, he would pick Simple Simon or the back end of Daisy, our cow.



Hattie F – Poison Ivy – Year 13

Playing our evil Witch, Hattie has played a role in many of our pantomimes over the years, so is sad that, this being her last year with us, she won't get to do it

again, but is nevertheless excited for it. The most difficult part of her role was apparently mastering her evil laugh. Immediately upon being asked who else she would play, she said Henchman 2, who, despite being a small role, is sure to get a laugh. Her favourite moment from our rehearsals happened when Miss Clarke mixed up a few lines when reading in for a few different people, ending in a hilarious scenario when the Giant said 'Moooo'.

Saffron N – Jack – Year 9

Even though it is her first time performing in one of our pantos, Saffron is still extremely excited to perform the leading role, as it is one of her favourite things to do. The thing she found most difficult was reacting to others; panto is very over the top! it is more difficult than you might think. If Saffron could choose any other role, it would be Simple Simon, or The Golden Goose, and her favourite memory of rehearsals was when Jake and another actor stepped in for the cow, which got a laugh from everyone.



Isabell M – Fairy Nuff – Y9

Isabell, yet another fantastic newcomer, was also extremely happy when she found out she got the part of Fairy Nuff but found learning the huge amount of lines that came along with the part slightly difficult. If Isabell could pick any other role to play, it would be Poison Ivy, the villain of our play. Just like everyone else, she is very excited for the performances and would 100% do it again.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Mr McHale's Message:

I would just like to thank all of the cast and crew for their incredible efforts.

We began rehearsals in September knowing that the road ahead would be rocky due to Covid restrictions and the need to isolate. All of the cast worked tirelessly to ensure that rehearsals were conducted professionally, and this hard work paid off when performing to the local primary schools on Tuesday afternoon and then two packed audiences on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

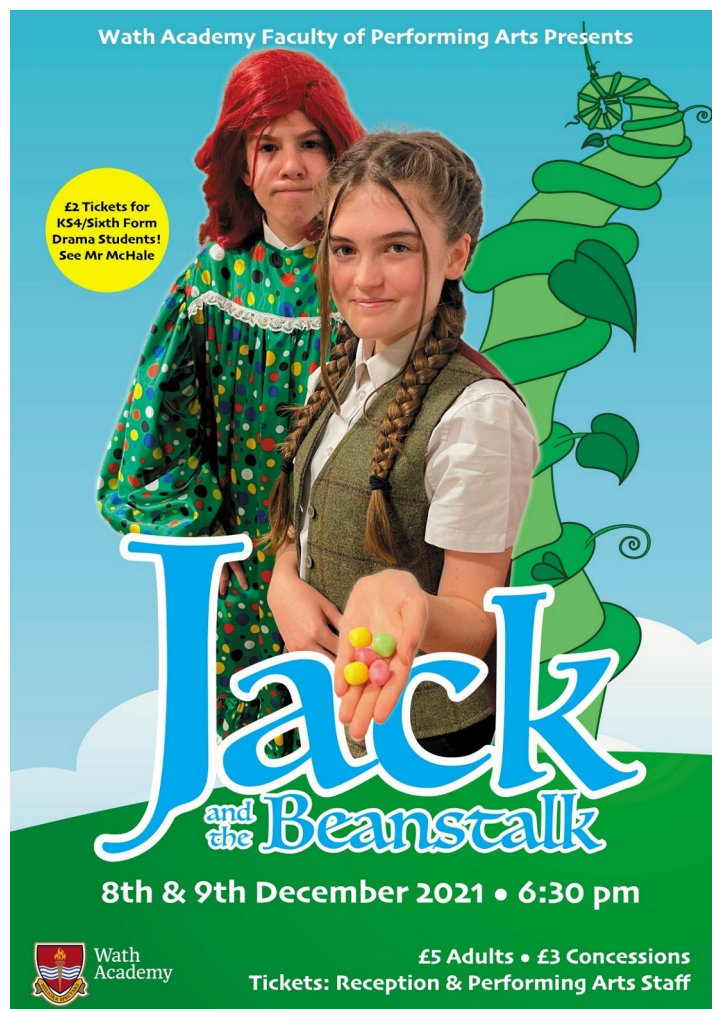
Cheers and boos rang out across the school hall with the occasional "He's behind you" thrown in for good measure, as we followed the adventurous Jack making his way from Puddleduck Farm, up the Beanstalk, to rescue the princess Jill, followed by his mother Widow Puddleduck, his foolish brother Simple Simon and a rather "streetwise" Goldilocks. To rescue Jill, they had to see off a range of villains from the Nasty Squire Hire and Poison Ivy to the Giant himself. So naturally they needed a little help from Fairy Nuff and Fairy Liquid.

As a school, we talk about our key drivers a lot and "never give up" was a particular focus when some of the cast couldn't make the final performances. It was such a shame, due to their outstanding work during rehearsals but, incredibly, other students were able to step in and pick up those roles to ensure the show went on.

A Christmas Panto is the perfect way to start the festive season and our students didn't let us down. If you missed it, you missed a treat.

Well done to all students and staff involved and thank you to everyone who came along to support. Merry Christmas from Mr McHale.

Elliot R and everyone else in the panto would like to thank Miss Clarke, Mr McHale and all other staff involved this year for the hard work they have put in to make sure that it goes ahead. We couldn't have done any of this without you all!



Wath Students Get Creative:

Epic Adventures (Part Two)

A Short Story by Daniel G, Year 7

In Part One, the protagonist James fought and defeated Medusa, bringing him one step closer to finding his mum...

Cetea

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After killing the fiend Medusa, James started rowing out to sea. He was rowing when a boat passed but it was a wreckage. Curious, James climbed on the wrecked boat to investigate and saw five dead men.

He then saw two children hiding and asked them what happened. They told him that a beast attacked them. They didn't know what the beast was, but they showed him a stone that said Cetea and they said it fell off the beast. He told the kids to come with him and they agreed.

After a rainy night, they were exhausted and wet. They came to a tropical island with large sliding marks. They followed these tracks, which led to a nice, lush place with a canopy of trees. There lay the beast known as Cetea and it was sleeping soundly.

James told the kids to hide while he would slay it. He

crept into the canopy of trees, but he accidentally dropped his sword on its tail, and it started to yell in agony. The beast rampaged at him. Two sea serpents came and helped, but James chopped both of them in the blink of an eye. He wedged his sword in one and threw the other one away. He charged and slayed the beast by chopping its head and tail off.

It fell to the ground with a thud. He raided the beast and took one of its poisonous spikes.

Once more, he set sail...

The Dream (Part One)

A Short Story by Harry C, Year 7

Based on a real nightmare I had.

That night, I was having a bad time getting to sleep. As I finally started to drift off into the inky abyss of my dreams, my room around me suddenly shifted and changed. I didn't notice it at first (thinking it was just my eyes adjusting to the dark) but soon I noticed my bedroom had sort of dematerialised around me.

All that was left was my bed, which seemed to look rotten and mouldy, like it had been there for a millennia. Now when I looked around, all I could see was the mist that seemed to watch me.

Exploring, I found that it was a forest with crooked, winding branches that tried to knock me over. Now in my young mind that day, I thought it was a dream - how dumb I was.

Anyway, trekking through the mud-filled forest, I felt like the trees were watching me. Every step I took, I felt judged from a figure I couldn't see. The longer I was in this place, the worse it felt to stay in there. Soon, the squelching of the mud became more like breaking of ribs, until I noticed the floor was heaped with carcasses, mangled and ripped to shreds like a beast tore them apart. Blood covered the mud.

I ran, trying to get back to the bed as I heard sounds around me but that was when I realised... I was lost.

End Of Part One

Short Stories and Poetry

Dear Future Me

By Abigail Germany, Year 10

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Dear future, older me,
 Tell me what it's like to see
 An entire life of ups of downs,
 Of laughing loud and massive frowns,
 All before those sharpened eyes,
 Who witnessed hate and witnessed lies,
 But also saw the force of love,
 Of breaking down then getting up,
 Of gluing cracks in shattered hearts,
 So many times it leaves a scar,
 Of messing up a billion times
 But still pretending you're in your prime.
 Tell me that I shone so bright,
 I became a star and lit the night;
 A music prodigy would more than do
 But it would be nice to help the few.
 Dear future, older me,
 Tell me what it's like to see.

Time Flies

A Short Story by Daniel G, Year 7

One stormy afternoon, David was playing football outside when a mysterious clock fell to the ground from the sky. David touched it and he absorbed it. This disturbed him greatly, so he went inside.

The next morning, everything was frozen. He clicked his fingers and time started again. He clicked again and time stopped. Experimenting, he accidentally moved his hand in a circle and time moved forward. Astonished and worried, he went to his parents and told them about it. They said it was stupid and he needed to go to school. But a meteor was falling so he stopped time to prevent it from causing devastation.

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THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Harry Chadwick, Evie Whitehead, Freya Wilby, Sophie Bradley, Scarlett Bailey, Daniel Gabor, Isobel Robertson, Ruby Leach, Isobel Clowrey, Elliot Rodgers, Abigail Germany, Mya McVeigh-Judd, Aidan Jennings, Liv Smith, Lewis Helliwell and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Mr Bishop and Miss Perry. **If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, please join us in F30 afterschool on Thursday each week, or find Miss Taylor in F30 for more information about how you can get involved!**

Sport and House Update

WATH ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAIR



By Isobel R, Year 8

On Wednesday 8th December, Wath Academy students set up stalls in order to raise money for their chosen charities: Macmillan Cancer Support, Young Minds UK, Mind Charity, Cancer Research, Rotherham Hospice and Barnsley Animal Rescue. It was a very successful event and was well attended by supporters of our school.

Stalls were fun and unusual, such as Rome's netball challenge, and Troy's ping pong sweet game. The

night was not just limited to challenges, though, Athens ran a sweet treats sale, Carthage gave the opportunity to decorate your own pine cone tree, Thebes let you write letters to Father Christmas, and Pilipino lantern and Russian doll making were set up in Le Rendezvous, which were welcomed well by attendees.

In conclusion, the event was of a high standard, lots of awareness was spread about the charities and guests had a memorable time.