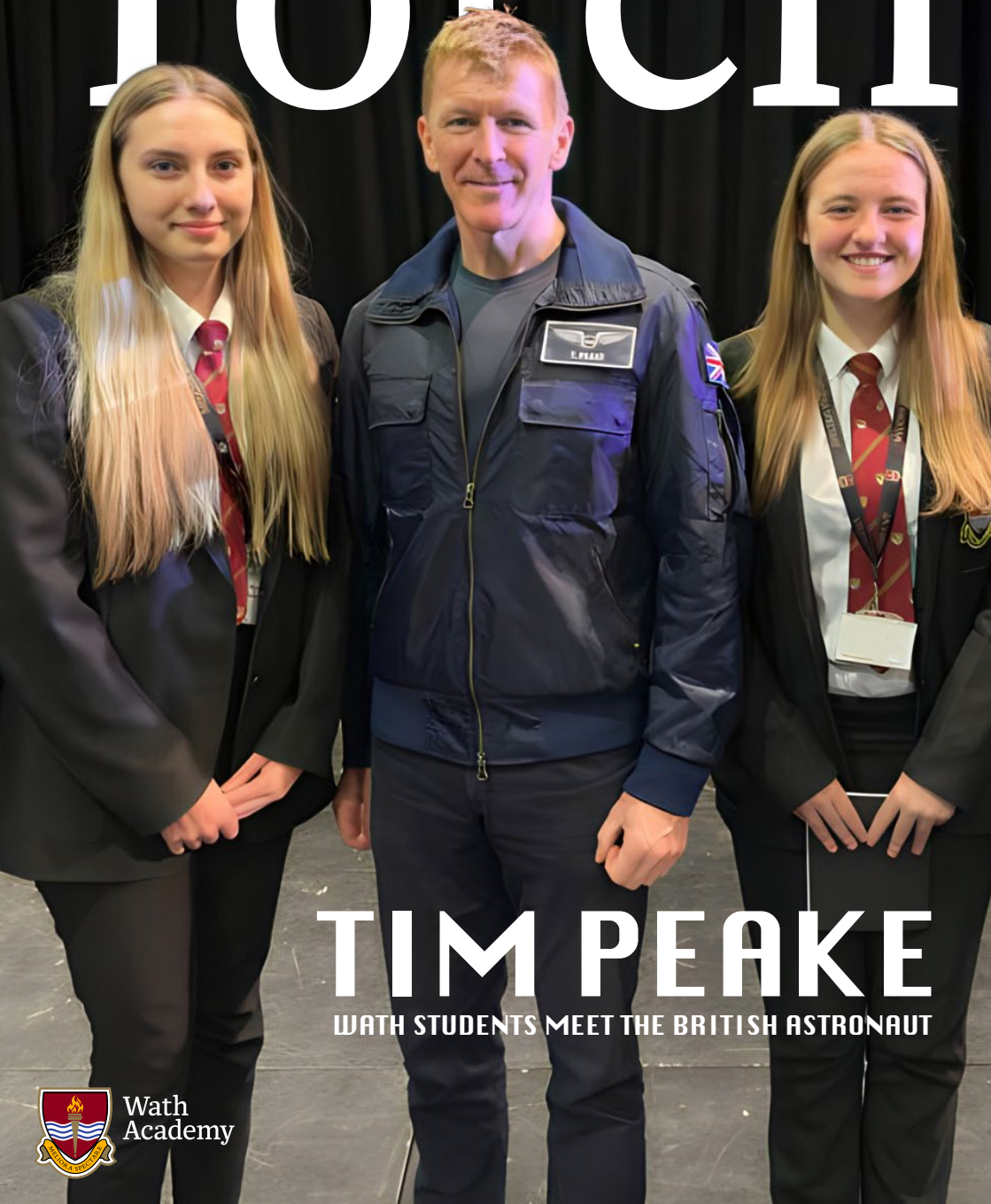


Torch



TIM PEAKE

WATH STUDENTS MEET THE BRITISH ASTRONAUT



Torch

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

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**Wath
Academy**

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HOUSE UPDATE



Welcome to the Half Term 5 House Update. What a half term it has been so far, with more people taking part and some changes in position both in the overall competition and Work Cup.

With 10 events every week for both staff and students, there are still hundreds of thousands of points up for grabs.

Student Points HT5	
Troy	9,360
Athens	8,630
Rome	6,908
Sparta	6,212
Carthage	6,121
Thebes	5,356

Troy are still out in front; and during Half Term 5 have managed to hold off the advances of Athens and as it currently stands are leading the Half Term 5 league.

There is still time for other houses to catch them depending on box task results and other events taking place over the next two weeks.

Rome have maintained their strong performances from the last half term and have been gaining impressive results in all events.

Carthage are maintaining their third place overall, and are off the bottom of the student league table too. Thebes, Sparta, and Rome are separated by only a handful of points and the final three positions are likely to change before the end of the year.

There is a chance that Carthage could be dragged into the battle of the final three.

Staff have also been competing in events throughout the year. Their league table is included to the right. It has been great to see so many staff,

especially new members of staff to the school, getting involved in departmental and Friday activities. The overall positions show no changes.

However, the half term table to date places Thebes in front of Troy – the first time they have topped the staff half term league table all year.

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

Mr Marriott • Head of Carthage

Staff Points Overall	
Troy	51,435
Athens	36,425
Carthage	34,085
Thebes	27,495
Sparta	25,175
Rome	22,070

Staff Points HT5	
Thebes	6,270
Troy	6,170
Carthage	5,195
Athens	4,980
Rome	3,450
Sparta	3,320

BLOOD BROTHERS HITS THE STAGE

The first of two theatres visits this half term.

Excitement mounted as 22 students in Year 9 embarked onto the coach heading for the Lyceum in Sheffield to see the latest version of *Blood Brothers* – and it did not disappoint!

The cast did Willy Russell's iconic play justice as they sang their way through the poignant score-taking us on a rollercoaster of emotions. Olivia Sloyan (playing Linda) was especially good, capturing the essence of the character – from a cute, sassy, caring seven year old, to the desperately sad housewife of Mickey (played by a very talented Sean Jones), Mrs Lyons (played by

Paula Tappended) was quite crazy and a perfect foil for the heart-warming character of Mrs Johnstone (Niki Colwell Evans). Of course, we must mention the ever-present and quite sinister narrator (played by Richard Munday).

The set was a visual feast with seamless changes and the music was evoking and moving. There was not a dry eye in the house at the end of a raising finale and the actors received a standing ovation.

O. S. • Year 9



Year 9 theatregoers about to enter the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield on 26th April

AN INSPECTOR CALLS FOR YEAR 10

On the 4th of May, I was given the rare opportunity to experience live theatre for the first time with many other students in Year 10. The play we were viewing was *An Inspector Calls* that we were already studying for the past term in English. The mix genres of drama and mystery created a spectacular play to read with several plot twists and turns, so to say that I was excited to see it live was an understatement.

After a content coach ride to the Sheffield lyceum, listening to Panic! At the Disco and Queen, we arrived to some mild rain and we quickly headed inside. Our seats were located on the top balcony, so we had a bird's eyes view of the play. Unfortunately, the seats were very narrow, and I almost fell over the rail after returning from the toilet. Despite being quite high up and far away from the performance, we had a decent view. Then the play began. At first, I was quite confused to what was happening, but it became clear that the little boy who was playing with the stage curtain was a part of the show.

As the curtain gradually lifted, my eyes widened at the breath-taking scenery of an old English town accompanied with realistic fog and rain that resembled a drizzly spring night. Along with the emotive, sombre music, the start of the play was nothing less than impressive. The play unfolded before my eyes, and I couldn't look away for a second. The acting was phenomenal, and I was very surprised when the actors went

off the original script and started slapping one another. At one point, both Mrs Birling and Eric were knocked out on the floor due to an epic brawl between Mr Birling and Eric. Shelia's feminist side was shown when she gave Gerald a great big slap around the chops. This shock factor only improved the spectacular play. The house, in the middle of the stage, was scaled down and the walls were able to swing fully open and, near the end duration of the play, the house started to tip up and all the cutlery and plates started to tumble down the table and smash onto the floor, creating an epic smashing sound.

The theme of social responsibility was shown when over a dozen 1912 civilians walked onto the stage behind the Inspector during the end of Act 3 which was a good addition to the performance.

I really enjoyed the production. The acting was great, and the added humour was the cherry on top of the cake. If given the opportunity to go back and watch it again, I definitely would!

Isobel G • Year 10



A ROYAL SUCCESS THE KING'S CORONATION TEA

The community event attracted 140 attendees.



On Thursday 4th May, Wath Academy welcomed floods of visitors in premature celebration of King Charles III's coronation, which took place the following weekend. Greeted with tea, a selection of cakes, and unapologetically British anthems, a range of visitors (from students to veterans) were lured inside.

Canteen One was transformed into a tea parlour quite different to its usual vocation. Within a few hours, the school's magicians (whom the commonfolk call staff) had pinned up the Union Jacks, smoothed the tablecloths and filled the cake stands. Imaginably, by the end of the event, these stands were rather bare, serving as a compliment to the kitchen staff who work so hard every day to try and content the

ravenous students of Wath Academy – a difficult task in itself. However, the high quality of the provisions at the coronation tea exceeded all else, as echoed by the positive comments from visitors.

The student leaders who served and chatted with members of our community served as exemplary role models to the school. From serving tea to greeting at the doors, these students were highly enthusiastic throughout the event and many visitors commented on their positivity and friendliness.

Most importantly (and not speaking from a biased viewpoint at all), the student performers put on a great show for our community. From saxophone solos to

Do-Re-Mi to Bach cello concertos, a wide variation in musical genres was provided for the audience, meaning there was something for everyone. Despite the constant buzz of conversation associated with an afternoon tea, the visitors still listened intently to all performances, and ended each performance with a round of applause. After all, there isn't a better combination than afternoon tea and good music!

A huge well done to all students who represented Wath Academy so positively at this community event; you have certainly done the school proud. Also, thank you to all the kitchen staff, organisers, and members of the music department who made this event possible and as smooth as possible.

In alignment with the curriculum intent, this event was a royal success in bringing together members of our community to celebrate a monarchy so central to our culture.

Abigail G • Year 11



Thank You Letter from the Royal British Legion

Please accept this email as a BIG thank you from all Wath upon Dearne branch members who attended Wath Academy Coronation tea yesterday. It was a fantastic event to be a part of.

The pupils that performed for us did an amazing job and have fantastic talents and are a credit to the academy. Well done! The food was also excellent. We all had a great time. Look forward to celebrating your 100th birthday with you in September.

Behind the Scenes of the Community Coronation Tea

Both staff and students ensured the event was successful, with over 100 people catered for by the canteen staff.

Before the event, the canteen was fully decorated to represent the coronation. Tables were set with teacups for everyone, as well as cupcakes, scones, doughnuts and sandwiches. There were also flowers made for each table with the Union Jack flag in each one. The whole canteen was decorated in the colours of the British flag to represent the event.

A quiz was handed out to each table so

that guests could have fun answering each of the questions about the coronation and understand more about the day. Guests could also watch the amazing performances from students that consisted of singing and playing musical instruments.

Families and friends of students and people from the community really enjoyed the event. There were members of the British Legion that also attended. An amazing atmosphere was created and it was a great privilege to be a part of the event.

Angel H • Year 12



TIM PEAKE EXPERIENCE

These lucky Wath students met a former inhabitant of the International Space Station.

On 31st March, 10 Wath Academy students and a few sixth form students were selected to see Tim Peake at Sir Thomas Wharton Academy. Luckily, I was one of the few selected from our school too see him. During lunch, we travelled in minibus to the event, with Mr Shaw driving.

When we arrived, we waited in the lobby until we were led to the main hall where around 10-15 schools had selected a few students to attend the event. A portion of them were primary school children with around 4-5 secondary schools attending.

We took part in tabletop activities to begin with. We made a launch pad with spaghetti and marshmallows. Ours looked particularly unstable, but in the final 20 seconds we got the wonky structure to stand without falling. Our school was awarded the best structure and we were given laminated certificates with our names on.

Then all the schools were given the opportunity to read a personalised letter out. Ours was read by Isobel who spoke

very confidently about the students' individual love for science and physics.

Then Tim Peake finally arrived. He went around and answered questions from different people who had them. One of the most memorable responses (for the question 'what do you miss the most about space?') was that he missed the view from the small window on the ISS space station and that he could sit there for hours on end and look down at the world below. Overall, he was a very inspirational and great man. When the questions were over, we were given the opportunity to take photos with him on the stage. Some teachers were even given the opportunity to take a cheeky selfie with him before we needed to leave.

Some people say 'never meet your heroes' because celebrities are often arrogant and rude. However, Tim was truly humble and well spoken. He was patient and very articulate with his answers to each question, never breezing over any of them. If he ever had another talk, I would attend.

Abi G • Year 10

“Tim was truly humble and well spoken.”



The tabletop challenge-winning Wath Academy students with Tim Peake



Our sixth formers meet only the seventh person born in the UK to go to space



Spanish Exams

Year 11s having the best time revising for their Spanish speaking exam while making beautiful paper chains!

Miss Ponce • Teacher of Spanish

Write for Torch!

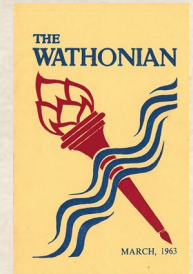
Attend the enrichment club on Tuesdays at 2:50 pm in G20 or email torch@wathacademy.com



- Puzzle Solutions**
- Eurovision Countries 2023 Wordsearch**
- See right
- King's Coronation Quiz**
1. Saturday, 6th May 2023
 2. 1953
 3. 70 years
 4. 1066
 5. 1937
 6. Windsor

From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). This issue, we go back to the 1960s to hear the experience of a group of Wath Grammar School students who travelled to France for an exchange trip in the summer of 1962. This write-up comes from the 1963 edition of *The Wathonian*.



The French Exchange (1962)

This year, yet again, pupils from schools in Yorkshire, including fourteen from Wath Grammar School, took part in an exchange with pupils from North-East France. After the French guests had completed a three-week stay in England, we all set off from Sheffield at midnight on August 7th, with spirits high. In about thirteen hours we journeyed via Dover and Calais to Lille, where we separated and travelled to our new homes spread all over North-Eastern France.

From this region visits were made farther afield. The most prominent of the places visited were Calais, Le Havre, the North Coast, Paris, the historical and ecclesiastical city of Rheims in the flat, picturesque 'Champagne' country, and the great forest of the Ardennes. In addition, those who were at Sedan or other towns near the Belgian border, paid visits to Belgium and Luxembourg. On the whole, France was found to hold as many legends and historical edifices and have as beautiful country-side as England.

Naturally we found the French way of life different but experienced no great difficulties in adjusting ourselves. Their life centres around meals, especially the

dinner, which is such a highlight of the evening that evening football matches and films do not commence until 9 p.m. At the dinner itself, up to seven small courses follow each other, usually on only three plates. One reason for the French ability to consume so much may be that not much bread is eaten. The French Sunday night is the main night of the week and the French enjoy Sundays and the religious public holidays, of which there are more in France than in England.

French transport played an important part in our holiday as we wanted to see places. We observed that there were few public service vehicles and that railway fares are even higher than in England. Several of us learned the hard way that one method of making French railways pay is to put on fewer trains, which are nearly always full. Probably because the cost of living is high in France, many Frenchmen own a rather amusing type of small car which is easily taken to pieces. One is inclined to feel when descending a hill in one of these that one is *en avian* [flying]!

R. Venables • 4D (1963)

GIBRALTAR TRAVEL GUIDE

Regular visitor to Gibraltar Ruby R in Year 10 takes us on a tour of the British exclave on the Iberian Peninsula.



Gibraltar is a British overseas territory, which is located on the edge of Spain, and mostly taken up by the Rock of Gibraltar. Despite bordering Spain, most people speak English as their main language, but also speak a language called Llanito which is a mixture of Andalusian Spanish, English, Genoese, Hebrew, Maltese and Portuguese.

The Rock of Gibraltar is 426m high, 3 miles long and 0.75 miles wide and is made of limestone. In the Upper Rock, the nature reserve is the home to approximately 300 Barbary Macaques (a species of monkey) which occasionally make their way down from the rock into the town. These wild animals can also be visited by a short trip up in a cable car from the station for a small fee or even a walk up the Rock, allowing you to explore the hidden World War Two tunnels and Saint Michael's Cave.

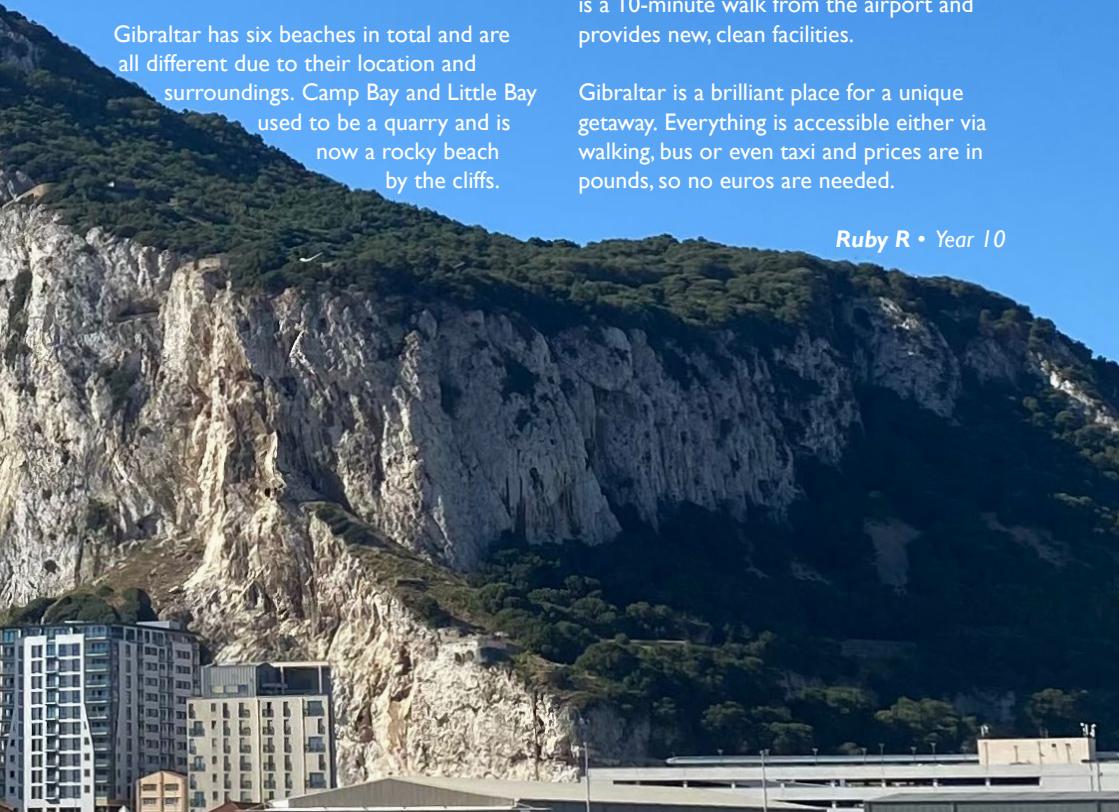
Gibraltar has six beaches in total and are all different due to their location and surroundings. Camp Bay and Little Bay used to be a quarry and is now a rocky beach by the cliffs.

Catalan Bay can be found on the eastern side of the Rock and has a restaurant by the beach. Located right next to the airstrip is Eastern Beach, also known as Playa de Levante, which is the longest sandy beach. Lastly, secluded Sandy Bay can be found on the eastern side of the Rock.

Another place to visit is Ocean Village which offers places to eat, drink and shop including places such as Wagamama and Las Iguanas. Here you can find anything from Indian Tapas to American sports bars meaning there is something available for everyone. Ocean Village is also the home of the five-star Sunborn yacht which is a luxurious place to stay if you're wanting a treat. Having stayed here before, I can say it is worth the money. This yacht has an onboard casino, spa, infinity pool and many restaurants. A more affordable place to stay is the Holiday Inn Express, which is a 10-minute walk from the airport and provides new, clean facilities.

Gibraltar is a brilliant place for a unique getaway. Everything is accessible either via walking, bus or even taxi and prices are in pounds, so no euros are needed.

Ruby R • Year 10





The first coronation since 1953 has taken place. Grace M in Year 8 reports on this historic event.

As many of you know, on 6th May, Prince Charles and Princess Camilla were crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom. This makes it official that 6th, 7th and 8th May was a long bank holiday weekend. The coronation was held at Westminster Abbey and many watched it on TV at home.

To be honest, I recommend visiting Westminster Abbey as it has brilliant architecture and you can see where the King and Queen were crowned. If you want to visit Westminster Abbey, I recommend visiting early in the morning or pre-booking tickets because it gets extremely busy and you will be stuck outside in a queue for 30 minutes to two hours.

I will now get back to the actual article title... The King divorced his first wife Diana in 1996. She died in a car crash in Paris in 1997. King Charles is now (hopefully) happily married to our new Queen Camilla.

Since the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September, Charles and Camilla have ruled our country and will continue to for many, many more years.

Grace M • Year 8

Right: King Charles III and Queen Camilla wave from the balcony of Buckingham Palace
(Image: Department for Culture, Media and Sport, PDM-owner, via Wikimedia Commons)



Wath Festival 2023

Wath Festival is one of the biggest events in the local calendar. Ruby R went to see what the 50th anniversary festival had to offer.

On Saturday 29th April, I went down to the May Festival in Wath with my family as I always make the effort to go down for at least a little while. Despite my brother making us late, we headed down early enough so that we didn't miss out on anything that was going on there (and, trust me, there was plenty).

Due to the event being rather popular, we ended up bumping into friends that we didn't plan on seeing and caught up with some people that we hadn't seen for a while, which I quite enjoy with a community so close and tight knit.

The actual festival was one of the best that has happened in the past few years with stalls for people of all ages to find things that they can enjoy as well as the local businesses being open for people to see how much we under appreciate what is available around us.

Of course, we had to see the Morris men and the traditional dances that many look forward to seeing every year, the reading of Thomas Tuke's will and finally the main event: bun chucking

happen during the entirety of the festival, with dozens of break cakes being taken up to the top of the church spire and for them to be thrown down to the desperate people below. It's safe to say that many enjoyed it just as they do every year and I must admit that whoever they got to throw the bread cakes this year definitely has a good throw as people at the other side of the church yard managed to catch themselves a bun.

Though many may not have experienced what it's like at the May Festival in Wath, I think everyone should try it for at least one year as it is the only time where the whole town comes out and spends time together without any ruckus or rioting happening

The stalls remained open until the end of the afternoon, which allowed people to catch up with their friends and for small businesses around the community to gain the recognition and customer interaction that they need to help them grow.

Overall, the May Festival is one of the times I feel that Wath has its perks and that it can be a wonderful and caring place to be.

Bun chucking is the most popular event to

Ruby R • Year 10

REVIEWS

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

The Cruel Prince is a young adult fantasy book following a 17-year-old girl, Jude, who is taken by her parents' murderer at age seven and brought to live among the cunning and cut-throat fae in Elfhame. In a place she now considers home, she struggles to prove her strength to a place that views mortals as lesser beings only useful for cruel entertainment and slavery. On Jude's journey to power, she finds one main obstacle: Prince Cardan of Faerie who finds enjoyment in making Jude's life as difficult as possible. This story contains political conflict, magic, family feuds and deception.

Jude is a strong, fierce, and flawed character whose personality contains both the fae's manipulative deceit and human compassion and emotion causing for a complex and intriguing character.

The majority of this story takes place in Elfhame, a place of magic home to the Folk. However, the magical elements of this book are dark and unforgiving as Jude often finds herself in situation where magic is against her. This provides an alternate view to

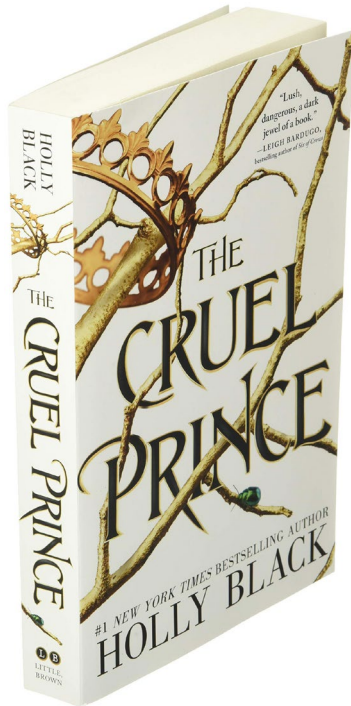
magic as instead of it being a tool to wield and help the main character, Jude frequently has to find holes within the magic to survive. This dark twist on

magic is abnormal to see within young adult fantasy and one the reasons I enjoyed this book so much.

Overall, the complex characters, magical setting and plot are all intriguing parts of this story. However, the political scheming and manipulation is in my opinion one of the most enjoyable parts of this book. Throughout the book we have to follow Jude's judgement and decisions and watch as she goes head-to-head with powerful political figures, often using a combination of battle and tricks to win. On the whole, this book is

perfect if you like violent betrayals, battles and strong female main characters who rely on their wit to get what they want.

Kate B • Year 12



Want a Second Opinion?
Read another review of *The Cruel Prince* in the November/December 2022 edition of *Torch* at wathacademy.com/torch

Inazuma Eleven Go Anthology! by Chitose Yagami

Inazuma Eleven Go Anthology! is a spin-off manga of the anime franchise *Inazuma Eleven Go*. This manga is only in Japanese, but I read an English translation online and I bought the book anyway as this is my favourite anime. This is non-canon.

This book is a collection of short stories and about the Raimon team. Each story is centred around a certain character and the genre is comedy. It was released in 2013 and was published by Ciao Comics. I prefer to use the original character names but will put the English dub names too. It is drawn by six authors although most is by Chitose Yagami. It is also drawn by Mikiko Satsuki, Aqua Mizuto, Go Ikeyamada, Airi Sano, and Kuze Mizuki.

The manga is set during *Inazuma Eleven Go Chrono Stones* as some characters only appear during that season. There are 23 stories in total, but some are only a page long. The main characters are Tenma, Tsurugi (Victor), and Shindou (Riccardo). My favourite characters are Taiyou, Tenma, Hikaru, and Kariya (Sol, Arion, Lucian, and Aitor in English dub version).

My favourite part of the book is Chapter 2 Operation: Valentines Day! It starts off with Tenma and Shinsuke meeting up on the way to school (Jean-Pierre in the dub and one of my most disliked characters of the franchise). Tenma doesn't know what day it is and he gets interrupted by some players from Raimon saying how they'll definitely receive valentine's chocolate this year.

When Tenma gets to school, he sees Shindou's desk has a mountain of chocolate from his fangirls (he was the captain of Raimon before so he's popular). I found this chapter the funniest because the writers are aware that Kirino (Gabi) looks like a girl even though he's a boy as the manga states that he received valentine's chocolate from the boys too.

This manga is more targeted to females as the art is all drawn by female mangaka.

Overall, I really enjoyed it and found it funny. The only part I don't like is Taiyou only appears in two chapters. ★★★★★☆

Vanessa M • Year 12



PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 10

Eurovision 2023 Countries Wordsearch

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

Australia
Israel

Belgium
Italy

Czechia
Sweden

Estonia
Norway

Finland
Ukraine

Grace H • Year 10

King's Coronation Quiz

1. What is the date did King Charles III's coronation take place?
2. What year did Elizabeth II's coronation take place?
3. How long did Elizabeth II reign for?
4. What year did coronations start at Westminster Abbey?
5. When (year) was King George VI crowned?
6. What is the Royal family's last name?

Jess M • Year 8



Emily J • Year 13