

Torch



Wath
Academy

**Athletics
Champions!**

Torch

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

You can contribute to *Torch* by attending the after-school club on Thursdays at 2:50 pm in G20 or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

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HOUSE UPDATE



With just weeks to go before the much anticipated Sports Day, the House standings are shaping up for a thrilling finish. Troy currently leads the Games Cup with 44.5 points, followed closely by Rome on 38. Carthage sits in third, while Sparta and Thebes will be looking to bounce back from the bottom spots.

In the Staff Cup, Rome holds the top spot, thanks to strong performances in quizzes and creative challenges, with Troy trailing by just four points. Athens and Thebes are in the chasing pack, while Carthage and Sparta are tied at the back.

Recent events have seen Rome dominating the student quiz events and Thebes performing well in Thursday paper challenges. Athens have showed strong form in recent Friday events and creative competitions, especially within the sixth form group. Whichever house you belong to, there is something to celebrate in the half term just gone.

With Sports Day on the horizon this half term, there's still plenty to play for so make sure you get involved in the events. It could be the perfect opportunity for underdogs like Thebes and Sparta to shine and end the term on a high.

Mr Brown • Head of Thebes

ANTI-BULLYING UPDATE

I'm sure you are aware that there are upstanders and bystanders in a situation but you might not necessarily know what they are; this is what this article is about!

The Oxford Languages Dictionary says that the definitions are:

upstander: a person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or a cause,

particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of someone being attacked or bullied.

bystander: a person who is present at an event but does not take part.

Be an upstander!

Jasmine S • Year 7

WATH ACADEMY TRIUMPHS IN ATHLETICS

Wath Academy athletes were crowned overall winners at the Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre.

Our athletes competed in the Inter-School Athletics competition at the Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre in Cudworth on 21st May.

It was fantastic day, with students representing the Academy with outstanding effort, attitude and behaviour.

It was also a day of great success. After a variety of events, Year 7 won their

competition. Year 8 came second in their group. In a closely-fought contest, our students finished second in the Year 9 category by just two points.

When all the points were totalled, Wath Academy were declared the overall winners!

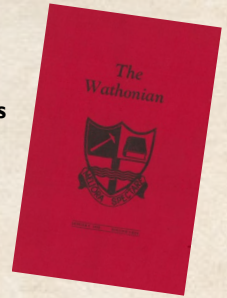
Congratulations to all students who took part.



From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch).

As the article opposite is on Wath Academy's victory in this year's Inter-School Sports athletics competition, we present two articles from the January 1953 issue of *The Wathonian* that report on the Inter-Schools competitions in athletics and cross-country running in 1952.



Inter-School Sports (1952)

The school showed a vast improvement in the Inter-School Sports which this year were held at Goole on July 15th.

We won the Senior Shield, were second in the Middles and second in the Juniors. Our final position was second -also. In recent year we have been the last or next to the last and so by comparison this result was encouraging.

Three new records were broken by members of the school team and they were, incidentally, the first the school has had.

The new records are the middle relay, the senior four-forty and the senior high jump.

I think our success was due largely to better training and to the guidance of Mr. Hogg, who is to be congratulated on the result of his hard work. With a little more effort we should win outright, next year

I. M. Athey • Upper VI. Sc.

The Inter-Schools Cross-Country Race (1952)

This year the Cross Country Race was run at Goole. The course as we all expected was flat, the only rise being up the canal bank. The race started in a flurry of snow, continued in sleet and rain and finished in bright sunshine.

As we had won the shield the year before we were out to repeat our previous success. We did ; we bettered last year's performance by having our first four runners in the first five and with the other four finishing 8th, 22nd, 23rd and 31st. Gray, our captain, ran a magnificent race and was 1st. Walton, our dark horse, also ran well and came in second. A Goole lad was third and Beresford was fourth followed by Hooper, F. Kay came in 8th, Barker was 22nd, Swanwick 23rd and Kirk 31st.

Let us hope we can do as well in 1953.

F. Hooper • Upper VI. Sc.

VE DAY

This year is the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

May 8th 2025 marks 80 years since the Victory in Europe Day, when the Nazis surrendered in World War II.

Winston Churchill (the prime minister at the time) announced the end of the war on the 8th May 1945 over a radio broadcast to the whole of the United Kingdom. This day marks the end of the war.

Members of the royal family made appearances at remembrance events and other things/meets to appreciate those who passed, and those who lived to tell the story.

Around twenty-one to twenty-five million soldiers passed away, and fifty to fifty-five

million civilians died – this is a total of seventy to eighty five million deaths, and VE day is so important so we can thank, remember and appreciate everyone who lost their life, or lost a loved one.

The fact all these numbers are so high, it really puts into perspective how bad the wars were, and how scary it must've been for every single person affected, and that is why days like VE Day and Remembrance Day are so important.

To celebrate the national holiday in 1945, people hosted parties (specifically street parties) and there was a lot of dancing and singing.

Poppy G • Year 7

Victory celebrations in
London on VE Day 1945
(Image: Imperial War Museum/
public domain)



THE DEATH OF POPE FRANCIS

Lily H tells us about the death of Pope Francis and appointment of Pope Leo XIV.

Recently, the Pope in Vatican City, the Pope died of a stroke. He was 88. On Easter Monday, everyone got the news of Pope Francis's death.

Francis had been healthy, though in his early 20s, he had surgery to have a lung removed because there was a infection.

Francis lived in Vatican city for about 12 years, so from 13th March 2013 until 21st April 2025. His last words were to his nurse after visiting St Peter's Square. He said: "Thank you for bringing me back to the Square."

The new Pope is Robert Francis Prevost who has taken the name Pope Leo XIV.



Image: Koreanet / Korean Culture and Information Service (Jeon Han), CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Pope Francis

Lily H • Year 7

Animals Quiz Answers

1. How many hearts do octopuses have? *Three*
2. How many times a week do sloths poo? *Once a week*
3. Which animal is the only land animal that cannot jump? *Elephant*
4. Where is a cockroach's brain? *In its lower body*
5. What animal is 40 times stronger than us? *Dogs*
6. Which animal can predict other animals' movements? *Snakes*

ALL ABOUT MEADOWHALL

Meadowhall, between Sheffield and Rotherham, is the largest shopping centre in our local area. Ruby I in Year 7 tells us what you can look forward to if you go and visit.

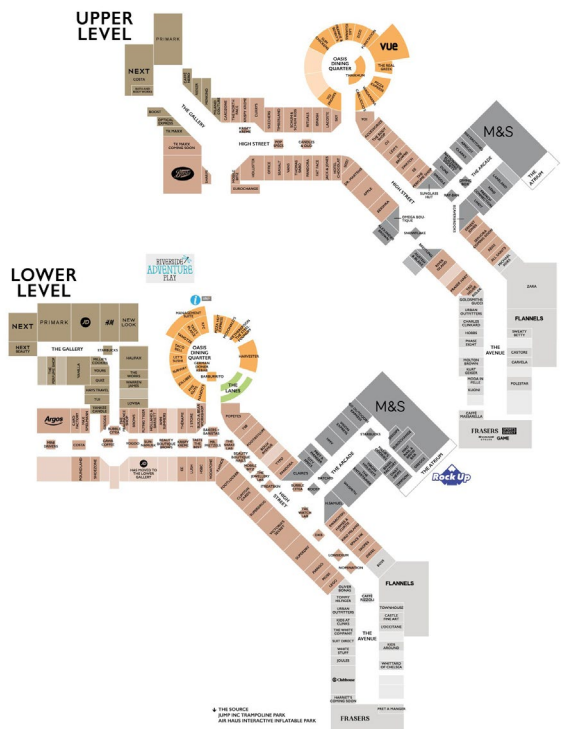
Meadowhall opened on 4th September 1990. Meadowhall is in Sheffield and is one of the UK's biggest shopping centres.

Recently Meadowhall got new shops such as Space NK, Bershka, a new Zara location and new Sephora and Superdrug.

It has many attractions such as VUE and arcade. Apple does many sessions on the products which could be useful.

Some of the food shops are Nandos, McDonald's, Popeyes, Pizza Express.

Some popular shops include Sports Direct, Space NK, JD, Zara and many more.



REVIEWS



Snow White (coming to Disney+ on 11th June)

Disney's latest live-action remake, *Snow White* (2025), is yet another unnecessary remake, but unfortunately, it falls flat in almost every regard.

From awkward performances to subpar CGI, this film struggles to capture the magic of the original classic.

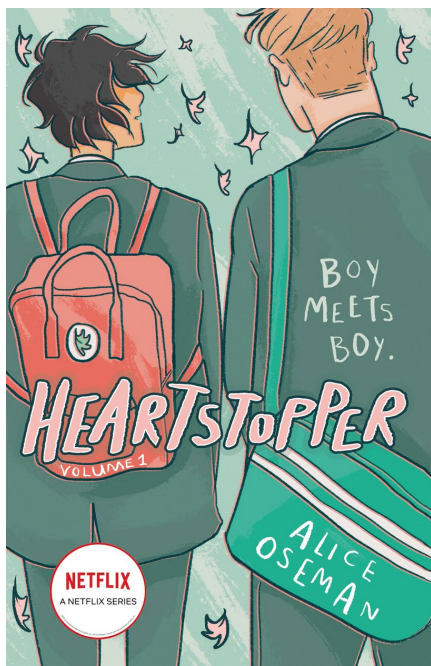
The controversy surrounding Disney's new *Snow White* movie stems from various factors, including Rachel Zegler's casting, criticism of the film's portrayal of women and the seven dwarfs, and off-screen drama, according to several sources.

The 2025 live-action *Snow White* reimagines the classic tale, focusing on Snow White's journey to reclaim her kingdom after being poisoned by the Evil Queen.

Key changes include Snow White being a true leader, not a damsel in distress, and the story exploring the Evil Queen's motivations and Snow White's connection to her father.

The film also introduces a new romantic interest, Jonathan, the leader of a group of bandits.

Isabelle G • Year 7



Heartstopper Volume 1 by Alice Oseman

This book is a heart-warming read and will fill you with joy. A group of young adults discover their inner feelings and help each other out when things get rough.

Fifteen year old boy Charlie Spring is in a difficult relationship with Ben Hope. Realising Ben is cheating on him with a girl, he immediately ends it.

While in his tutor he is moved to sit next to a Year 11 named Nick Nelson; without thinking Charlie becomes quite fond of him and forms a loving crush.

Tao, his close friend but quite stubborn, insists that he should eliminate his beloved nick and look for someone who isn't straight. Yet, despite his pleas Charlie invites nick to his birthday party (bowling) and they just click.

Weeks later, they go to this popular boys party, even though Charlie feels uncomfortable around the birthday boy (as he was actively bullying him for being gay). Nick and Charlie run to escape the chaos and something happens...

I would recommend this book to anyone between the ages of 12-15. This book really highlights the ups and downs of LGBTQIA+ relationships.

Heidi W • Year 7

Heartstopper Volume 1 is the first book in an ongoing series.

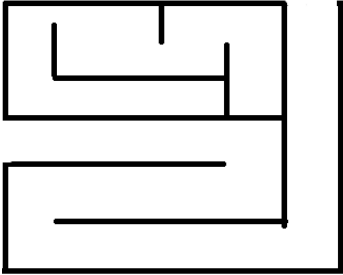
The books are graphic novels, as can be seen from this page.



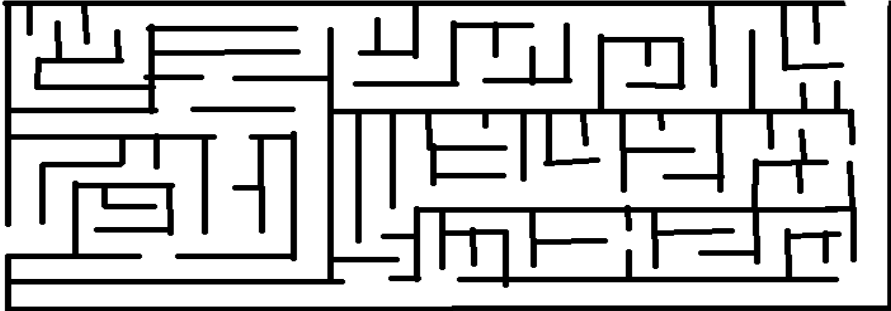
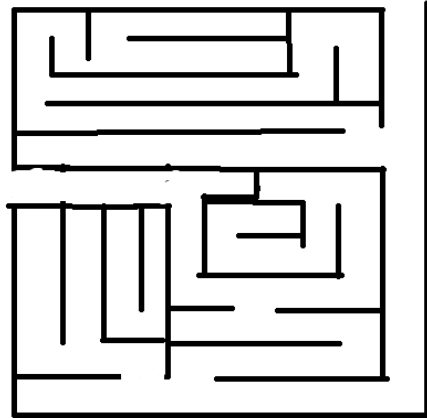
PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 7

Mazes



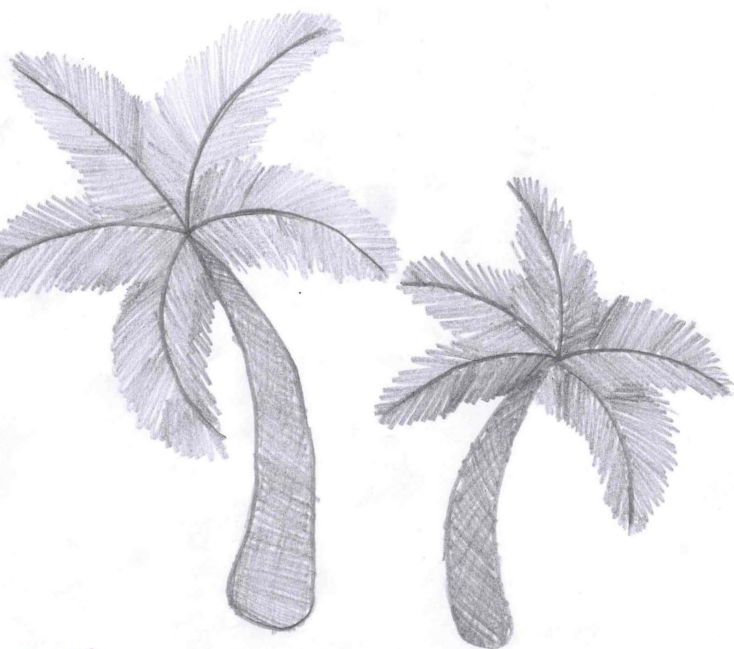
Try to beat these mazes! The maze above is easy, the one to the right is medium and the one below is hard.



Animals Quiz

1. How many hearts do octopuses have?
2. How many times a week do sloths poo?
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4. Where is a cockroach's brain?
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6. Which animal can predict other animal's movements?

Poppy G • Year 7



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SUMMER
summer