



THE TORCH

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Able, Active and Qualified
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

EXAM SEASON HITS WATH

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Lauren Williams, Lucy Redfern and Holly Szymczyk,
Year 7

Up and down the country, students of all ages are facing the daunting prospect of exams. This gruelling, exhausting time may seem never ending, but it will worth it in the end.

It is extremely common for students to suffer from exam-based stress. However, rather than worrying, there is an alternative. Revision, although it sounds extremely boring, can greatly help you to achieve and put you on the path to success.

Here is a list of many great ways to kick off your very own revision session:

*Stick revision notes around the house.

*Don't turn yourself into a revision zombie, PLEASE.

*Try reading complicated sections of revision guides in different accents. For example, reading a hard section in Australian might help stimulate your brain.

*Don't hang around with the nervous and paranoid before the exam. They'll just make your exam worries worse.

*REVISE!! But be sure to find the right environment for this.

Whatever you do, don't procrastinate. Good luck and stay positive.

Searching for Spring

Help THE TORCH search for signs of spring this issue!

Versions of the word 'flower' have appeared in **ten** different places within this issue (not including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all?

Have a good look and bring your copy to Miss Taylor if you find them all. The first five winners will receive a small prize; others will receive e-Praise points.

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write, the examination 'season' is well under way as we approach the final half term of the school year.

The Y11 GCSE and Y12 AS examinations are just starting and the A2 examinations for Y13 begin soon, with examinations running until the end of June. A programme of classes and revision sessions will run throughout this period, ensuring that all students have continued access to targeted specialist support.

Just before the examinations started, Year 11 students had a final opportunity to meet together in a celebration assembly. This was a very special occasion where staff and students from every tutor group could share memories and highlights from the years together at Wath and many students received certificates for good attendance, motivation, achievement and a chosen few received tutor group prizes. The motivation draw was also held and tension mounted as the eligible names spun round on the screen.

The presentations were interspersed with entertainment items, which included singing, dancing and instrumental performances – what a wealth of talent we have! Thank you to the many students who contributed so willingly to this.

The staff's version of Carpool Karaoke was a particular highlight and a big surprise to the students.

This lovely occasion ended with refreshments and an opportunity for photographs to be taken and memory books to be signed.

Year 13 will begin their study leave on Friday 27th May and they too will have an opportunity to celebrate with their own special assembly followed by a buffet.

Last week, we held our annual Love Languages Evening, where we celebrate our specialist language college status and the many opportunities this offers. During this vibrant evening, we were entertained through songs, dance and video presentations in a range of languages taught at Wath. Students talked about their experiences on international visits and several students also received awards for excellence in languages. There were even delicious refreshments during the interval, also of an international flavour. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Once the intense period of examinations is over, students (and staff) will be looking forward to their respective Y11 and Post-16 proms; these are always delightful occasions where everyone makes a very special effort to look their best, which is always fabulous.

We are also looking forward to the forthcoming production of our school musical 'Little Shop of Horrors', for which rehearsals are well under way. This will be performed on the 5th, 6th and 7th June; do be sure to get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

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



Mrs P Ward
Headteacher

Agony Aunt

Thank you for whoever wrote in to say,

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"Another student has been saying horrible things about my sister and she isn't any of these things and I am really offended by these comments. Please help me I am stressed."

Firstly, please don't be stressed about this as they are only words and have no real meaning to them and if you show this person that their words are getting to you, they will not stop. Also, these words should also not offend you because as long as you know that your sister is none of these things, that's all that matters. I know that's hard to do, but it's important not to retaliate, as it could make the situation worse – and you don't want to do that. The best thing to do is to not let it get to you and to try to avoid this person so that they can't make any more of these comments to you. I hope this helped, and you can write in again if the situation gets worse.

News in Brief

Free Music Lessons For All

Wath Comprehensive School are encouraging local people to improve their musical skills by offering them the opportunity to join the 'Snare Squad' or Guitar Group.

Snare Squad focuses on percussion instruments, including drums. It is free of charge and runs every Thursday from 3:15pm to 4:15pm.

Guitar Group is suitable for those wishing to improve on basic skills they already have and to experience playing music in a group. It costs £2 per session and will run on a Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm starting Thursday 9th June.

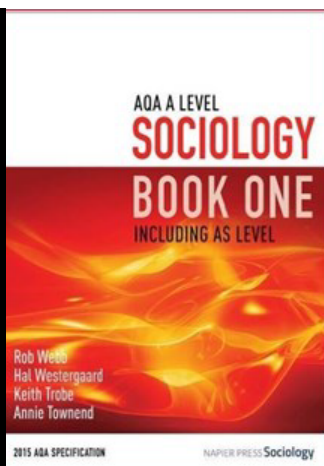
Guitars are available to hire for £20 per term.

Both groups are open to students from the school along with their parents or carers and any of their younger siblings (aged over 7 years old) who attend other primary schools in the area. For more information, or to book a class, please call the Rotherham Music Service on 01709 334005 or email: music@rotherham.gov.uk.

Key Stage Five Sociology Study Skills Seminar

On 3rd March 2016, Key Stage 5 Sociology students were offered the opportunity to attend a half day Sociology Study Skills Seminar with Keith Trobe who has been a Senior Examiner for AS/A Level Sociology for many years and is also the co-author of the main textbooks and revision guides.

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There were two sessions, one for AS students and one for A2 students. The focus of the seminar was on the specific exam skills needed to be successful in Key Stage Five Sociology. The sessions were held at Wath Comprehensive but were also accessed by two other local schools.

The sessions were extremely successful. In fact, they were so successful we are hoping to host the sessions again next year!

Wath Comprehensive Library

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8



Come on down to Wath Comprehensive School library, where all the fun begins. You can borrow a range of things, including:

- Books,
- Audio books,
- Magazines/Newspapers,
- & DVDs.

You can learn how to learn use Eclipse, which is very useful when it comes to finding out if books are in. If you are bored at lunch time and want something fun to do, you can come and be a library monitor. If you are low on e-praise, you can earn them by doing jobs and learning 'the ways of the library'.

You can donate things you don't need any more (like books, DVDs and magazines) so other people can use them. The books are mostly new, so you can borrow any type of book you want. There are places to study and computers to do homework on (but no games at break and lunch). You can borrow things, but make sure they are in as soon as you have read them. You can also learn new things by just spending one lunchtime in the library.

It's fun to learn how to look after the library. The staff are really nice and they will help you with anything.

Don't forget, there is a book fair coming soon, so save up your money and come this June to buy books, more books, bookmarks, more books, stationery, and books (there is a lot to offer at the book fair).

So come and join the fun – the library's across from the Y8 and Y9 social area.

Latest Happenings

Don't Baguette About Love Languages!

By Abbie Lewis, Year 9



The Love Languages evening was fun, but during the build-up to it, everybody was working to create props for it. The Origami Club cast off its name and created a large papier mache baguette that involved tomatoes, cheese and lettuce. The Origami Club members are: Abbie Lewis, Georgia Keeton-Williams, Emma Hill and Robyn Hoyle. If you didn't get involved in Love Languages Evening, make sure you do next time!

Graham the Butcher

By Jonah Thompson, Year 13



On Monday 4th April, Mrs Morley arranged for us to watch a butchery demonstration as part of our BTEC Hospitality course. Graham brought in half a pig, including the full head with eyes still intact which had just been slaughtered. After getting over the initial shock of walking into the classroom to be met by a pig's head that we later christened "Sheila", the demonstration was fine; it was a treat and an experience to learn where all our meat cuts are taken from and to be shown the day-to-day life of a butcher. To start, he showed us how to de-bone and

prepare all the meat for customer consumption, such as which bits were removed and used to make sausages and how to specifically cut the meat out of the carcass. It was very interesting to learn that the trotters are boiled to remove all the flavour to be used for the jelly in pork pies. Very little of the pig is wasted; even the nipples are used for that all-time favourite snack, pork scratchings. During the demonstration, we were able to get hands on with the cutting and handling parts of the pig, for example: the kidneys, brain, tongue and eyeballs.

After butchering the pig, Andreas Parperi and I helped to bag the meat for some of the staff to take home. As an added treat, Graham treated us to some of his culinary skills by cooking one of the pork steaks he had just cut and it was delicious, especially since you can't get much fresher than straight out of the pig!

It was a great and educational experience that I wouldn't hesitate to do again.

Animal Club: Helping Around

By Savanna Davies , Year 7

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Animal Club is a club of several year 7 students. On 5th and 6th May, we held booths around school to raise money for Thornberry Animal Sanctuary. To help the sanctuary, you can adopt a dog, cat or horse. These animals have all gone through similar awful experiences, such as abandonment. You

Inside School

could also help the dogs, horses and cats by either persuading parents/carers for a pet or donating to their needy cause – for more information, you could go to <http://www.thornberryanimalsanctuary.org/>.

Taste the World

By Carys Garner and Ethan Corbett, Year 7

In Geography, we are learning about Dharavi. This is a square mile slum in Mumbai that has more than an astonishing 1 million residents! It's not very nice living there, as it's incredibly cramped, with houses built higgledy piggledy on top of each other. People move into the main city from the country in hope of a job, a house and a better life, as they lived in poverty in the country. Very few end up getting that opportunity. In the slum, they also get ill with diseases from the pollution and dirty water.

We also learned about the different foods in Asia. After discovering about how little food everyone in Dharavi (a slum in India) has, we started to learn about what the rich people in India enjoyed. This increased our awareness of the different living standards and types of food throughout Asia.

Then, Mr Murtagh, our geography teacher, had the brilliant idea to do a geography cooking lesson! We partnered up and each pair chose an Asian recipe. There was a multitude of choices, including salmon stir fry, sweet and sour chicken, chicken chow mein, chilli chicken and many more. On Thursday 28th April, we arrived at G32 ten minutes before the bell went for period 5 to start our preparation. Mrs Morley, our food tech teacher, showed us how to properly cut and fry the chicken and other meats. We used special pans to cook our food, known as woks. In a short time, there was the sound of sizzling food, from big chunks of chicken to tiny slices of onion. A gorgeous smell was wafting around the room and down the corridors.

After about twenty minutes, plates of yummy looking food were ready on the tables, just waiting to be tasted. We sat down to eat. Everyone was laughing and joking and swapping food. Ten minutes later, the

plates looked as though they had been licked clean! Tasting the food gave us a real experience of Asian culture. We all thoroughly enjoyed it.

But then we had to tidy up the mess! Oh, well...

Spotlight on Students

By Daniel Nutley and Ethan Corbett, Year 7



This month's students were nominated by Mr Fidler for their fantastic mosaic art homework. We caught up with them to ask them about the work. First, we spoke to Tom Malkin, a year 8 student and asked him if he had a passion for art and, if so, why. He responded by confessing that he didn't really like art and that he just made it for his homework task. He then told me that it took him about 2 hours to make and complete.

We were interested to find out more about the task, so he told us that it was to create a mosaic and that the task didn't specify what to make it from. He was helped by his dad in doing this amazing project. They used grout, tiles and tile adhesive to make this mosaic model. He admitted that he enjoyed making it, but that it was very time consuming! He also said that it was his favourite piece of art so far, because it was one of his best.

We then talked to Abigail Taylor, also in Year 8, and she said she didn't know who created the mosaic she'd based hers on, but she did tell us that she saw the spiral image on the internet and liked it because of the colours, which blended together well. The reason that the teacher nominated her to be featured in the newspaper was because she put lots of effort and time into making it. She said she enjoyed making it and is happy the teacher chose her instead of someone else.

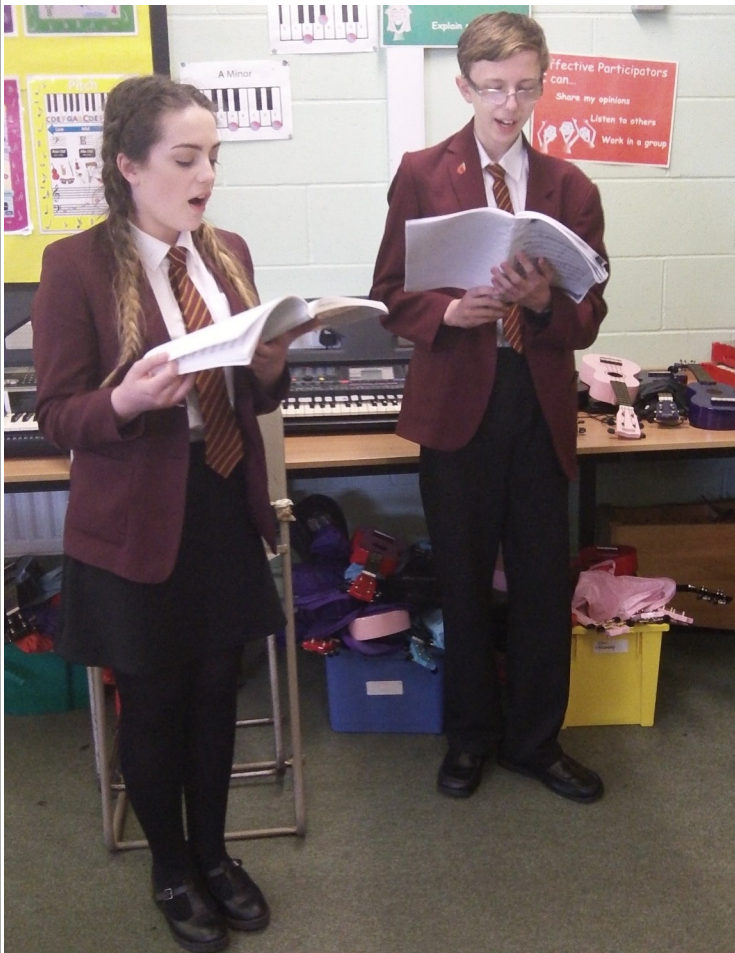
Well done to these budding artists!

Trips Out and About:

Little Shop of Horrors: Behind the Scenes

Lori Granger, Year 8

Little Shop of Horrors is such a wonderful opportunity for lots of students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13. So far, rehearsals have been a lot of fun and we've learned a lot about the show, despite any challenges we've had to face.



Singing rehearsal: making it pitch perfect.

I feel so privileged to have been cast as Audrey in such an amazing production, surrounded by amazing actors, teachers and musicians. Also, I've very excited to meet the man-eating plant, Audrey Two! I know it will be a brilliant experience for each and every member of the cast and crew.

Tickets go on sale at the beginning of June, costing just £4 (£3 concs) and the performances will be on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th July, at 7pm. Make sure to purchase tickets for what will surely be an unforgettable night!

Air Cadet National Marching Band

By Megan Annetts, Year 13

On Saturday 13th February, I travelled to RAF Cranwell for the Air Cadet National Concert Band camp. The week consisted of playing many different pieces of music, varying in technical ability. Some of the music I had played before but the majority of things we played were completely new to me. The week tested many skills, especially sight reading and control over the sound by focusing in on the tiny details of articulation and dynamic markings.

Throughout the week, we rehearsed many pieces of music including some popular favourites such as *Grease*, a salute to New York City, Sinatra and Queen, as well as the more traditional marches and overtures. All the hard work and practice paid off when we put on a spectacular performance as a band on Saturday 20th February. The concert was performed at Whittle Hall at RAF Cranwell in front of the commandant air cadets and many other VIPs from both the Air Cadet Organisation and the Royal Air Force.

It was such an amazing opportunity and a week I will never forget. It was a great week working with musicians from the RAF college band and cadets from all over the country. I made friends from all over the country throughout the week and hope to see them all again in the summer at the Air Cadet 75 years anniversary musical extravaganza.

This is just one of the amazing things I have done with the Air Training Corps. If anyone wants any information regarding the ATC and related activities and opportunities, please email me at: mannetts907@wcs.rotherham.sch.uk.

Spectmeur Agendo, everyone!

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Beyond the School Gates

On Fleek: A Level English Language Conference



Gathered at Sheffield Railway Station.

“We thought you would be wearing a stripy jumper,” two Year 13s informed Mr Bishop, who did not until that moment know that 1) he followed a predictable dress code on school visits and 2) he had broken it.

The students were assembling at Sheffield Rail Station on 14th March to attend the A2 English Language Dayschool at Sheffield Hallam University. Miss Hardeman was so excited that she arrived at the station a full two hours before the meeting time (no, really).

Once registered and fuelled with coffee, the linguists made the short journey to Hallam Hall in the Owen Building (better known as ‘the one with the poem on the side’). Many students had attended a similar conference in Year 12, so knew to expect a useful series of presentations in preparation for the summer’s exam.

In the morning, Marcello Giovanelli, famous for writing the textbooks used in lessons, discussed child language acquisition, focusing on both children’s speech and writing. After a lunch break – where a group of university students powered a smoothie-maker via an exercise bike while everyone nearby acted as if it was completely normal – Ian Wheeler took the delegates through the history of the English language and attitudes to language change.

Back at the station, students took trains, trams and cars back to their homes, where, we learnt, 86% of their

parents would have no idea what the word ‘bae’ means.

BTEC Hospitality visit to Carlton Park Hotel

By Jonah Thompson, Year 13

As part of our BTEC hospitality, we took a trip to Carlton Park Hotel in Rotherham. We learned many skills; for example, we were trained in customer service skills as well as the difficult ‘silver service’.

In addition, we learned how to make authentic Italian coffee with a coffee machine which cost around £6,000—no pressure there, then.

Furthermore, we were shown how to pull a pint of beer in the correct manner. As part of our day, we had a tour of the hotel and we were shown the spa, the conference facilities, the gym, the kitchen and some of their bedrooms.

We then went into the office and observed and assisted the staff in their day-to-day activities, for example booking conferences and themed nights.

This trip was beneficial to our course for many reasons; we learned how to deliver excellent customer service and how to make a customer’s experience exceptional.

Overall, we had a splendid time and I would recommend Carlton Park Hotel to my peers and family.

On behalf of all the students, we would like to thank Mrs Morley for organising this trip.



Silver service with a smile, or at least intense concentration!

London Marathon:

Mya Taylor, Year 10

The London Marathon has been “running” (pardon the pun) for 34 years now. Many athletes compete in this 26.2 mile event. Whether you are in the elite race or running for a charity, it is a mental and physical challenge. Ranelagh Harriers, John Disley and the late Chris Brasher were the brains behind the original event. They came up with the idea after seeing the New York Marathon in 1979. When Brasher returned, he published an article saying: “To believe this story, you must believe that the human race can be one joyous family, working together, laughing together, achieving the impossible. Last Sunday, 11,532 men and women from 40 countries in the world, assisted by over a million people, laughed, cheered and suffered during the greatest folk festival the world has seen.” Brasher ended the article by wondering whether London could stage such a festival. He said, “We have the course, a magnificent course ... but do we have the heart and hospitality to welcome the world?” This is how the world famous race began.

The race has over 37,800 entrants a year.

There is also a mini-marathon for the budding young athletes. The mini-marathon, however, isn't like the main marathon. It is a 3 mile event made up of each county's best long distance athletes. After many races, a selection takes place in which 6 athletes from each age category, male and female, are selected. The Yorkshire

and Humberside team has been a strong competitor for many years now, putting many counties to shame with their skill and determination.

But back to the main event. The marathon is a unique event, and you can't get a true feel for it unless you do it. I decided to interview a local runner, Sasha Gallagher, who did the marathon, both before and after the spectacular race.

Q: How do you feel about being 1 of only 2 fortunate people who get to represent Rotherham Harriers at the London marathon?

A: Well, I feel quite lucky. We are all put into a sort of raffle draw and then 2 names are picked out, so I feel lucky I got picked. It's a dream come true.

Q: How are you feeling about the race itself?

A: I feel excited about it. I've been running for 7 years now, and it's the biggest race I have ever done. Also, it's the only race I've done that's on TV.

Q: What have you done to prepare?

A: I have been doing a 16 week training plan leading up to the marathon, and I've watched what I've eaten.

Q: In one word, how would you describe your feelings about running the London marathon?

A: Excited.

Q: What time are you aiming for?

A: I am aiming for a sub 4 hour marathon. I would be

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A kilometre from the finish line, there was no room for quitters, even if it meant being dragged to the end by a fellow runner!

24th April 2016

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The dinosaur was just one of many inventive costumes.

happy with that.

Q: What do you think you will do straight after the marathon?

A: I know I'm supposed to eat something healthy, like a tuna sandwich or something, but I think I'll eat a Double Decker bar.

I wished Sasha good luck for the marathon. In London, I tried to spot the club's lucky athletes, and to see if Sasha still looked as excited as she was the Monday before the event. Sasha had a brilliant run completing the marathon in 3 hours, 54 minutes and 2 seconds – a sub four hour result as she had hoped. I spoke to her after the race and she said she had enjoyed the marathon and that it was a great experience.

Many people raced the marathon, all in different costumes and for different causes. They have races open to everyone, whether you are young or old. Everyone races for their own reasons: a personal challenge, to compete and show you're the best, a privilege, to help. No matter who you are, everyone wants to help each other.

Spring Word Search

Created by Emily Balaiss, Year 8.

E S E G D G W L W R V Z S Z C
L H R I R K E N I H S N U S Y
A V W E C A V G R G O G E R Z
M R Z I W J S Y B W L N K V T
B P H O W O K S D N I I D C A
E C T V J C L R K X K R I W D
X K F U D I O F U B Q P H V P
J F A O A P V P Q O C S L N C
M O K X S B U N N Y Y V A V S
X V W V K D V L K B Q P D D O
L Z S T H O E D D G P M O Y S
Q R Y A H J C C R V K J O I P
X U G E P T H M P E A J V H T
Q Z Z H G R R L J R V N U V H
W V P K E B P T P R O X G T I

BUNNY

CHICK

FLOWERS

SPRING

LAMB

SNOWDROPS

GRASS

SUNSHINE

Return your completed word search to Miss Taylor to receive an e-Praise point.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Daniel Nutley, Carys Garner, Emily Aston, Lucy Redfern, Holly Szymczyk, Olivia Storey, Savanna Davies, Lauren Clack, Ethan Corbett, Lauren Williams, Callam Manton, Lewis Dockray, Hannah Stokes, Emily Balaiss, Molly Hammerton, Alex Law, Abbie Lewis, Amy Renwick, Mya Taylor, Nemesha Nelson (proof-reader) and Miss Taylor.

Thanks also to Lori Granger, Bethany Harris, Ethan Gray, Megan Annetts, Jonah Thompson, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

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

Creative Zone: Spring Song

This month, students were asked to write a Spring Song to welcome in the sunshine.

Spring Poem

By Bethany Harris, Year 8

Spring is here,
Yes it is, my dear.

Hello, Spring. Let's hear
Everyone sing.

Birds and bees
Look at the lovely trees
What a lovely breeze!

Flowers grow
Look at that big crow!
Spring is here
Yes it is, my dear.

Spring

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8

Spring time is here,
Everyone, let's cheer,
The flowers have bloomed,
Baby animals have been born,
They are cute every morn.

Next month's theme will be:

Summer Short

**Write a short story about the joys of summer and
the holidays!**

**Winners will be published and receive e-Praise
Points!**

Deadline: Thursday 30th June.

Spring Poem

By Lauren Clack, Year 7

Such a time for frolicking
Posies popping out of the ground
Rain pouring from the April showers
I wish summer would hurry up and come
NO MORE SCHOOL FOR SIX WEEKS!!
Goodbye brain ache!

Spring Acrostic

By Carys Garner and Ethan Corbett, Year 7

Sunny days fill people with pleasure
People having water fights
Roses turn red and violets turn blue
Inside, cooking the Sunday dinner
Never gloomy, always bright
Getting together on a family walk is one of the best
things.

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Spring Flowers

By Abbie Hilton, Year 7

There are many beautiful wild spring flowers; the most common that you will have seen are daffodils. Daffodils are a popular flower that symbolise friendship and they are the March birth flower.

You may also see plenty of snowdrops, which are technically called *galanthus*. These flowers are nicknamed snowdrops because, as is obvious to the eye, they are snow-white and droop slightly as if it is dropping to the ground.

Bluebells, also known as *hyacinthoides*, are purple/dark blue, hence the name bluebells, and of course they are bell-shaped. There are many more wild flowers that come out in this season, and all are pretty and gorgeous.

Easter poem

By Ethan Corbett, Year 7

EPIC
AMAZING
STUPENDOUS
TREMENDOUS
EXQUISITE
REMARKABLE

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Books of the Month

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Reviewed by Molly Hammerton, Year 8

We may know the *Divergent* series now more famously for the films rather than the books, but the books are still full of adventure, allowing you to dive into the world of Tris, a young girl who is forced to make a choice between staying with her family or moving to a faction that suits her personality better.

After making her choice, Tris must face more challenges because she is no normal girl. Learning how to fight for the first time, she tries to meet the demands of her new faction and catches the eye of a particular trainer.

This book is a must read before or after you've seen the film. Full of action and adventure, it keeps you on edge and you can really connect with the characters as they try their hardest to fit in.

Warrior Cats by Erin Hunter

Reviewed by Abbie Lewis, Year 9

Warrior Cats, also called *Warriors*, is a fantasy book series about clans of wild cats who train to be warriors, hunt for food, defend their clan, and survive the cold harshness of Leafbare. The series has five arcs, with a sixth to be released throughout 2016 and 2017, and has multiple 'super editions', which normally tell you more about a character that already exists within the novels. It also has some smaller arcs written as western versions of the Japanese visual novels, called Manga.

The plot of *Warriors* can be confusing if you don't learn the lore, but as long as you start from the first series, starting with 'Into The Wild', you shouldn't get confused. The books are rated 'young teen' but have some violent scenes that may unsettle some readers (if you're not the 'good guy', you're probably a murdering psychopath).

The first four arcs mainly revolve around a young kittypet (house cat) called Rusty. Rusty starts to have dreams that lead him to the forest, and the main plot then starts. The fifth arc is called 'Dawn Of The Clans', which is about how the clans started. The sixth arc only has one book out so far, so where the plot is heading is unknown.

Overall, I'd recommend this series to everyone, as long as they can deal with violence.

Politics and Current Affairs:

Should School Days be Longer?

By Emily Aston, Year 7

Now, I know that many kids (including myself) would think that this question is ridiculous! I mean, why should we go to school longer if previous generations didn't and they're smart enough to get a job and, in some cases, change the world with extraordinary discoveries? Also, who wants more school? Certainly not me! However, I feel it is important to address this issue with points both for and against. Then we can all find out why the government is proposing we make school days longer.

Now, let's start with the points for making school days longer. Its sole purpose would be to make us learn more information to become smarter, as there would be more time to learn and prepare for exams. The government decided this after other schools overseas made this change (as well as shortening holidays), and, as a result, the grades there improved massively. Also, parents will have more time to themselves to go to work, do the shopping or other necessary tasks often held back or affected in a negative way by having kids around.

However, there are many opposing arguments – and not just from kids, surprisingly. With longer school days, pupils would be so tired they probably wouldn't remember much of the stuff that they were taught. They wouldn't give as much effort as they would just be bored of school. This could also encourage or provoke misbehaviour in the school, which would not be good. As well as this, spending time away from parents might not be such a great thing, because some children rarely have any family time as it is, and reducing it even more would mean they would hardly have any quality family time, especially if they still had to do homework. Students would have no time to spend with family, see their friends and to just go outside and be kids!

Whilst I understand where the government is coming from, I fundamentally disagree with the notion that school days should be longer. At the end of the day, we are only children, and I see no need to mimic schools in other countries. School is long enough as it is!

To pay or not to pay?

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8

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Costa Coffee may be charging coffee lovers an extra 5p for the cup that the coffee comes in. The cups are difficult to recycle as they are sealed with polyethylene lining. Only two specialist recycling plants exist in the UK that are able to process the cups, meaning cups just get thrown onto the floor and can hurt the animals. Costa Coffee was accused earlier this month of misleading customers with cynical greenwash claims about the recycling of its cups. Costa has been telling the world that its cups can be recycled alongside ordinary paper waste, but one of its business partners has denied this.

Brexit

By Ethan Gray, Year 9

Currently, Britain is on the edge of leaving the EU (Brexit), or maintaining our relationship with it. As there are many great cases for either side, this article aims to make you, the students and teachers, know the pros and cons, enabling you to make up your mind on the matter.

David Cameron, our current prime minister, is fighting to maintain our relationships with the EU along with many others, but why? This is partly because of how unclear our relationship will be outside of it, and what the future will bring as no other country has ever tried this. Also, if this does happen, and we want to return to the EU, we may be offered a worse deal than we have now. Furthermore, our trade export and import with the EU is an important thing to consider, as more than 50% goes to the EU. In addition, the EU's currently negotiating a deal with the US which, if we stay in, would be highly beneficial to us. However, if we leave, our negotiating

Wath Students Speak Out

powers with the EU will be hindered, meaning an 'amicable divorce' wouldn't really be possible.

However, Nigel Farage disagrees and supports 'Brexit', along with Boris Johnson, proposing our future would be similar to Norway's, as they have access to the single market, yet are not bound by the laws of the EU. Also, the current and rather large problem of immigration could be sorted out. The EU state that Britain cannot deny access of other people from EU states to live in Britain, so as a result, according to Office for National Statistic, there are 942,000 eastern Europeans, Romanians and Bulgarians working in the UK, along with 791,000 western Europeans – and 2.93 million workers from outside the EU, mainly from China and India. Also, staying in the EU makes us vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Without tight borders, we're bound to the EU laws. A third pro of 'Brexit' would be the investment into the EU – we would no longer contribute to the EU budget. Last year, Britain paid £13bn into the EU but received £4.5bn worth of spending, making the UK's net £8.5bn, roughly 7% of what the government paid for the NHS.

So, now I've gone through some of the info, you can form your own opinion, with the ability to back it up. Check out the news online to keep in the loop.

Sainsbury's ditch Brand Match



Sainsbury's
live well for less

By Emily Balaiss, Year 8

The supermarket chain, Sainsbury's, has revealed plans to stop their brand match scheme, which gives money back when the branded goods are cheaper at the rival store of Asda. The promotion has been running since 2011 and it is said that it will end in three weeks' time. Sainsbury's says it will use the savings to cut prices on groceries. Increasingly, shoppers buy little and often,

which means fewer baskets contain the 10 items needed to qualify for Brand Match.

Do all criminals have the same neurological activities as us?

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8

Scientists who study the psychology of criminal minds have discovered something very interesting in the neurological scans (brain scans) of certain criminals.

Those who have antisocial personality disorder, which affects many convicted criminals, were chosen to have a brain scan against a group of others that were not affected by this condition. The scans showed that, when both groups were compared, those with antisocial personality disorder had an eighteen percent reduction in the volume of the brain's middle frontal gyrus.

In another study, scientists scanned the brains of twenty seven psychopaths and thirty two normal subjects and found that there was a deformity in a different type of the brain, called the amygdala. It was the thinning of the outer layer of a part of this region, called the cortex, an average reduction of eighteen percent in its volume.

The evidence from this study leads us believe that certain criminals actually have different brain activity, which could be used to find criminals before they act.

The Ganges is Dying

Emily Balaiss, Year 8

The Ganges is one of the greatest rivers on Earth, but it is dying. From its source in the icy Himalayan peaks right down to the Bay of Bengal, it is being slowly poisoned. The Ganges is revered in India, but it is also the sewer that carries away the waste from the 450 million people who live in its catchment area. Pollution from the factories and farms of the fastest-growing large economy in the world – and from the riverside cremation of Hindu true-believers – has turned its waters toxic. The Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, promised to clean up the Ganges two years ago – but can he do it?



Media and Review:

Top 5 Flash Villains

By Alex Law, Year 8

The original Mirror Master, Sam Scudder, was the master of illusion. One of the more gruff members of the Rogues, Scudder's abilities were a product of his own ingenuity. A lifelong criminal, Scudder became obsessed with getting inside a mirror's reflection while in prison, and developed technology to achieve this goal.

The Trickster, James Jesse, was a circus performer and con-man with a hobby for inventing genius gadgets and then hiding them inside toys. Jesse made magnificent inventions, such as "air-walking shoes", and many circus-themed weapons, a great adversary for Flash.

Grodd, a telepathic, super-intelligent gorilla in a purple cape (yes it doesn't sound that evil). Representing another perfectly executed, yet simple, concept for a Flash villain, Grodd has strong ties to Flash's mythos.

Zoom, sometimes called Reverse Flash, is a disguise worn by a number of villains over the years. The original Zoom, Eobard Thawne, was later replaced by Hunter Zolomon, a friend of the Flash's successor, Kid Flash, with a history not unlike a twisted reflection of Allen's. He took up the mantle of Reverse Flash when an explosion caused him to become a speed force wielder.

Captain Cold – or Lenard Snart – is one of Flash's oldest and most dangerous foes. Wielding an advanced freeze gun, Leonard became Captain Cold. He has the ability to slow down, stop and even kill the Flash. Working alone or leading the gang of villains known as the Rogues, he has often been shown as the Flash's worst enemy. Eventually, he decided to join the Justice League. Interestingly, the TV version of Captain Cold also appears to be turning good, joining a team of heroes on CW's Arrow and The Flash spin-off show, *DC's Legends Of Tomorrow*.

DC: Legends of Tomorrow

By Molly Hammerton, Year 8

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DC's Legends of Tomorrow is a new TV series from the creators of 'The Flash' and 'Arrow', and it is as amazing as these past two. The superhero team line up so far consists of the new Firestorm, Rip Hunter, Atom, Captain Cold, White Canary, Heat Wave, Hawkman and Hawkgirl.

Through the series, the team fight an immortal tyrant that seems unbeatable. The series is just as thrilling as the past two series and will be a hit for any action, hero or comic fan that's looking for a new series to enjoy.

Supergirl

By Alex Law, Year 8

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, and it's not Superman – it's the amazing new Supergirl from Sky1.

Supergirl is an American superhero action-adventure series developed by Ali Adler, Greg Berlanti and Andrew Kreisberg that airs on Sky1 and CBS.

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Films, Games and More



The protagonist, Kara-El, was saved from her dying planet, Krypton, with her cousin Kal-El/Superman. On their escape, her pod got knocked off course and got forced into the Phantom Zone, where it stayed for 24 years.

During this period, time stopped for Kara so, when the spacecraft eventually escaped the Phantom Zone, she still appeared to be a 13-year-old girl.

When she crashed on earth, her cousin had grown up and had become Superman!

Almost a decade later, an accident made her reveal her powers, starting her journey as a hero for National City.

PokéNews

By Ethan Corbett, Year 7

When Pokémon ORAS (Omega Ruby and Alpha Sapphire) came out, fans were ecstatic, so when news of Pokémon Sun and Moon was announced, with new Pokémon, fans went wild.

Little is currently known, but it is true that it's the last game for 3DS. However, it will also become the first on the new Nintendo NX.

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The Nintendo NX, due to be released in March 2017.

The prospect of new Pokémon demands attention, as after a while, you will have completed the Pokédex with shiny Pokémon, completed the national with shinies, collected every item, levelled every Pokémon to 100 and battled every trainer. When a new game comes out, everyone wants to play the game, see the storyline and catch 'em all with renewed energy.

How much do you know about Penguins?

By Olivia Storey, Year 7

Here are ten facts that might just surprise you!

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1. Penguins were once able to fly.
2. A penguin's swimming style is called "The Porpoise".
3. Emperor penguins can march hundreds of kilometres to reach their breeding sites.
4. Emperor penguins go against conventional male-female parenting roles.
5. Most penguins live exclusively in the southern hemisphere.
6. Many penguin species are endangered.
7. Penguins are colonial birds.
8. A penguin's eyes work just as well underwater as they do above ground.
9. Most penguins are monogamous.
10. There is enormous variation in size between different penguin species.

Interested in learning more about animals? If you're in Year 7 or 8, you could join Animal Club! Just ask your tutor or Shae Duffy for more information.

Sport and Music



Jamie Vardy is having a party

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By Daniel Nutley, Year 7

The Foxes have done it! Leicester City FC are the champions of the English Premier League 2016!

They sat comfortably at the top for more than half a season and claimed their deserved title of Premier League Champions 2015/16 on Monday 2nd May.

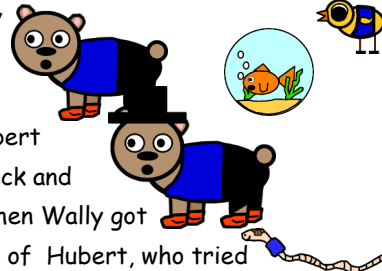
After becoming 6 points clear with 3 games left to play, Leicester needed just one win to clinch their first Premier League title in the history of the club. They were held at one-all with Manchester United on Sunday 1st May, meaning rivals Tottenham Hotspur had to beat Chelsea at home to stay in the title race. Spurs went two-nil up inside the first half and looked certain to beat opposition Chelsea and stay in with a shout at the title. But a strike from Gary Cahill inspired Chelsea, then Eden Hazard hit a fantastic curling strike

into the top corner to hold Spurs at a draw.

A draw for Tottenham was not enough and Leicester players and fans celebrated alike as they were announced as champions. The players of Claudio Ranieri's fantastic side were at striker Jamie Vardy's house watching the game and going mental when the final whistle went. This is ironic because one of the chants that Leicester sings is "Jamie Vardy is having a party!".

For many football fans, this is what they had wished for; an amazingly interesting title race with truly deserved champions who were not one of the usual suspects. It is an amazing story which sounds like a fairy tale. Their hard work and determination, which has eventually led to success, is an inspiration for many and will be talked about for years to come.

WALLY THE WATH WOMBAT

 <p>It's almost the end of the year. Wally is ready for his stressful exams.</p>	<p>Wally got a letter saying he had got into the mini-marathon in London. At school, he heard that Hubert was in the marathon too.</p> 	 <p>I'm gonna beat you, even if I have to cheat.</p> <p>They travelled to London the day before the marathon.</p>
<p>The day arrived. Wally and Hubert were neck and neck. Then Wally got in front of Hubert, who tried to trip him over.</p> 	 <p>They were near the finish line, Pius and Wisteria cheering on as loud as they could. Wally sprinted over the finish line.</p>	 <p>He finished in first place, Hubert in second!</p>