

The Magazine of Wath Academy

Torch

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Spring Term 2024

Read about our
Barcelona trip inside!





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

You can contribute to Torch by selecting it as your enrichment activity or by emailing any contributions to torch@wathacademy.com

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**Wath
Academy**



This issue's cover photo is of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. It is a cathedral designed by Antoni Gaudi and has been in construction for 142 years. The photo was taken by Mr Tipping on the recent school trip. Read more about this on page 7!

Year 9

Options Evening

On Tuesday 16th January 2024, the school opened its doors for Year 9 Options Evening.

At the beginning of the evening, Mr Ransome delivered a speech on curriculum intent and then handed over to the Year 9 AYL, Mr Slack, who spoke about the various subjects on offer, including those which have to be studied.

After the presentation, we were free to walk around the school and visit each subject area.

Personally, I went up to the second floor where I viewed history and fine art, then I went to the first floor where I viewed psychology and Spanish. Finally, I went to ground floor and looked at IT, 3D design, graphics and food technology.

There were also subjects such as geography, business, sociology, PE, RS and childcare that you could also view.

In the psychology room there were some mind games you could try which were really interesting, and in the other rooms there was course work and GCSE work to be viewed as well as teachers on hand to speak to and answer your questions.

It was a very informative evening!



By Charlie G

Careers Fair

Careers Fairs are an excellent way for students to hear what local companies have to offer. Students can talk to different employers, gain an understanding of what their jobs entail or the different roles available, and the skills that are needed to be successful in today's economy. This is all in an informal setting, where students can ask any questions, they may have.

Many children also are inspired by these events as they are “a great way to get inspired and informed about jobs, apprenticeships, youth-friendly employers, or further education programmes,” says Youth Employment UK.

On Friday 12th January 2024, a careers fair took place at Wath Academy and was attended by all year groups. There were a variety of places to learn about such as universities, colleges, businesses, apprenticeships and more.

The most popular universities stalls seemed to be The University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, York University and Loughborough University.

Other very popular businesses there were Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Wentworth Woodhouse and Next.

College stalls including Barnsley College, Dearne Valley College and Wath Academy's Sixth Form College was also there for people to gain information from and were kept busy with plenty of students asking questions.

Whether you're already interested in making plans for your future or you have no idea what you want to be, make sure that you visit the careers fair next year to inspire your mind and love for the future!

Remember, there's something out there for everyone!



By Ava R

Movement Evening

On the 23rd, 24th and 25th of January, Wath Academy held its annual Movement Evening –which is actually an amazing three nights with many different acts performing.

This year showcased a wide range of dance styles such as contemporary, street dance, jazz and many more. This year also included a special ‘staff dance’ where some of the staff here at Wath Academy performed a piece to ‘Made You Look’ by Meghan Trainor.



Every year group performed an enrichment dance as well as the KS3 Dance Club performing to The Jackson Five; the Musical Theatre group performing Grease and the Year 9 enrichment club performing Hairspray.

All of the dancers were at an immaculate standard. They all shone out like individual rays of sunshine. It was an amazing thing to watch and it felt like a once in a life-time opportunity to be involved in. I would 100% recommend going to see it next year! See you in 2025!



By Erin M

House Update



It's been another packed term for house competitions! We also took part in fundraising for Comic Relief through out bikeathon (see the pictures below!) Everyone who took part managed to collectively cycle 1106km! Well done to Troy who were the winners of this challenge.

Everything could change in the last term of the year so keep on contributing to your house's success! If you haven't yet got involved in the Friday lunchtime activities, get yourself to the tennis courts and join the fun. You earn points for your house just by attending.

Overall Games Cup		
Position	House	Score
1st	Rome	24
2nd	Troy	22
3rd	Carthage	20
4th	Thebes	19
5th	Sparta	13
6th	Athens	7

Staff League		
Position	House	Score
1	Carthage	8300
2	Troy	7530
3	Rome	6695
4	Thebes	6080
5	Sparta	4635
6	Athens	3080



School Trips

Beautiful Barcelona!

What can I say about the Barcelona trip? Amazing architecture, stunning museums, and delicious food are just a few of the fantastic things that Barcelona had to offer the Photography/Technology/Spanish students.

The five-day adventure was a great experience for all who went on this trip - and it had to be classed as an adventure with the tremendous amount of walking we did!

Day One

On our first full day in Barcelona, we started the day with a gorgeous continental breakfast. I hardly knew what any of it was, but it tasted phenomenal!

We walked to La Sagrada Familia (a temple designed by Antoni Gaudi - very pointy) and I know for certain that many pictures were taken of the beautiful architecture by the photography students - mainly because I was one of them.

We then walked to Park Güell and were let loose inside to run rampant throughout the magnificent structures and formations present throughout the Park.

After that, we found ourselves walking once again to another picturesque place: the Catedral de Barcelona (or Barcelona Cathedral for those who don't speak Spanish). Around there were some shops and cafés (which the teachers seemed to enjoy) and we were allowed to roam free.

Finally, we ended our eventful first day in the Restaurante Nervion, where we had a tapas meal (not everyone was thrilled about this) and found dead flies in some of our drinks (we were even less thrilled about that).

Overall, it was a wonderful day, just with way too much walking for someone who rarely exercises and prefers the less strenuous art of TV watching.



Day Two - more walking.

The day started off brightly with that resplendent continental breakfast, but quickly went downhill once I found out that after the first walk of 25 minutes to the Mercat de la Barcelona (Barcelona Market), we would once again find ourselves walking 50 minutes to the art gallery called Joan Miro Foundation...UPHILL!

There was, thankfully, a café in the Foundation, so we filled our boots with tasty goodness (in my case a muffin) and returned on our journey to the Barcelona Olympic Museum. It went a few floors underground and there was Olympic memorabilia everywhere.

The day once again ended with the Nervion Restaurant - this time having a three-course meal (but with the absence of those dead flies in our drinks - they will be missed). However, hardly any of us were hungry because, like every British tourist, we had already been to McDonald's for a comfort meal.



Day Three began with the usual breakfast heaven, swiftly followed by the exuberant relief of knowing the whole day would be filled with coach journeys... not a footpath in sight! We first had a music-filled bus journey to Salvador Dali's preserved house, then stopped off at the Dali Theatre Museum for a quick self-guided tour.

After all that fun, it was time...THE HARD ROCK CAFÉ! Heaven on a small plate, an over-priced merch shop upstairs, and a funny waiter: it was deserving of a chef's kiss.



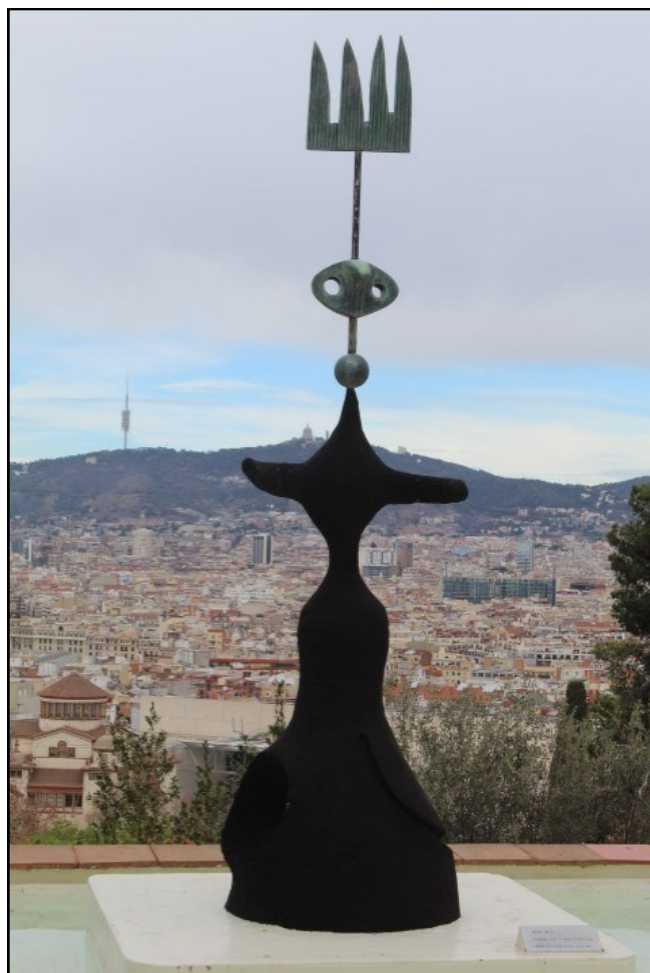
Day Four

The final day, however, it was by far my favourite. Yes, there was walking, but it wasn't too much for our poor legs, especially not after the exercise and rest of the previous days. It was a chillaxing day: walk to the Parc de la Ciutadela (a park) for ice-cream (because the day we were leaving, of course, was the most sunny), make our way to the Port Vell (basically Meadowhall) because we had to spend all our money somewhere, then walk to the beach where we were free to do whatever we wanted for a good two hours. It was a perfect day!

Of course, then we had to journey back to the hostel so we could get our bus back to the airport but hey, it had to end sometime.

The queues at the airports were massive. Utterly ridiculous! By around 2am or 3am we were home... only to have to be at school the next day for intervention if we were in Year 11!

By Hazel G



School Trips

New York, New York!

New York Performing Arts Trip

February half term saw 24 students and 3 staff travelling to New York City. Organised by WA Dance Faculty, students were able to experience the best that Broadway had to offer. We saw Chicago the Musical and Moulin Rouge, with Boy George starring and then students took part in dance workshops with cast members. The workshops were at a professional dance level and were a real challenge, but students undertook them with high levels of determination and commitment and the resulting dances were amazing!

In our jam packed itinerary, we also had time to visit some of NYC's most iconic sites, such as the Statue of Liberty and the 9/11 museum. Another highlight was a visit to the famous Radio City Music Hall for a tour and to meet a Rockette. It was a great opportunity for students to be able to ask questions to a professional dancer.

The trip was amazing and definitely provided positive school memories that will last a lifetime.



Enrichment at Wath Academy

Every Wednesday afternoon is 'Enrichment' time at Wath Academy. This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to take part in an activity creating memories that last a lifetime and developing character to complement their academic achievements. Participating in an activity can be pivotal in maintaining positive mental health, and there is an extensive range on offer from Animal Care and Baking to Boxing and Chess. Our Read about the experiences of some of our writers below. Will try one out next term?

Art

If you're looking for a calming and fun enrichment option for next term, Art could be for you.

Art allows you to improve your skills and have fun at the same time.

There are lots of opportunities to show off what you can already do as well as challenges from using charcoal to using a stick and ink, or you could try pop art.

I'm sure if you try it you will enjoy it. It is a nice way to make new friends and create lots of amazing work.

By Annabelle S



The *Cheddar Cheese* canvas from

Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Soup Cans*, 1962.

Torch

The Torch enrichment is why you even have this student magazine in your hands (or on your screen) right now!

In this enrichment, students can contribute to the newspaper and add *anything* they enjoy writing about.

There articles on school news and world events alongside jokes, puzzles and reviews of your favourite games, films or books. If you like creative writing, you can even write your own book and see part of it printed.

Imagine seeing your work in future editions of Torch -amazing right?

By Charlie GJ

Steiner Leaves Position at Haas

Guenther Steiner has decided to leave his position at Haas as the team's principal, this decision has come as a shock to many Formula One fans midway through the winter break. His decision has also brought some upset to avid Formula One fans who have loved the sport for many years, therefore are well acquainted with him as a team principal and as a character. Steiner was well known for his strong and bold personality: the fans learnt of these qualities via the Netflix series [Drive To Survive](#) where we as fans get to catch a glimpse of the behind the scenes of the past Formula One season. He spoke publicly recently about his departure from the team and what his plans are for the future in Formula One. He was incredibly grateful for his time at Haas and thanked the people there for giving him the opportunity that he had with the team. The decision to replace Steiner had been in discussion with the owner of the team (Gene Haas) for a short time, however when the decision was made it was decided that this was to be put in place with immediate effect. Steiner had many years of experience

within the sport of Formula One, working in many different fields such as engineering and management.

Haas made the decision to swap Steiner's position with a man called Komatsu who has worked with Haas for many years. The team believe the new team principal will be a good change, and that he will take the main responsibility in the team's strategy department. His aim is to maximise the team's potential by being efficient and focusing on helping all the departments and making all departments work to their full potential.

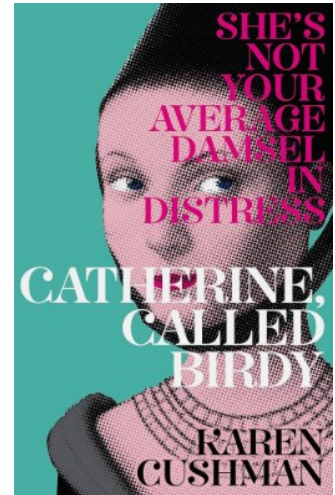
Finally, Gene Haas (the owner) thanked Guenther Steiner for his amazing work ethic with the team over the years that he has been their principal and said he will always be grateful for his belief in the team. He claims that he will never forget how Guenther improved the team in 2016 to 2018 and was leading them to a bright and successful future and that he will always be thankful for the successes he contributed.

By Kathryn E

REVIEWS

Catherine Called Birdy

by Karen Cushman



Rating- 5 stars

Recommended reading age - 12+ For readers who like historical fiction but even if you don't, I would still give it a try!

Prepare to be taken back to the 13th century where a teenage girl writes a diary on her everyday life. She's troubled because her father is trying to marry her off to many different suitors and her mother tries to teach her how to be lady-like.

I absolutely love this book because it's one of those where you could read it over and over again; it grabbed me through the whole story. I especially liked how Catherine described the things around her. She's so smart and funny. You really are whisked back to the 13th century and shown what life was like.

Favourite quotes:

"I think sometimes that people are like onions. On the outside smooth and whole and simple but inside ring upon ring, complex and deep."

"Corpus bones, I thought. To be wedded to this perfumed prig with his mouth in a knot and a frown always on his face!"

"I watched the early morning light pass over and through the windows of coloured glass, leaving streaks of red and green and yellow on the stone floor. When I was little, I used to try and capture the coloured light. I thought I could hold it in my hand and carry it home. Now I know it is like happiness-- it is there or it is not, you cannot hold it or keep it."

By Amelia O

Find the school library on the first floor!



REVIEWS

Geometry Dash

This game is very fun. However, it's a bit of a frustrating platformer and rhythm game!

Basically, you're a cube and you can be any other powerup with portal as they can make you play in other game modes.

Once a player starts they would start with stereo madness. If they choose this, they have some challenging jumps and some ship gameplay. You might find 3 gold coins. These are cool to collect but much more challenging as it can take you through a different route. The gold coins can be used to get more levels but those levels are more challenging

You can get the game in all app stores for no charge -it's free fun!

My favourite character is Scratch. He has a shop and so do other characters.

By Charlie GJ



Five Survive

by Holly Jackson

"a nail-biting thrill ride" says The Guardian.

This book is extremely fast paced and is full of surprises all the way through so there's no room for boredom.

If you are someone who usually predicts the ending of books (like me) this certainly won't be the case here because not only is the case solved but everything you ever questioned is just a piece of a much bigger puzzle.

By Ava R



PUZZLES & FUN

By Annabelle S and Charlie GJ

EASTER WORDSEARCH!

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



- EGGS
- BASKET
- CHOCOLATE
- SWEETS
- BUNNY
- SPRING
- CHICKS

I work at the bank and one day a lady came in and asked me to check her balance, so you know what I did? I pushed her. And for some reason, I lost my job!

Jokes!

*Knock knock!
Who's there?
Ice cream.
Ice cream who?*

ICE CREAM SO YOU CAN HEAR ME!

South Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championship



Taking place in Penistone, it was a really tough course with many hills. It was also very windy and muddy which made it even harder to run. Lots of competitors took part and Rotherham did really well. It was amazing to see everyone running for their team! Well done to everyone who took part: Wath Academy is proud of you all with a special congratulations to Marci in Y13 who came third and all of the Y7 girls who finished in the top 20.

By Annabelle S

