

The Magazine of Wath Academy

Vol. 103 No. 4
Mar/Apr 2026

Torch

MOVEMENT EVENING 2026

The Annual Dance
Extravaganza Returns

Barcelona Visit
Mayor's Chambers
The Impact of AI
Cadbury's Eggs



Wath
Academy

Torch

Volume 103 Number 4
March/April 2026

wathacademy.com/torch



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 House competitions have been heating up this half term, with more students than ever showcasing their talent, teamwork, and dedication across a wide range of events.

Students have been working incredibly hard to collect food donations for the Wath Montgomery Food Bank. With only a few weeks to go, an impressive 106 items have already been donated. Carthage is currently leading the way with 37 contributions!

In this half term's Games Cup, Troy is out in front, closely followed by Athens, who are determined to claim the top spot. Rome sits in third place, with Sparta just behind them. This leaves Thebes and Carthage in a close contest to avoid finishing at the bottom of the table.

The Work Cup is also proving to be a tight race. Rome is currently leading, with Troy in second place and Sparta sitting comfortably in third. Athens, Carthage, and Thebes are

just a few points behind—meaning this competition is still anyone's to win.

Rome is also ahead in the Staff Cup, followed by Thebes in second place and Sparta in third. Once again, the scores remain close, and the top spot is still very much up for grabs.

Our student captains and vice-captains have been actively involved in student voice initiatives to help improve the house system. If you have ideas or suggestions, be sure to share them with your house team!

A huge well done and thank you to all students and staff who have contributed so far. Please continue donating to the Tin Trail initiative, taking part in house challenges, adding your name to Sport Leaders' team sheets, and making your house – and the Academy – proud.

Mrs Lines • Head of Troy

The Tin Trail Competition

At Wath Academy, we take pride in fostering a culture of compassion, community spirit, and friendly competition among our Houses. With this in mind, we are thrilled to host our second food donation competition, "The Tin Trail." This initiative will not only encourage you to support those in need but will also instill a sense of responsibility and generosity within our school community.

Wath Montgomery Food Bank

House	Points
Carthage	37
Rome	23
Troy	18
Athens	14
Thebes	8
Sparta	6

Carthage lead the way in the Tin Trail competition for Wath Montgomery Food Bank

Art Visit to **Barcelona**

Last month, our school went on an unforgettable trip to Barcelona, one of Spain's most artistically exciting cities. Despite many of us never having been to this city before, you could feel the eagerness and enthusiasm all throughout the journey there. Upon arriving in Barcelona, we were greeted by rain, yet still spirits remained high as all of us couldn't wait to finally explore the city after a long and tiring journey.

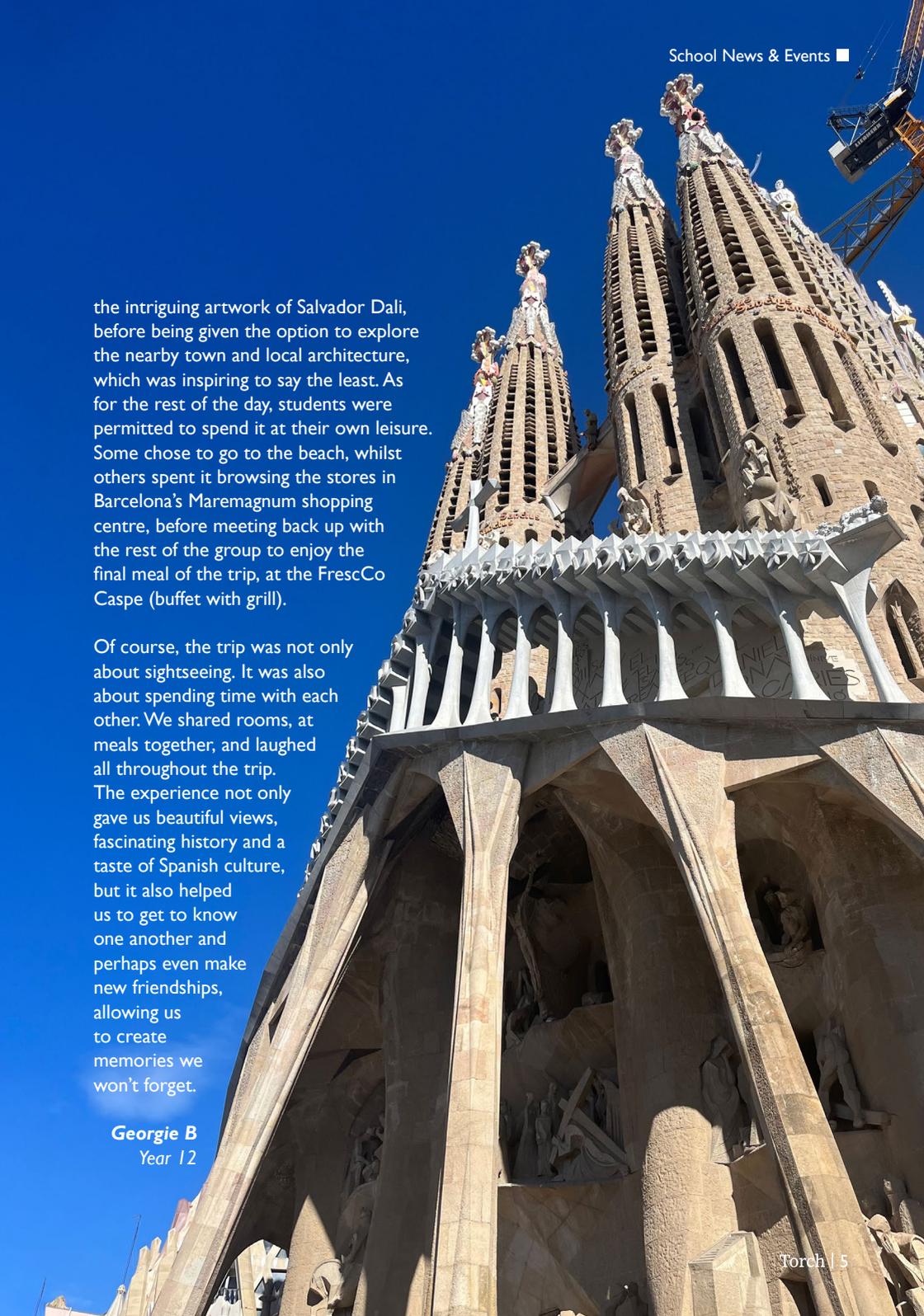
On the first day, after dropping our bags at the hostel, students took a short journey on the metro to one of Barcelona's most viral food spots, La Boqueria Mercat. The market was filled with stalls selling a range of delicacies. From chocolate-covered strawberries and every flavour smoothie you could imagine, to savoury dishes such as potato spirals, and large arrays of nuts. After a warming meal at the Hard Rock café, everyone went back to the hostel for a good night's sleep.

The second day in Barcelona, we were greeted with sunny skies and temperatures of up to 15 degrees! What a refreshing

change this was from the never-ending rain back at home. The day began with a walk through the gorgeous streets of Barcelona to one of the city's most sacred landmarks, La Sagrada Familia. To say the experience was moving would be an understatement. High vaulted ceilings towered above us, and the walls were lined with breathtaking stained-glass windows, which cast a rainbow all throughout the basilica. As a tour guide explained the rich history of the building to us, the look of awe amongst everyone was impossible to miss. From there, the group were allowed a couple of hours to explore for themselves, before walking to renowned artist, Antoni Gaudis, own Park Guell. The park itself was very impressive. Detailed mosaic benches lined the perimeter, and offered incredible views of the entire city, with the ocean just on the horizon.

With the end of the trip close in sight, we took advantage of our last full day of sightseeing and made the most of it. The day started with a two-hour coach journey to the nearby town of Figueras, home of the Dali Museum. We spent time exploring





the intriguing artwork of Salvador Dali, before being given the option to explore the nearby town and local architecture, which was inspiring to say the least. As for the rest of the day, students were permitted to spend it at their own leisure. Some chose to go to the beach, whilst others spent it browsing the stores in Barcelona's Maremagnum shopping centre, before meeting back up with the rest of the group to enjoy the final meal of the trip, at the Fresco Caspe (buffet with grill).

Of course, the trip was not only about sightseeing. It was also about spending time with each other. We shared rooms, ate meals together, and laughed all throughout the trip. The experience not only gave us beautiful views, fascinating history and a taste of Spanish culture, but it also helped us to get to know one another and perhaps even make new friendships, allowing us to create memories we won't forget.

Georgie B
Year 12



Wath Academy hosted budding female footballers from local primary schools on Tuesday 3rd March.

It wouldn't be our annual girls' football participation festivals without the sun. What started out six years ago with just a handful of girls has now become a staple in our events calendar.

Our #LetGirlsPlay festivals have now been rebranded 'Made for This Game' – something we are proud to say has been true across the borough for years, thanks to the tireless work of key partners and schools ensuring our girls have access to the beautiful game.

This is more than just a statement – it's a movement. No matter who you are, football is your space to be fearless,

unapologetic and to thrive. Take your place, own your moment, and show yourself you are Made for This Game.

Your journey starts here – just as it did for over 200 Year 3 girls today.

A huge thank you, as always, to the female scholars from Wath Academy who delivered activities across both events. It truly makes a difference having girls empowering girls and showing there are coaching pathways in football and education.

Mr Walker • Wickersley Partnership Trust



MAYOR'S CHAMBERS

Students visit the Mayor of Rotherham.

On Monday 23rd of February, several senior students and members of our student council had the exciting opportunity to visit the Lord Mayor's chambers at Rotherham Town Hall. This visit provided an insight into the local government along with the role that the mayor plays representing the Rotherham community.

As the students arrived, they were first guided to the mayor's parlour-where councillors gather to discuss and debate important topics in the community. Here, they first met The Mayor of Rotherham, Ruhksana Ismail, and were given the opportunity to engage in a Q&A which led to many interesting discussions such as the daily responsibilities of a mayor, what types of events she may attend and how someone may become a mayor. Then, the students were given a guided tour through the town hall highlighting many key aspects of how a municipal government functions.

A highlight of the visit was hearing about Ruhksana's goals as mayor and her inspirations to make positive changes within the community. As students spoke to the mayor, their curiosity was met with genuine interest as the mayor took time to answer their questions and encouraged them to have a positive impact in their local community. What stood out most to students was the mayor's goal to spread positivity through the town as she 'wants to make people smile'.

Overall, the visit to The Lord Mayor's Chambers was a memorable experience for all the students. The trip provided a key insight into a vital part of our local community inspiring the students to consider how they can play a part in improving and supporting our community.

Daniel R • Year 13





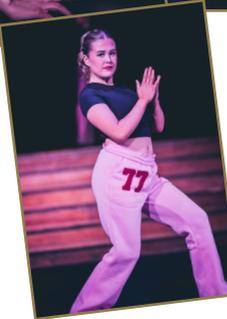
MOVEMENT EVENING



Wath Academy's annual dance performance night was as spectacular as ever.



Images: Adam Galliford Photography



Do you ever wonder what it is like to explore different styles of dance with your friends? Bonding with other pupils, making many memories? And, the best part, performing and showing of your talent to an audience? Movement Evening at Wath Academy can tick all of those boxes for you. As a dancer who performed in Movement Evening, I can assure you that it is one of the best things this school does.

What is Movement Evening?

Movement evening is when students from all years come together and perform many dances to an audience with a set theme. For example, this year we created a performance linking to the theme of 'Around the World'. This included dances from different countries such as USA, Spain, India and more! Although we are dancing, this also educates us in a way due to learning and expressing how different

cultures dance. Movement Evening is also a place for students to build new friendships and to enjoy themselves!

My Own View of Movement Evening

As a student from Wath Academy, I love when it comes to Movement Evening. I believe it is a wonderful way to makes new memories with my peers and for all years to come together and have fun!

I first performed in Movement Evening in Year 9 and I do not regret it at all. I even wish I started in Y7. My first ever time was the best. My year group worked on a fantastic dance that we all loved and still love until this day. Everyone was so eager to show this to an audience – we were all counting down the days till the big day. The environment we were in was so friendly everyone was cheering, clapping screaming our names to allow us to perform to our greatest abilities. Yes, it was nerve racking



– don't get me wrong – but the feeling of knowing you danced to an supportive proud audience is the best achievement.

As soon as it was over, I wanted it to restart all over again and I was not just the only one. Everyone wanted to relive the movement. This is why I performed again this year and next year I will dance again in more dances. I want to make the most of my time in Wath Academy doing the activities I love most and making the best memories I possibly can.

Why Should You Be a Part of Movement Evening?

For some, this may not be something you are interested in but for others who love to try different things and love to perform or even want to have some fun, this is the perfect thing for you! Movement Evening does not just involve group dances in your own year groups: the Academy also allows

solos, duets, trios, drama acts, scenes of musical theatre and even different styles of dances such as cheer, pom, contemporary and more. So there is something for everyone!

Taking part in the amazing opportunity can even allow you to find a new interest you would like to move forward with, or this can also help you build your confidence to make you the best you can be! Movement Evening can do a lot without you even realising.

Overall, Wath Academy has many great opportunities open for all students, including Movement Evening. It's a perfect way of finding a new interest or on the other hand a way of finding new friends. Many excellent talents are shown every year, so why can't it be you next?

Lola W • Year 10

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 1970s where two Third Years surveyed students about their parents.



How Strict Are Your Parents? (1973)

Since the beginning of January we have been working on a survey about family life. A questionnaire was circulated to 3rd, 4th and 5th years and the results have been studied with some unexpected findings.

The first question on the questionnaire was: Are you given a fixed amount of pocket money each week? 75% of the people questioned said they did not get a fixed amount of pocket money each week. Girls seem more likely to receive a fixed amount than boys. The next question followed on from this: How much pocket money do your parents give you each week?

Age groups seem very important in the fact that they appear to govern the amount of pocket money given by parents. For example, 14-year-olds average 50p per week, 15-year-olds 50–75p and 16-year-olds 75p per week. Results as expected perhaps!

Most people believed their pocket money was adequate, but any extra seemed to be helpful. Girls earned their extra money from baby-sitting and older girls earned money from Saturday jobs. In some cases they did both. In the case of boys, extra money came from paper rounds and odd jobs. Only 39% of boys and girls who filled in the questionnaire did not receive extra money.

Entertainment was not high up on most people's spending list. The majority of people spend little on entertainment outside the home. People who did go out a good deal spent pocket money on ice-skating, football matches, but little on the cinema.

It seems times are changing and today's

parents are no longer "old spoilsports". Parents seem less restrictive with their children. In fact 83% of the people asked thought their parents were not restrictive. 74% of all ages were allowed to go out any night they wished but a definite change occurs at 15 years, when the figure for 5th year pupils for the same question leaps to 90%. Do they really not worry what we get up to?

Time limits on nightly activities seem less important than a few years ago, but 64% of the people questioned say that their parents insist on them being home at a certain time; 9 p.m. for the youngest, 11 p.m. for the eldest.

Family life has changed very much in recent years. 78% of the 5th Year seem to be able to give parties without their parents being present, so it seems that parents can trust their offspring! Also a sign of young people's growing confidence is shown in that 81% thought they could often overcome their parents opposition to something they wanted. Alas 14% never could! Poor things!

The surprising conclusion of the survey was the amount of freedom that children were given by their parents and the belief that parents were not too bad after all! 96% of those asked would turn to their parents for advice on a personal matter and (surprising?) only 0.4% said they would turn to a teacher for such advice. So it seems this younger generation is not so young; at least they can organise their private lives with at least the grudging approval of their parents.

Freda Hope & Janice Harrison • Form 30



ST PATRICK'S DAY

On March 17th St Patrick's Day celebrates the Irish saint. It was originally a feast but has gradually changed to parades and a lot of green that represent Irish pride and four leaf clovers to resemble luck. In Chicago to celebrate this tradition they dye the river green.

When he was only a teen, St Patrick was kidnapped and forced into slavery in

Ireland. Then he later changed Ireland's inhabitants into Christians. Even though they enslaved him, they now celebrate him.

To conclude, St Patrick's Day is a diverse celebration to show luck, dedication and Christianity.

LilyT • Year 7

Image: Nheyob, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Cadbury

FILLED EGGS REVIEWS



With Easter just around the corner, the egg-static journalists of Torch review the four most popular Cadbury filled eggs.

Everyone knows Cadbury's filled eggs are the best Easter treats for 2026, but which are superior to the rest? Here at *Torch*, we decided to put it to the test. We sampled four types of filled eggs (Creme Egg, Creme Egg White, Caramel Egg and Biscoff Filled Egg) before rating them out of 10.



Creme Egg

The original egg is a must-taste classic this spring time. With a gooey but delicious inside, this OG captures the essence of a real egg, just a bit tastier!

Rating: 8/10



Creme Egg White

This egg included a divisive flavour that caused a difference in opinions throughout the journalists. Some revelled in the sweet taste while others found the taste sweet but sickly.

Rating: 6/10



Caramel Egg

Unlike the Creme Egg White, this was an all-round favourite. The caramel inside was just the ticket for an appealing Easter sugary snack.

Rating: 10/10



Biscoff Filled Egg

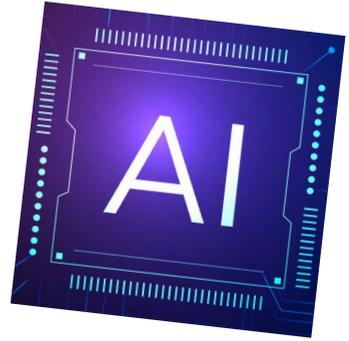
Every year, Cadbury gives us a limited edition egg and this year the Biscoff Filled Egg was chosen. This crunchy delicacy earned itself the third-highest ranking. Despite everyone loving Biscoff, some found this too dry for a Creme Egg.

Rating: 7/10

Everyone has a favourite and it has been a pleasure to share ours with you, our wonderful readers. There is just one question left to ask: what is your favourite Cadbury filled egg?

Chloe C • Year 7	Evie F • Year 7
Connie S • Year 7	Jasmine S • Year 8
Ellie N • Year 7	Ruby B • Year 8
Evie C • Year 7	Niamh E • Year 9

IMPACTS OF AI ON OUR MODERN WORLD



Ellie N looks at some of the dangers of artificial intelligence.

Today, AI is everywhere: on devices, in healthcare, in finance and in transportation. These are only few of the places where AI is used. Ask yourself what are the impacts of AI on our modern-day planet.

Educational impacts

All around the world, children from any age use AI to assist them in doing homework. This can have negative consequences: children may experience 'doom loops' of dependence, which means they rely entirely on AI for answers instead of critical thinking, leaving a decline on problem-solving.

Additionally, using AI for your education can reduce telling the truth, making children lie more about their homework instead of being trustworthy and honest.

Misinformation

Not only does it affect our learning. AI can be used for spreading misinformation as

well as deepfakes. This is crucial because this causes confusion amongst viewers and misbeliefs. Fake news has everlasting repercussions, making it harder to distinguish between fact and fiction.

AI deepfakes can immensely damage reputations and increase the risk of being scammed. Also, this misleading content can embarrass certain individuals: this can be interpreted as bullying. Furthermore, artificial intelligence is smart enough to clone voices; people take advantage of this and mimic voices of loved ones in order to steal money.

To conclude, AI may be useful for ideas, but also dangerous online for numerous reasons that I may or may not have stated in this article. I hope you use AI sensibly and to not fall for AI scams, schemes and trolls. Thank you for listening.

Ellie N • Year 7

Image: Designed by Freepik

REVIEWS

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

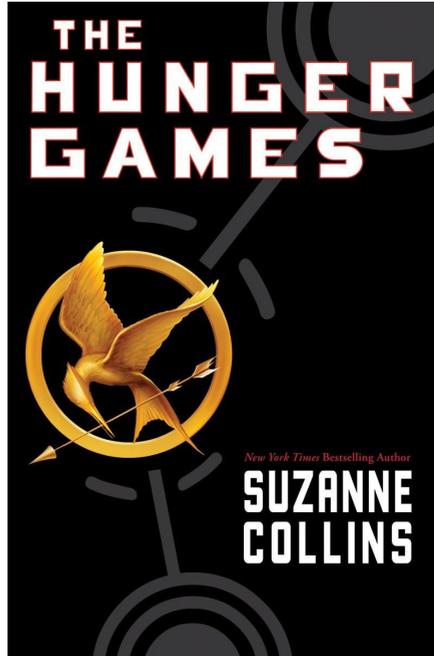
In another world, a girl from an almost forgotten district must fight to the death against other young people from other districts where the only rule is kill or you will be killed.

Katniss Everdeen supports her family by hunting and selling the meat she no longer needs. She lived quite a normal life until the 74th Hunger Games. Her sister Primrose is selected but Katniss decides to sacrifice her own life for her sister – no-one from her town (District 12) has won the Hunger Games for years.

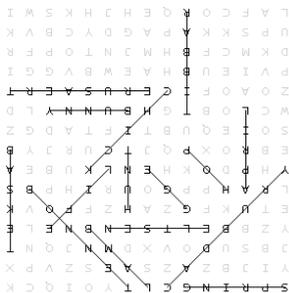
Despite all the odds being not in her favour, she has a hidden talent and an unlikely friendship with her fellow male tribute (the name for the boy or girl chosen).

Can Katniss win and return to her beloved sister?

I would recommend this book to anyone who is into action/adventure and dystopian themes.



Chloe • Year 7



- Puzzle Solutions**
- Easter Wordsearch
See right.
- Easter Quiz**
1. Easter eggs
 2. Bunnies and chicks
 3. Jesus was resurrected from the dead
 4. 5th April
 5. 17 metres
 6. To abstain from eating meat, 'reflecting Jesus' of his flesh on Good Friday



Avatar: Fire and Ash (coming soon to Disney+)

Avatar: Fire and Ash was one of the most popular films of 2025.

With the action packed scenes and the emotional story, *Avatar: Fire and Ash* has very entertaining plot twists, making you want to wonder what's next.

Avatar: Fire and Ash is directed by James Cameron. It's the third in the *Avatar* film series after *Avatar* and *Avatar: The Way of Water*.

Avatar is probably one of the best film series I've ever seen. This third film out of them all just stood out to me a lot.

Also, some of the new characters also surprised me, making want to watch the

next film like now, and I think they've added so much more detail and character story.

Some bits I couldn't believe how tense it got. It made me feel for some characters, like when Jake has to make a tough choice about Spider. I think its probably my favourite film at the moment. Even though I have watched it once, I can not wait until its out on Disney+.

When I went to see the film at the cinema, it has so many people watching it. It was definitely worth the three hours. So much happened in those three hours and it was so epic that I couldn't believe they didn't need anymore time.

Evie F • Year 7

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 17

Easter Wordsearch

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

APRIL
 BASKET
 BONNET
 BUNNY
 CADBURY

CHICK
 EGG
 HOP
 HUNT
 LAMB

LIFE
 NESTLE
 RABBIT
 SPRING
 TREASURE

Jasmine S & Heidi W • Year 8

Easter Quiz

1. What do you eat at Easter?
2. What animals are associated with Easter?
3. What happened on Easter Sunday?
4. What date is Easter this year?
5. Was the largest Easter egg ever nearer to 15 or 16 metres?
6. Why do we eat fish & chips on Good Friday?

Jack C • Year 7

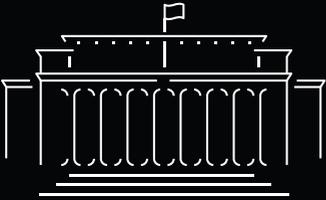
WATH ACADEMY PRESENTS

ACADEMY AWARDS 2026



Celebrating Excellence, Achievement and Talent

Join us for our prestigious
awards event



Sheffield City Hall

Thursday 25th June 2026
Sheffield City Hall
Arrive 6:30pm (7:00pm start)



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