

Torch



Year 7 Footballers Win the Utilita Cup
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 Tuesdays at 2:50 pm in G20 or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

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**Wath
Academy**

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HOUSE UPDATE



The excitement of Troy's and Rome's impressive victories last year is still in the air, with many of the students enjoying a momentous day out at Alton Towers to celebrate! Troy celebrated a fantastic victory in the Games Cup, whilst Rome once again secured the Work Cup. A massive thank you to all students and staff who showed dedication and effort across all houses. This resulted in a very exciting and memorable year. Last year's competition was filled with energy, teamwork and determination, all of which we hope to replicate again this year.

We also need to mention the incredible fundraising activities which resulted in many charity donations last year. We had the:

- Goals for Gaza, raising £759.68 for Save the Children
- Row Show, raising £235.64 for Children in Need
- Wath Academy Christmas Star, raising £5166.20 for Sheffield Children's Hospital
- Clothing donation for Shiloh Shelter
- Tin Trail raising donations for Wath Food Bank and Shiloh Shelter
- Plus the individual house charities.

An amazing effort by all involved to help and support our local community.

A new year brings with it new House members, students and staff, and I would like to send them a very warm welcome.

You will all now be helping your house win those coveted trophies and you will be cementing yourself in the very history of the house system at Wath. A new year also brings with it new opportunities, and it would be amiss of me not to mention our new House Captains and Vice Captains. Their names will be announced next half term.

It is great to see so many students getting involved so far this year, determined to win points for their house, and celebrating so enthusiastically when declared victorious! Currently, Troy leads the Games Cup and Rome leads the Staff Cup and Work Cup, with Troy just behind. Victories have come from every house so far and all have something to be proud of already!

We have yet to declare our first creative task winner of this year so I must not give too much away, but I know we have received some very impressive entries raising awareness of Alzheimer's disease.

Mrs Lines • Head of Troy



The Alton Towers trip

THE HOUSE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Chloe C tells us all about Wath's six houses.

When the school opened in 1923, there were two houses: Rome and Sparta (which are named after ancient cities). When the number of pupils grew, the houses Athens and Carthage were added in 1925, then Thebes and Troy in 1927.

Every week, half term or year, Wath Academy runs house games including the Games Cup, the Work Cup and the Staff Cup where students and teachers alike compete for the House Cup.



Athens

As many of you already know, Athens' house qualities are aspiration, competitiveness, loyalty, responsibility and wisdom. Their house badge is red with an Athenian helmet. To answer these questions I have spoken to Head of Athens, Mr Marriott.

How many times has your house won the Games/Work/Staff Cup?

"Athens had dominated the Games cup for many years – until Troy took over from them recently. They had successive wins prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. "

Are there any famous alumni that were in your house?

"Lord William Hague is a former Athens House Captain. His political career has spanned many years and is now a life peer sitting in the House of Lords and directly influencing the UK at the heart of government. In a recent communication with Ms Ashton, he stated: 'It is always good to hear from Wath! I was in Athens in my time at school, and was the House captain, which must have been in 1978/9. So the house system was a big part of my life at Wath and I was always proud to be part of it. I am not up to date on the houses now, but if they are still the same, go Athens!'"



Carthage

Carthage is one of the houses here at Wath Academy and its qualities are candidness, honesty, kindness, perseverance and strength. You can identify a Carthage student by their purple badge with a boat. The Carthaginian Empire extended over much of the coast of north west Africa as well as encompassing substantial parts of coastal Iberia and the islands of the western Mediterranean Sea. Carthaginians were a formidable warring nation. They fought the Punic Wars against Rome.



Rome

Rome are known for recently topping many of the tables in house events. Their values are confidence, credibility, faithfulness, reliability and trust.

As you may have noticed, Rome is symbolised by a eagle on a green background. I asked Mr Gibson about house history.

How many times has your house won the Games/Work/Staff Cup?

“In the current format, Rome has won the Staff Cup in 2025, the Games Cup in 2024 and the Work Cup in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.”

Are there any famous alumni that were in your house?

“Unfortunately, I am not aware of any famous Alumni from Rome.”

Are there any other notable achievements worth mentioning?

“Rome succeeded in winning the Work Cup and Games Cup in a single year in 2024, they also got second in the Staff Cup that year.”



Sparta

Consideration, courage, endurance, teamwork and vision are well known for being Sparta’s house visions (their house badge is a blue fox), but here is some house history you may not of heard.

Sparta was one of the main city states in Ancient Greece. It was famous for its army and extensive training. Spartan women enjoyed a great many liberties and equality. Spartan phalanx brigades were widely considered to be among the best in battle.



Thebes

Ambition, determination, enthusiasm, focus and optimism are all qualities every Thebes student must show. A spinx on an orange background shows everyone you belong to this house.

“Sadly, Thebes in the current format have never won the Games/Work/Staff cup. There are no famous alumni. They did win the Staff House Activity Day in 2023,” says Miss Molson.



Troy

Curiosity, dedication, ingenuity, prudence, and tolerance are Troy’s house values. They also have been topping the house challenges, alongside Rome, in recent years.

Because of the myth surrounding the fall of Troy, their house emblem is a horse.

Mrs Lines was contacted for history of The House of Troy: “Troy has won the Games cup twice in the last three years and came a very close second for the other time. They have won the Staff Cup once and been very close second for the last two years. We have never won the work cup. We have also won Sports Day and were hoping to win it two years in a row but it was cancelled due to the weather last year.

“Three-and-a-half years ago we were towards the bottom of every table but we then won the final half term league table and have been up at the top ever since.”

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this article. Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoyed my article about the history of the houses.

Chloe C • Year 7

ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

Wath students trained to be guides.

In the early weeks of this academic year, me and 18 other students in Year 9 took part in the Anne Frank exhibition. At first, we were all quite tentative as we were unsure on what was to come but Billy (from the National Anne Frank Trust) guided us through the process so thoroughly that we understood everything by the time we had to present the exhibition.

The training took part over a two-day period and included us doing many activities to immerse us in the story of Anne Frank. Once the training was complete, we split into three groups that toured all the classes in Year 9 and some in the older years around the exhibition.

The showcase consisted of roughly 25 panels that portrayed the story of Anne Frank starting in Frankfurt on the 12th of June 1929 to her 13th birthday where she received her diary to her dad later publishing her diary under the title the Secret Annex. It was shocking learning about the concentration camps and just how extreme the conditions were.

Another highlight of the week was when our parents and carers came to school and received a tour – it was lovely to see how proud they were for our hard work.

Overall, the week gave us a great insight to the troubles of Jews, Anne and her family during what is now known as the holocaust.

Ellie T • Year 9



ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

For the benefit of students new to the school, Jasmine S explains what anti-bullying ambassadors do.

Are you a Year 7? Do you want to help stop bullying? If so, this is the article for you!

Do you want to join anti-bullying?

Year 7s have previously been given the option to join the anti-bullying ambassadors at doing their best to make everyone feel safe and welcome to this school. Although, if you still want to join, take the opportunity to – just contact any member of safeguarding.

What will being an anti-bullying ambassador be like?

Being in anti-bullying ambassador gives you the opportunity to be an upstander

rather than a bystander. If you have ever experienced bullying then you know how it feels so you won't want anyone else feeling the same way as you and being an ambassador slims the chances.

What responsibilities come with being an ambassador?

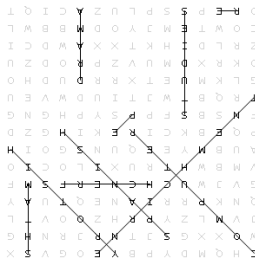
With being an anti-bullying ambassador, comes responsibilities: turning up to meetings when expected and help people when they are in a bullying situation or knows someone in one.

Jasmine S • Year 8

Write for Torch!

Attend the after-school club
on Tuesdays at 2:50 pm
in G20

Or email articles to
torch@wathacademy.com



- Puzzle Solutions**
Halloween & bonfire Night Quiz
1. 31st October
 2. 5th November
 3. Defeating the Gunpowder Plot
 4. 'Trick or treat!'
 5. Vampires/Dracula
 6. Sweets or chocolate
 7. A Guy Fawkes effigy



MEET WATH'S NEW TEACHERS

The start of a new academic year doesn't just mean a new set of students – there are always new teachers starting too. Ruby B in Year 8 interviewed four new teachers to find out how they are settling in.

Mr Holmes Mathematics



What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

I was inspired to become a teacher at Wath Academy because of the way the school values and genuinely cares about each of its students.

Why do you like teaching your subject?

I like teaching Mathematics because I enjoy showing students that Maths doesn't have to be scary and can be interesting and helpful for their everyday lives.

What do you do enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I like to go for runs, spending time with my family and friends, and reading.

Mr Cook Mathematics



What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

Every student deserves a world class education; I want to ensure all the students in my classroom and the department have access to the highest level of teaching and make outstanding progress as a result. Wath Academy has a brilliant growth mindset which allows students to succeed academically while developing their character through the amazing enrichment offers on a Wednesday

Why do you like teaching your subject?

I enjoy teaching Maths because it allows me to share my passion for problem-solving and logical thinking with others. I love seeing students gain confidence as they master new concepts and realise how Maths connects to real-life situations and

careers. Did you know that the over a lifetime someone that gets a 'good' passing GCSE Maths grade compared to those that didn't can expect to earn over £100,000 more?

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I love to go travelling. I've been fortunate enough to travel and backpack around most European countries (I've only got six more European countries to visit) and spent six weeks backpacking around south east Asia. I also enjoy going to music gigs, listening to indie, rock and post-punk music.

Mrs Khogali English



What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy ?

I have been teaching for five years in London and Kent, after working with children and young people in several other jobs before I trained to be a teacher. I decided to move back up north this year to be closer to family and Wath had such a great reputation that I was excited to start working here!

Why do you like teaching your subject?

English is a great subject for developing critical thinking; I love supporting students to learn new things about the world around them and to be more creative too.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

I love to travel and have visited lots of different countries and even lived in two others (Germany and New Zealand). I also enjoy painting, reading, spending time with friends or family, and looking after my two pet goldfish: Edna and Pedro!

Miss Whyman Food Preparation and Nutrition

What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

I was drawn to Wath Academy because of its strong community feel and commitment to helping every student reach their potential. I really value being part of a school that sets high standards but also cares deeply about the wellbeing and personal growth of its students. Having taught in different settings, I wanted to be part of a school that was forward-thinking, supportive, and somewhere I feel I can make a genuine difference in students' lives.

Why do you like teaching your subject?

I've always loved teaching Food Preparation and Nutrition because it's such a practical and meaningful subject. It gives students real-life skills they'll use beyond school, from understanding nutrition and health to being confident in the kitchen. I also enjoy seeing students grow in confidence as they develop creativity and independence through cooking and problem-solving. For me, it is very rewarding to see how food brings people together and helps students connect classroom learning to everyday life.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I love spending time outdoors and with family and friends. I am a big traveller and love seeing new places and cultures! Family time is really important to me, and I also love animals – I have rescued and rehomed one dog from China, a cat from China, and another cat from Dubai, who all made the journey home with me!

Ruby B • Year 8

YEAR 7 GIRLS CROWNED CHAMPIONS UNDERDOGS TRIUMPH AT THE EFL UTILITA CUP



The Year 7 girls' football team's trophy success.

Our Year 7 girls' football team made school history this week by winning the EFL Utilita Cup at Dinnington, defeating older and more experienced teams along the way, and proving that grit, teamwork and belief can conquer all.

Competing in a Year 8 tournament, the team entered as clear underdogs. But from the first whistle, it was obvious they were not there just to make up the numbers. They opened with a tough 0–0 draw, showing early signs of defensive discipline and determination. The group stage was fiercely competitive at first and looked like it might go down to goal difference, but as the games went on the girls found their rhythm, winning all their remaining matches and finishing top of their group in style.

Leading the charge up front was our

forward, whose eye for goal and cool finishing made her the team's top goal scorer. Her determination in attack gave the team a constant threat and inspired confidence throughout the squad.

From there, the girls grew stronger with every game. The quarter-finals and semi-finals saw them play with real flair and focus, sweeping past their opponents with ease to book a place in the final.

The final brought the biggest challenge yet, Dinnington, the

"We are incredibly proud of every single player. Their determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the tournament has been phenomenal. They truly deserve this victory."

– Miss Sprack

local favourites. The match was tense and hard-fought, with both sides battling for every ball. After a goalless full-time, it all came down to penalties. Step forward our fearless goalkeeper, who produced brilliant saves under pressure to seal the win and spark scenes of celebration and pride.

“Every single player played their part in this incredible achievement.”

Their victory is more than just a trophy win. It is a story of resilience, teamwork and belief, a reminder that

age and expectation mean nothing when determination takes the field.

A huge well done to the entire squad for their outstanding teamwork and spirit. Every single player played their part in this incredible achievement.

As a result of their triumph, the team will now be invited to represent Rotherham United in the Area Finals, another exciting opportunity to show their skill, determination and team spirit on a bigger stage.

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls' football team, true champions in every sense!

Miss Sprack • Y7 Girls' Football Team Coach



YEAR 8 GIRLS MAKE SEMI-FINALS IN EFL UTILITA CUP

Our Year 8 girls' football team delivered a brilliant performance in this year's EFL Utilita Cup, reaching the semi-finals and narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Competing in a tough tournament, the girls showed skill, determination and teamwork throughout. From the group stages, they demonstrated their quality on the ball, securing impressive wins and holding their own against some of the strongest teams in the region.

In the knockout rounds, the team continued to shine, playing with confidence and composure to reach the semi-finals. The match proved to be a tight and intense contest, with every player giving their all, but unfortunately the team just missed out on advancing to the final.

Mr Handley, the team coach, said: "I am incredibly proud of this squad. They played with skill and determination throughout the tournament. Their performance shows just how talented and resilient they are."

Despite the narrow defeat, the girls can be extremely proud of their achievement. The semi-final finish highlights their talent, grit and potential, and shows that the future of our school football is in very capable hands.

Congratulations to the entire squad for their efforts and determination. Every player contributed to this fantastic run, and their teamwork and spirit were a credit to the school.

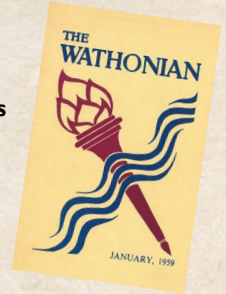
Miss Sprack • Teacher of English



Jack C • Year 7

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). Back in 1959, coal mining was the industry that provided most of the employment in Wath-upon-Dearne and many other parts of South Yorkshire. However, even back then, it was clear that coal would one day be replaced by other sources of energy. This article from *The Wathonian* published in January 1959 imagines what the future would be like for Wath without coal. The coal mines in Wath eventually closed in 1988.



The Green and Pleasant Land (1959)

South Yorkshire, this is our heritage. Even the most staunch of Yorkshiremen is bound to concede that our share of the county's broad acres scarcely presents a prepossessing panorama.

With what then are we blessed? Coal! Coal, the blessing and the blight of the area! Beneath us the search goes on, continually wider and deeper, for coal, the mineral upon which the whole economic structure of the district is dependent. But, the maintenance of the economic structure involves the subsidence of our superstructure and despite elaborate precautions, our school, whilst upholding its academic equilibrium, is visibly wilting structurally.

Thanks to this frantic search for coal, our countryside has but little green and pleasant. Even what sparse relief remains from the drab and dreary scene of this area seems in jeopardy from the appalling desecration of "open-cast" mining.

Let us envisage the Dearne Valley many decades hence through the idealists' eyes.

What a transformation has taken place! No longer is the horizon one of countless chimneys belching forth their pollution to the point of saturation. Our school may no longer be bursting at the seams from a surfeit of pupils or through protracted subsidence. Inside our seat of learning what might we find? Empty desks, empty classrooms, too many teachers!

One day, whether we like it or not, the scientist's dream of an Atomic Age will be realised and this area will have to adapt itself to this new era. Coal mining, together with all its attendant ravages, will be obsolete, having been replaced by the clinical cleanliness of atomic power. Whether South Yorkshire will be able to support such a large population will depend on how well we adapt ourselves to the demands of the future.

May our successors then, in the not-too-distant future, stand on the remnants of our playing fields and gaze across our 'little valley' at a vista no longer defiled by industrial murk – a green and pleasant land.

J. M. Gittins • Upper VI Sc.

MY OPINION ON TODAY'S WILDLIFE

Ellie N in Year 7 tells us why so many species are endangered and why we should care.

Today's nature faces significant threats from human activities, with global wildlife agriculture, populations declining by 73% since 1970 due to habitat loss, climate change, and pollution. Personally, and I'm going to be brutally honest here, I find this disgusting and unacceptable. Imagine – just for a moment – how devastating it would be to find your home destroyed by careless people who left the barbecue for too long: terrible, right?

Habitat Loss

Intensified farming, which uses around 70% of our precious land, has caused significant damage to the world around us. Significant environmental damage such as water pollution, animal welfare issues and the soil's downgraded quality will be the downfall – on a massive global scale – of the planet. The more habitat we destroy, the more homeless animals there will be. This carelessness of the habitats will force the ecosystem to falter, demolishing this intricate web of wildlife. Luckily, there are people trying to make a difference by protecting certain areas, improving crop fields, supporting tree planting and reducing waste.

Extinction of Certain Animals

There is also something else on the brink of extinction: animals. Animals, the creatures we collectively depend on. We wouldn't be here without these. Yet, we continue hurting and abusing their homes, their species, and themselves.

Amur leopards are one of the animals that need our contribution. They live in Far Eastern Russia and Northern China; they are usually found in pine areas and are uniquely adapted to wintry weather. The most common reason for their species declining is poaching for their fur, the pain inevitably murdering them in cold blood.

Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans are all critically endangered, facing an extremely high risk of extinction as people deforest their homes, leaving them out in the open as they uncomfortably search for new places to live. Their vulnerability will attract predators such as clouded leopards, tigers, large pythons, crocodiles and black eagles.

Finally, as we come to the end of our article, the African forest elephant. They face numerous threats, but the largest one

An adult female Tapanuli orangutan (Image: Tim Laman, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

is poaching. People hunt elephants down and steal their tusks away, the pain - again - killing them as the black market demands plenty of riches for their ivory tusks. Due to the elephants' slow reproduction, their species faces a rapid decline, leaving them with fewer than 100,000 in the wild.

Conclusion

When I came to my conclusion, I was shocked by the sheer amount of damage we humans have done to affect our

wildlife. However, we can try to contribute by donating to charities, recycling, and reducing the litter we drop. I hope this has shed some light that humanity is failing our planet, but we can make a difference if we all work together.

Thank you for reading all the way up to here, and I hope you take this conscience with you.

Ellie N • Year 7



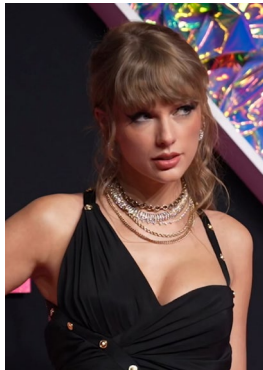
TAYLOR SWIFT'S ENGAGEMENT

The pop superstar is getting married.

Taylor Swift got engaged on August 26th 2025 to Travis Kelce. The famous singer has dated Travis (a famous American football player) since the summer of 2023.

Travis asked Taylor's dad for permission to get married, and he replied, "Well, come on, when are you going to get this done?" Their engagement was beautiful and he proposed at the Botanical Garden in Missouri.

Taylor Swift was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania in the United States of America. Her love of song writing started in Nashville when she was still at school. Liz Rose (vocal coach) and Taylor had sessions creating songs every Tuesday after school. Her first song that she wrote was when she was twelve years old was 'Lucky



Me'. She asked lots of record labels to listen to her songs but nobody believed in her except this one guy, Scooter Braun, but he later ripped her off and she had to release

her songs all over again. That's how the *Taylor's Versions* were made, but now she's bought her songs back and you can listen to all of them.

Travis Kelce was born in Ohio. He was born on the 5th of October and is 36 years old. He went to the University of Cincinnati, where he played American football. He is the son of Ed and Donna Kelce. He grew up with his older brother Jason. He is an American football player and plays for the team Kansas City Chiefs.

Travis first knew Taylor from seeing her perform and wanted her number so he planned to sneak in backstage and meet her but that plan failed! So instead he put his number in a friendship bracelet and gave it her during the performance in the bracelet trading part. Before that attempt, he mentioned his failed try to meet her on his podcast and Taylor Swift heard it and decided to get in touch with him.

They plan to get married in the summer of 2026!

Taylor kept on dropping clues about a new album. When it was released earlier this month, *Life of a Showgirl* contained a song about Travis called 'Opalite'.

Connie S • Year 7

BLACK FRIDAY

Edward R tells us about the massive retail event that happens towards the end of November each year.

It all began with financial panics, then it morphed into a term for the chaotic shopping days after Thanksgiving, and was popularised in the 1980s to signify a move from 'red' (loss) to 'black' (profit) on accounting books. Typically it lasts four days.

Why is it called Black Friday?

It is called that for two main reasons: police in 1960s used it to describe the chaotic and overwhelming traffic and crowds of shoppers the day after Thanksgiving, and later, retailers embraced the name.

Edward R • Year 7



Wath
Academy
Sixth Form

OPEN 2025 EVENING

Thursday 6 November
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Presentation at 6 pm



Register your
interest today!

OFSTED
Outstanding

July 2023



YOUR WELLBEING

Top ten tips to keep your wellbeing healthy everyday.

1) Get a good night's sleep

Getting a good night's sleep is good for both your wellbeing and physical health.

2) Keeping active

Aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity per day, even if it's just a short walk and a workout session or a whole exercise push in one go.

3) Limited screen time

Sometimes, we can be on our phones way too much so sometimes we do not get outside much so remember to get away and have a digital detox every now and then.

4) A balanced diet

Every day, try to fit in all different types of food groups like carbohydrates, protein and vegetables while also trying to get your five a day incorporated with your meals.

5) Ask for help

Never be afraid to ask for help because needing help is not a disadvantage. Asking for help is actually a strength that not many people have.

6) Take time for yourself

Always remember to never be too hard on yourself and whenever something feels overwhelming. Always try and do some deep breathing and try to regulate yourself anyway you can.

7) Help others

Even though this may seem like it only does good for others, by doing a small act of kindness like just smiling at someone or holding the door open can make you feel happy as well from doing a good deed.

8) Learn and be curious

Yes, not everyone likes learning but what about if it was something you were interested in then you would want to learn more about it and challenge yourself to lift self esteem, but be careful not to over do it or it may have the opposite effect.

9) Identify your triggers

Make sure you know what over stimulates you so you know what to stay away from and how to calm yourself when something out of your comfort zone happens for example practise breathing exercises.

10) Be creative

Every now and then, step away from work and do something you enjoy like art or a sport.

Thank you for reading my page and I hope this helps with your mental health.

Sapphire M • Year 7

UNAPOLOGETICALLY ME

A poem by Niamh E in Year 9.

I was not born of the whispers of doubt nor the jagged fragments of someone else's fractured reflection

I am sunlight cracking concrete, a wildfire too defiant for your silence,
They told me "Shrink. Be soft. Be less." As if my voice should be folded like linens tucked back in a drawer labelled 'shame'

But I,

I am not a murmur

I am the reverberation in your chest when truth crashes into the room, wearing no apologies and crowned with every 'no' you once tried to poison me with

Yet there was a day I lost someone not to death but to disillusionment

To the slow decay of their love because I dared to be precisely who I am

They gazed at me like I was a stranger in my own skin, as if betrayed them by choosing joy over shame

And it broke me

It shattered me to pieces

Like tearing a page from a book, we once wrote together,

Like burying a future I'd already woven in my mind

I mourned for the laughter that vanished the moment I ceased pretending

I stood there, exposed, courageous and shattered

Watching love slip away because I was finally free.

But here's the truth

Freedom has a cost

And sometimes that price is losing those who only ever loved the edited version of you

They'll say,

You'll never make it,

You're too much,

You're too weird.

And to that I say yes. Yes, I am too much but I'd rather be too much for you than insufficient for myself.

See this grief

It doesn't weaken me

It makes me authentic

Continued overleaf...

It makes me whole
Because embracing my true self cost me something but losing myself would've cost me everything
So yes, I carry the ache
But I carry it like a banner,
Like a medal
Like proof I loved hard and lived louder
I am not your perception of me
I am not the fear reflected in your eyes
I am not the name you tried to bury me under
I am the echo of my ancestor's laughter a rhythm in sync with the beat of my heart
I am the poem that writes itself each time I rise when they pray I would fall
You want to talk about authenticity
Authentic is loving yourself even when it tears your heart in two
Authentic is staying tender in a world that deems its weakness
Authentic is dancing in your differences when conformity begs for company
So no
I won't be silent I won't tone it down
I won't smile for your comfort or reshape myself for your social media feed
I'll keep striding forward a neon yes in a world full of nos
A celebration in every step, a revolution in every breath
Because being unapologetically yourself
Unfiltered, unbroken, and loud
Is the most profound kind of love there is
And I love me even through the loss
Even through the ache
Even when it cost me everything
Because, in the end I'm all I've truly got and that is more than enough
And now, after all the noise, after all the pain
I have found something,
A spark, a rhythm
A place where my souls finally gets to exhale
Perhaps it was through poetry or dancing as though the world owed me joy
Maybe it was music or the stillness of the early morning when my thoughts finally stopped shouting.
But whatever it was, it healed me not all at once but piece by sacred piece
And now, I don't just survive I thrive with passion as my compass
Scars as my narrative
And a heart that understands being myself was never the issue
It was always
The freedom

REVIEWS



Image: Netflix

KPop Demon Hunters (Netflix)

The latest film on Netflix is *KPop Demon Hunters*. It is popular for the story line and mainly the songs. Some people think its over rated while others love it what it sounds like.

The plot is set in a world where demons used to live but three people created the Honmoon (a shield around the world) that protects the earth from demons. Every generation, a new trio forms to protect the world.

Top 7 Songs in KPop Demon Hunters

1. 'Golden'
2. 'Idol'
3. 'How It's Done'
4. 'Soda Pop'
5. 'Takedown'
6. 'What It Sounds Like'
7. 'Free'

They are the KPop Demon Hunters called Rumi, Zoey and Mira. They are in a band called Huntr/X. The film is about their battle to

defend the world from demons... but one of them has a big secret.

The film is full of catchy pop songs. The film starts off nice and calm with everything perfect, but 15 minutes later, the world becomes a disaster. The change was so quick. The world goes from loving Huntr/X to the Saja Boys, which is what destroys the world. When I started watching, I thought I knew what was going to happen (and that it would be boring and calm), but the film had a lot of drama and excitement.

The animation took six years and is very impressive. It looks very colourful and there's a lot of pink. It never gets boring. It has enough emotion for adults as well as children. ★★★★★

Evie F • Year 7

Wednesday Season 2 (Netflix)

After the success of its first season, Netflix recently released the second season of the hit show *Wednesday*. It has been popular amongst all, particularly the youth, growing the audience of Tim Burton's filmography into the newer generations.

After season one, all is thought to be fine for the outcasts. However, the many plot threads that occur throughout the second series show that this is not the case. Enid, Wednesday's best friend and roommate, has been part of a premonition, foreshadowing her death. The story does not end there for Enid, as her issues regarding her werewolf abilities are found to be caused by the fact that she is an alpha, making her stronger than those typically found in outcast groups. These storylines for Enid show that not only could there be a danger to a character, as shown by her potential death, but it also shares the message that people may be facing things alone in private, and just need the help of a friend, a strong message which Burton conveys throughout the season. Similarly, Bianca's involvement in a cult mirrors this, as the only way she is able to escape this life she was trapped in is through the help of her friends who were unbeknownst to her situation.

The supernatural themes are also present throughout the series, keeping traditional themes linked to Burton as the outcasts,

ironically named, are shown to be strong, and having the skill to build a community amongst themselves whilst also welcoming those who were not like them, such as the Sheriff of Jericho, who helps Nevermore Academy multiple times throughout the show. The series explores ideas of familial struggle through the use of supernatural messages, as Wednesday is seen to lose her abilities as the relationship between her and her mother worsens, causing problems not only to their connection but to herself.

Whilst there are many more storylines and messages which can be explored, it is better that the audience creates their own meanings as to what can be seen, as lots happens throughout the show. The show manages to still stay entertaining whilst having many hidden meanings, which an audience can connote as they watch the new season. It has similar characteristics as the first season, such as horror elements, slight romance and gothic aesthetics.

Overall, the show continued to follow the themes which had been seen in season one, showing the continuity of the show and it's method of narration. I highly recommend this show, as it is not only high quality, but it also has many hidden, and not-so-hidden, messages in which it conveys. ★★★★★

Ruby R • Year 13

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 7

School Subjects Wordsearch

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

Computer Studies
 French
 PE

Drama
 History
 RE

Enrichment
 Maths
 Spanish

Amelia G & Jack C • Year 7

Halloween and Bonfire Night Quiz

- When is Halloween?
- When is Bonfire Night?
- Why is Bonfire Night celebrated?
- What do children say when they knock on doors on Halloween?
- What creature is associated with Whitby?
- What do adults give children on Halloween?
- What other than wood do people burn on Bonfire Night?

Chloe C • Year 7

