



## HALLOWEEN'S COMING

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By Ellie-May Beaumont, Year 8

Halloween is one of the most fun times of the year, as it is the only night of the year where you can dress up as anyone or anything you want.

However, there are a few unwritten safety regulations that you should abide by:

- Don't go into people's houses
- Stay away from dark alleys
- Only go to familiar areas
- Don't vandalise
- Don't go alone
- Trick or Treat

Your Halloween costume is obviously a huge part of

the holiday and is the most enjoyable part as you can be as basic or creative as you wish.

Here are a few costume ideas:

- Witch
- Clown
- Genie
- Ragdoll
- Jester
- Zombie
- Carrot
- Vampire
- Pumpkin
- Dead Thing
- Harley Quinn
- Dead Angel
- The Devil
- Butcher
- Skeleton
- Dead Bride

However you choose to celebrate Halloween, stay safe and have fun!

### Halloween Hunt

Strange things have been happening at THE TORCH this month!

The word 'Halloween' has appeared in six different places within this issue (**not** including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all?

Have a good look through the issue and bring your copy to Miss Taylor if you find them all. The first five winners will receive a small prize; others will receive e-Praise points.

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# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to be writing my first contribution to *The Torch* as the Headteacher of Wath Comprehensive School. Mrs Ward, the previous headteacher, certainly ensured the school had some very firm foundations on which we are now endeavouring to build still further. We have enjoyed a very busy start to the school year, following some excellent examination results this summer. The key results were:

## GCSE (Year 11)

- 73% of students achieved A\*-C grades in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- 72% of students achieved A\*-C grades in GCSE Maths
- 64% of students achieved a good pass in GCSE English and Maths
- 63% of students achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths
- 96% of students achieved 5 or more A\*-G GCSEs
- 43% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- Progress 8: +0.14 (Progress 8 has not yet been officially validated for 2016; however, our calculation is as shown.)

The Progress 8 figure is the new government calculation which attempts an overall measure of progress for all students in the school in comparison to all other students nationally of the same age.

Our figure for the EBacc is the highest figure in Rotherham LA. It is a combination of English, Maths, Science, MFL and History/Geography.

## A Level (Year 13)

- 99.4% of students achieved A\*-E grades
- 50.4% of students achieved A\*-B grades

## Vocational Qualifications (Year 13)

- 99.4% of students achieved a Pass
- 86.6% of students achieved a Distinction

## Animal Club Reminder

By Savanna Davies, Year 8

Attention Year 7 and 8 pupils! Animal Club, run by Shae Duffy in Year 8, is again taking place, the perfect club for animal-lovers. You can bring sandwiches up, but no hot food please. This year in the club, we will also have an Animal of the Week. If you would like to attend, please go to F17 on Thursday lunchtime.

These are very impressive Year 13 results which allowed the vast majority of students to access their chosen courses at universities across the country. We are very much looking forward to hearing how they are settling into university life when they return to school for the Year 13 Presentation Evening at the end of term.

Across our school community, we continue to focus on raising academic standards and opportunities, remaining fully committed to our aim of ensuring that all our students receive a high quality educational experience and leave us able, active and qualified.

Once again, we were over-subscribed for the start of Year 7 where 300 new students joined the school and appear to be settling in quickly, adjusting to life and routines. In order to gain the maximum benefit from the extensive opportunities available, we encourage as many students as possible to get involved in extra-curricular opportunities and, especially, try something they haven't done before. Year 7 seem to be really stepping up to this challenge. We also welcomed a large number of new students into Year 12 and hope that they also embrace the opportunities on offer. In addition, I also offer our new staff a warm welcome and very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable career with us.

It has been a busy half term for Year 11, given that their external exams begin shortly after the Easter holiday. They have already had an information evening on higher education, their first Review Day and an evening Revision Festival. All students had their first Assessment Week in the penultimate week of the half term.

I write shortly after experiencing a fantastic Vocal Evening, where around 30 different students performed – the standard was something to behold. We now look forward to the Performing Arts faculty's Murder Mystery Evening towards the end of this half term.

The remaining Assessment Weeks are weeks beginning: 28 November, 30 January, 20 March, 15 May and 26 June.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor  
Headteacher



# News in Brief

## October Half Term Fun!

YMCA WHITE ROSE will be running a range of different holiday activities this half term from Monday 24th to Friday 28th October. Activities will run from 9.00am - 3.00pm and will be open to 8-14 years. Each day will cost £5 and lunch will be provided.

The activities:

- Monday: Sport
- Tuesday: Arts & Crafts
- Wednesday: Cooking & Circus Skills
- Thursday: Music
- Friday: Youth Club & Movies

To book a place, please call: 01709 837428.

## Sportsperson of the Week



This year, we have introduced a Sportsperson of the Week award. So far, we have had sports teams compete in Rugby, Football, Cross Country and Netball, and there have been outstanding performances. Well done to all these students who will qualify for the Wath Sports Person of the Year at our annual sports awards:

- Week 1 – Emily Hartley
- Week 2 – Lauren Logan
- Week 3 – Mackenzie Grierson
- Week 4 – Kieran Tunstall
- Week 5 – Owen Cooke

## Girls' Football

The girls' football season is well underway and both the U13 and U16 teams have played in the first round of the ESFA Cup competition, with impressive wins carrying them through easily into the second rounds. Outstanding performances should be mentioned from Darcy Doherty and Emily Law (U16 team) and Lauren Lowe and Sophie Cook (U13 team).

Training currently takes place twice a week: on a Thursday 3-4pm, skills sessions with Mr Hodgson and Friday 3-4pm, small sided games with Mr Marcroft. All girls are welcome.

## Boys' Football

Huge congratulations to the Y11 football team this half term, successfully getting through in both the

Rotherham Cup and the South Yorkshire Cup first round ties. In the former, Wath Y11s managed to beat Wales convincingly with a score line of 8-1, thanks to a great team performance, and a particularly solid performance from Matthew Rhodes at left-back. In the South Yorkshire Cup, goals from Jake Phillis (2), Sam White, Owen Cooke and Travis Grierson secured a first round victory against Rawmarsh, 5-2, with Man of the Match going to Jake Carter for producing a stunning performance in a holding midfield role.

## **Dick Whittington, his Cat and the Mysterious Case of the Three Little Pigs**

By Emily Balaiss, Year 9

It's that time of the year again... Oh no, it isn't... Oh yes it is! The Drama department are once again putting on one of their spectacular pantomimes: *Dick Whittington, his Cat and the Mysterious Case of the Three Little Pigs*.

Auditions took place in September and were really well attended. The rehearsals are now underway and the cast are already working very hard, developing some brilliant characters and ensuring that the pantomime will be a great success again this year.

We caught up with Emily Darrel, who has been given the role of Dick Whittington, one of the main parts. She told us, "It's hard work to prepare for a panto, but also good fun."

Tickets will be going on sale straight after half term. So keep your eyes open for the poster and the advert. The performances will take place on Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December.

See you there!

While you wait, here's an exclusive behind the scenes shot of rehearsals in the hall to give you a little taster of what is in store for December...



# Latest News and Updates from

## Somme Trip 2016

By Mya Taylor, Year 11 and  
Mia Hollingsworth-Smith, Year 10

From 26th-30th September, students embarked on the famous Somme trip, which has been running for more than thirty years. Although the fourteen-hour journey was tedious and, for some, nauseating, the inspiring yet sombre trip was worth every hour.

From the moment we arrived in France, the haunting atmosphere of the whole trip hit us, when we passed the towering barbed wire fences separating out refugees. The true sobriety, however, greeted us when we stepped off from the coach and into the first WW1 Cemetery. This is when we learned what each cemetery meant, the white graves and what each one symbolised, and how all soldiers were equal in death.

No cemetery failed to evoke a sombre poignancy, the immense reality of each fallen soldier. One experience was particularly daunting; after seeing around two hundred graves at one cemetery, we went to Essex Farm cemetery, which had a figure nearing a thousand. However, it was another experience altogether at Tyne Cot. After being instructed to by the teachers, we trudged to Tyne Cot face down – and when we looked up – 11,961 graves. The harsh sunlight only emphasized this overwhelming experience; it made the blaring white graves so bright they were hard to look at and the huge number of them made it almost intimidating. Not many students returned to the coach dry-eyed as a result.

### Animal Updates:

#### Giant Panda no longer an endangered species

By Savanna Davies Y8

The number of giant pandas has increased thanks to conservation efforts over decades in China to save the species. With population counts at approximately 2,000 adults and cubs, it is no longer considered an "endangered" species, although it is thought they will still be vulnerable from future deforestation and concerns surrounding climate change. The increase in numbers is being put down to protecting bamboo forests and breeding these pandas.

However, over 82,954 other species (plants and animals) grow more endangered by the minute.

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One of the highlights of the trip was the German cemetery. Despite there being many thousands more buried here than Tyne Cot, the presentation of the cemetery was very serene. For one thing, the graves were more spread out, so you weren't overcome by the almost claustrophobic sensation of Tyne Cot. Each grave instead contained around ten soldiers, and were also black slabs on the ground, meaning you actually had to look down on the fallen to see their names. The fact they were black, rather than white, created a sombre yet somehow peaceful atmosphere.

The war-scarred terrain was also unforgettable. The ground at Newfoundland Memorial Park, for example, was full of craters caused by bombshells – even a hundred years later, the ground was still scarred from this tragic conflict. The trenches we visited in Sanctuary Wood were also a good way of visualising the daily struggles of soldiers, as well as allowing us to make our way through the maze of dense twisting tunnels – for some this meant struggling in shell holes after realizing they were a lot deeper than they looked; it was a good job we were all equipped with knee-high wellies!

The most impactful day, however, was our final day in Bruges. After a three hour shopping spree, a nice break from the solemnity, we visited a cemetery respecting the soldiers of Devon, where we lay our own Wath Comprehensive School poppy wreath, a poignant act inducing a few tears. Soon after, we made our way back down to the Menin Gate memorial to partake in a daily remembrance ceremony. As the trumpets sounded and a speech was read, every single person was silent with a numb awe, overwhelmed by the evocative atmosphere. When the ceremony finished, no one spoke, absorbed in the realisation of how so many lives were wasted, lost to useless conflict, and buried miles away from home. We remained silent, contemplative, all the way to the coach. As the song of William McBride played softly, we reflected on the journey, not just the importance of the

# Wath Comprehensive School

experiences but the meaning behind them. As the song faded to silence, we pulled up outside our final cemetery. Not a single eye was dry on the whole coach.

“It was beautifully haunting,” said Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith in Year 10. “You don’t realise the immensity and tragedy of the First World War until you see the real aftermath of the Somme. It was an opportunity for people to connect; not only through friendship but with the dead as well. By remembering each and every soldier who died on the battlefield, we create the respect they deserve.”

These experiences will stick with us for life. We have gained friends for life, and through each tear we shed, we have gained a truer insight to World War One that only seeing these experiences first hand can evoke. People rarely remember things today; they don't look at the world with their eyes but look through screens. With much fighting, arguing, discrimination and poverty in the world, the Somme trip allows people to come together to remember what happened, everyone paying respects to those that fell for us.

The people who fought were volunteers, many joining in groups and families, while others felt they owed it to the country. We pay our respects not only to those who fell in battle but those who survived, too. While children may look up to figures like Batman and Superman, those ordinary men are the real heroes. Everything that has happened, was seen and heard – from the songs on the coach to walking through the trenches – showed us a new world. Many say you need a flying Delorion to go back in time; in truth, all you need is a little imagination and information, and you are back in WW1.

## The Wath Comp Library: Study Stars

By Emily Balais, Year 9

The Wath Comp library has a new feature called Student Librarian, which is an opportunity for students of all ages to come down the library at lunch to help make the library a better place. It’s a fun way to earn merits, badges and certificates.

There’s also Study Stars: a new club that Miss Thomas and Mrs Marsden have created. So if you need help with your homework, need to study for a test or go on the computers, go to G16 at lunchtime.

## Sweater Weather

By Sophie Walker, Year 13

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It feels like we’ve only just got back to school after enjoying a fun-filled and hot summer holiday, and we even had a somewhat warm September! However, October has crept around the corner and brought with it an unpleasant chill. Now, we’re only 10 weeks away from Christmas and Halloween is coming up quickly, and unfortunately you can only wear your school uniform during school hours, but, maybe it’s time to warm up your wardrobe!

Ditch the sandals, throw away your shorts and take yourself and friends on a trip to revamp your style. This cool season is all about layering! So grab yourself some boots, coats, knitted jumpers, jeans and woollen accessories. Of course, fur is a major trend, and the best way to get with this trend is to invest in a faux fur coat or maybe to get some knitted boot covers with fur, to fold over the top of boots for a wintery look. If you want a glowing look as the temperatures drop, wear warm colours such as reds and purples.

To me, the most important part of my autumn wardrobe is the essentials: my hats, scarves and gloves. Hit the shops of Meadowhall and grab some of these accessories that match the colours of the warm clothes that you already have, to ensure that you get to wear your new buys and they don’t end up in the back of your closet!

# Conspiracy Corner

**Feeling suspicious about the world as it is? Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith and Amy Renwick take you through their latest theories... This edition: 9/11, the war on terror and the perpetuation of Islamophobia in the Western world.**

On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, the USA was attacked by extremist group Al Qaeda (led by the notorious Osama Bin Laden).

After the event, a series of new security legislations were released, globally, in particular the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, which is an acronym for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001." The act involves a government agency being allowed access to: individuals' personal records; their bank or hospital records; or even checking what books they were taking out from the library. Before 9/11, the government at least had to suspect someone of being a terrorist or spy. Any records deemed "relevant to an investigation" could be sought.

Unbelievably, most members of Congress later admitted to having never even read its contents before voting it into law.

Furthermore, in the US "dissenting voices"- those asking "why" or "how" questions, following the attacks were slapped down, anyone looking for any sort of explanation were demonised. If you questioned anything, you were clearly supporting terrorism. As George Bush put it "You are either with us, or against us."

In Britain, laws were passed to do with freedom and anti-terrorism, especially under the Blair government. Despite Britain having only just passed the Terrorism act 2000, "the first permanent counter-terrorist legislation in the UK", after 9/11 labour felt compelled to pass a whole new band of anti-terror legislation. The Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001; Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005; Terrorism Act 2006; and Counter-Terrorism Act 2008, to name four.

The "encouragement of terrorism" became an offence; whether somebody or a group said something that wasn't intended to glorify terrorism, they still faced up to seven years in prison. According

to the international human rights group, Article 19, the definition of terrorism in UK law is "both vague and excessively broad in reach" – with a wide range of acts criminalised.

The most significant factor in the aftermath of 9/11 however, is the USA's *war on terrorism*: less than a month after 9/11, on October 4th, George W Bush declared the War on Terror.

This war was later joined by the UK (who, at this point, were led by Tony Blair) and many other Western countries such as France and Germany among others.

In the years following the war, Islamophobia was on the up in the Western world with many racist terms coming into prominence and many of them became used by young and old. But, how does Islamophobia retain its prominence in Western society? There is one clear answer for this: the highly influential role of western media in perpetuating Islamophobia. Stereotypical representations of Muslims in the early years of the "War on Terror" – which linked terrorism, violence and Islam – gained wide currency by the mid-2000s.

Sections of the news media, politicians and social media have re-activated these stereotypes. Muslim Australians for example, are made to feel they are targets - for everything from the everyday racism encountered in schools and on the streets, to draconian counter-terrorism legislation that restricts civil liberties, to war and the preparations for war.

Social psychological research has shown that when public figures and media endorse negative stereotypes this legitimises prejudicial attitudes. So, linking Muslims to terrorism, which was already widely demonised and associated with fear, creates an extremely negative prejudicial view of them, and it can be said that this factor is the reason why islamophobia is so rife today.

## 20 Weird But True Facts

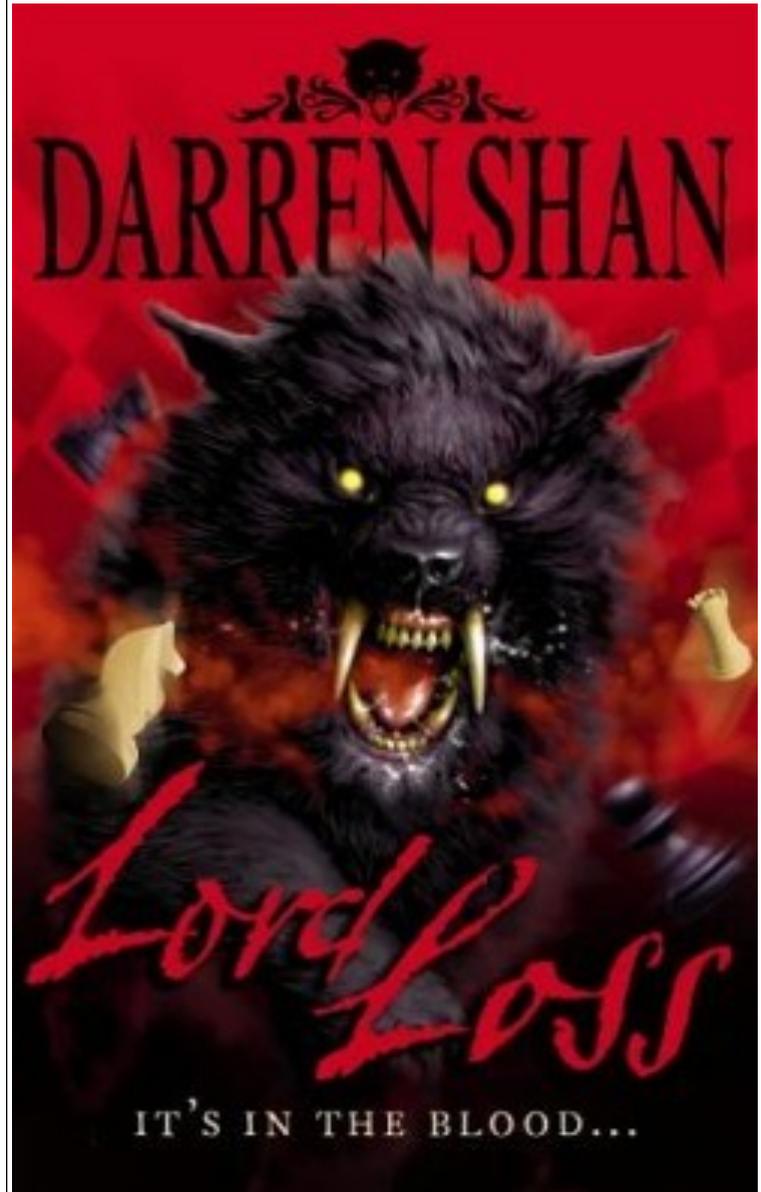
By Carys Garner, Year 8

1. The average British woman spends £100,000 on make-up in a lifetime.
2. It costs more to make the cardboard box that Shredded Wheat comes in than it does to make the Shredded Wheat itself.
3. The human body has 100 trillion cells, each one a 10,000<sup>th</sup> the size of a pinhead, but with enough DNA instructions to fill 1,000 600-page books.
4. Dr Pepper was invented before Coca-Cola.
5. Women have twice as many pain receptors than men, but a much higher pain tolerance.
6. 98% of the 7 billion, billion, billion atoms in the human body are replaced every year.
7. 99% of all species that have ever lived are now extinct.
8. Spiders are cannibalistic. If you put 10,000 spiders in one room, you would end up with one enormously fat spider.
9. *Iminngernaveersaartunngortussaavunga*, a word of Inuktitut, means, 'I should try not to become an alcoholic.'
10. William Carstares (1649-1715) was the last man in Britain to be given the thumbscrew and was taken to Edinburgh as torture was illegal in England.
11. Mussolini tortured his enemies by forcing them to swallow massive doses of castor oil.
12. In an average year in Britain, trousers cause twice as many accidents as chainsaws.
13. People are 1% shorter in the evening than they are in the morning.
14. *Kuku kaki kakak kakak ku kayak kuku kaki kakek kakek ku* is an Indonesian tongue twister meaning, "My sister's toenails looked like my grandfather's."
15. If you drilled a tunnel straight through the Earth and jumped in, it would take you exactly 42 minutes and 12 seconds to get to the other side.
16. An average car in Britain is parked for 96% of the time.
17. Six ten-billionths of the Sun is gold. If it could be extracted, there would be enough to gild Scotland to the depth of half a mile.
18. Octopuses have 3 hearts.
19. All blue eyed people are mutants. The first ones appeared as recently as 5,000 years ago.
20. Under extremely high pressure, diamonds can be made from peanut butter.

## Book of the Month

Lord Loss - Darren Shan

Reviewed by Maisie Foster, Year 8



When Grubbs Grady's family are brutally slaughtered by demons, he is left to face the trauma of their gruesome death. Grubbs cannot cope with the murder of his parents and sister alone and soon he falls into the care of his uncle, Dervish.

Soon, Grubbs has settled in at his uncle's mansion and has become best friends with a strange boy named Bill-E Spleen. Together, Grubbs and Bill-E unlock the secrets of the mysterious Carcery Vale and Grubbs must overcome his fears before it's too late...

*Lord Loss* is the first novel in the Demonata series written by best-selling teenage horror author Darren Shan.

This story will send chills down your spine, and is highly recommended for any fan of Darren Shan!

# Mr Taylor: Heading into the Future

By Ellie Eagleton, Year 13,

Emily Jackson and Jacob Linney, Year 7

## Did you ever think you would be a headteacher?

I started as a Geography teacher in Stockport, but back then, I focused on being the best Geography teacher I could be and the task at hand; I never really considered being a headteacher at first.

## Do you enjoy being the new headteacher?

Yes, very much so! It's a thrill to be able to oversee the development of students' talent, and I think we're very fortunate here at Wath because of the high quality of our staff. We're also very good as a school for providing extra-curricular activities. I'm really excited to be taking on the job.

## Is it harder than your old job as Deputy Head?

That's quite a difficult question to answer. It's certainly very different, but I'm putting the same amount of time and effort into this job as my old job as Deputy. There's extra responsibility for me as Head, which is harder, but I still enjoy it.

## Is it a completely different experience?

In some ways it is and in some ways it isn't. It is different in the sense that now I'm involved in some things that didn't involve me before, but it isn't different in some ways because I already worked here before I became Head. If I'd come in from outside, I think things would be much more different.

## THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Emily Jackson, Jacob Linney, Ellie-May Beaumont, Lauren Clack, Emily Aston, Savanna Davies, Maisie Foster, Carys Garner, Daniel Nutley, Lucy Redfern, Olivia Storey, Lauren Williams, Emily Balaiss, Lewis Dockray, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Emily Holcroft, Alex Law, Josie Law, Abbie Lewis, Callam Manton, Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith, Mia Hollingsworth-Smith, Amy Renwick, Mya Taylor, Nemesha Nelson, Eleanor Eagleton and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Sophie Walker, Mr Bishop and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

## What's the hardest thing about being a headteacher?

Getting the balance right between all the behind-the-scenes admin work and being out in the school engaging with the students, seeing them progress and monitoring this; I'm really interested in the motivation scores for students in particular. I still teach a Year 13 Geography class, which really helps with the being out and about, and so far this year I've made a particular effort to be present in assemblies for the younger students. However, this does clash with Sixth Form because we have lower school assemblies on the same days as the Year 12 and Year 13 assemblies.

## Do you still have to deal with "naughty" students?

I don't think any students are simply "naughty"; I think we should see the positive side to every student because every student has good in them that we can bring out. Sometimes we might be challenged by a minority of students that misbehave, but we need to tackle this to help students develop into responsible adults and citizens, and generally I think Wath students are very well-behaved.

## What originally inspired you to become a teacher?

My own Geography teacher really inspired me to love the subject; they were very passionate and excited by the subject they taught – sometimes they could be quite loud in their excitement! – but I could tell they loved their subject, and that inspired me to love Geography, and so when I went to university and studied, I wanted to pass on my love of geography to future students.

## What are your plans for the school?

Nothing revolutionary! Our previous headteacher, Mrs Ward, did a very good job and laid some great foundations for the school, which I'd just like to build on really. The last time we had an Ofsted inspection, we were rated as a Good school, so now I want to make us an Outstanding school.

## What is your motto for learning?

Try, try and try again! Never say "I can't do something", only say "I can't do this right now". You should never give up but stay motivated, and I think that the school motto, "Meliora Spectare" (Latin for "look to better things"), is an excellent summary of this.



### What do you like to do in your free time?

My daughters are 20 and 17 now (although my youngest loves to remind me that she's nearly 18), so I like to spend time with my wife and daughters; I think family time is really important. I also love sport, and even though I don't play any more, I still like to spectate, especially when I watch Wath teams here at school on Saturday mornings whenever I can.

The 10 Permanent Headteachers of Wath Grammar/ Comprehensive School	
Headteacher	Became Head
Rev ATL Greer	1923
Dr J Richie	1940
Dr CRT Saffell	1955
Mr ARH Murphy	1972
Mr J Brothwell	1977
Mr DE Kirby	1991
Mr R Godber	1997
Mr E Sampson	2002
Mrs P Ward	2004
Mr J Taylor	2016

## Creative Corner

### A Lost World

By Emily Jackson, Year 7

Serenely, a majestic mocha coloured centaur galloped through the overgrown forest as shades of green and brown flew past her pale blue eyes. Rustling in the shrubbery ahead halted Astral abruptly in her tracks and made her wonder deeply.

Slowly, she reached back and grasped the arch of her bow. As the penny blossom flowers fell silently to the ground, her hand felt an arrow and as quick as lightning she loaded it into the string and pulled back with a force that could push down a forest in one go. Pearly white bunnies hopped around as the rustling continued...

"One more time..." the fierce centaur whispered.

It happened again but this time a cyan dagger flew out and grazed the side of her leg. Blinded by pain, she shot forward and heard an annoying whining sound get further and further away. Stumbling, she placed her hand on the wound and pressed hard. Even though she felt faint, she knew she needed to return home, so she slowly began an arduous journey back...

*Read next half term to see if Astral makes it home without fail!*

### Untitled...

By Olivia Storey and Lauren Clack, Year 8

This is a story about how two best friends might not be close as you think...

'We will always be friends, we know too much...'

*Lorena*

The screams rang through my ears; there was no going back now. Libby looked at me, but what I saw in her eyes was all too familiar a feeling to me: regret. "It was just self-defence," she tried to persuade me. I just broke down and sobbed.

"Quick! We'd better go, I think I hear someone." And with that we made a run for the fire escape...

*Read next half term to see what happens next!*

# Meet the New Staff at

Seeing a lot of new faces around school? Finding it hard to keep track of all your new teachers? Several (Dockray, Josie Law, Jacob Linney and Sam Fairman) caught up with the newest recruits to the teaching staff,

## Mr Bale



Wath appealed to Mr Bale because of its community and life. His 'cool' Chemistry teacher inspired him into teaching. He likes to watch crime dramas and likes reading autobiographies and sports books. His favourite animal is a goldfish, as he has one as a pet.

## Mrs Chan

Science teacher Mrs Chan came to Wath because she liked the atmosphere of



the school when she first came, and enjoyed meeting the pupils and teachers, who were very welcoming. Like Mr Bale, she was inspired by a Chemistry teacher when she was at school. She likes watching supernatural and crime dramas in her spare time. Her favourite animal is a dog because they're great company.

## Miss Cullen



Miss Cullen was drawn to Wath because of its great reputation. She chose Geography because it is her favourite subject and she loves to learn about how different part of the world work. Also, Miss Cullen likes to watch the good series on Netflix. She finds reading very relaxing. Dogs are her favourite animal because they are always really happy to see you and she likes long walks.

## Miss Fernandez

She decided to work here thanks to a

recommendation from a friend who trained here. She learned English at school as a second language and chose to be an MFL teacher as she wanted other people to understand how great it feels to learn another language. In her free time, she lives TV series like Friends, as they are really relaxing to watch, and she also enjoys a good book for this reason, too. Her favourite animal is the orca, because they are beautiful and she thinks they have been unfairly named "killer whales".

## Mrs Gruszka



Mrs Gruszka wanted to come work at Wath because it's a good school and it's close to where she lives. She chose Science because she was good at it at school and she'd always liked it. On TV, she enjoys watching hospital dramas such as *Grey's Anatomy*. She enjoys reading as it gives her a chance to chill out. Her favourite animal is a cat because they love cuddles.

## Miss Hamell

Miss Hamell chose to work at Wath because she trained here and loved us so much that she wished to stay. Miss Hamell's subject is RE. She chose this subject because it was her absolute favourite subject in school when she was younger; also, she loved the teacher that she had. Like Mrs Gruzka, she said that her favourite kind of TV show was American drama like *Grey's Anatomy* and *Black*



*Lace*. She also said that she loved reading, and she says that you really can't beat a good book that you can get completely lost in. Miss Hamell's favourite animal is a dog, as she has two of them.

## Miss Harris



The large size of Wath appealed to Miss Harris. She has wanted to be a Dance teacher since she was 12 and she has always loved dancing. She enjoys TV and generally watches everything from *Britain's Got Talent* to *The Great British Bake Off*. She also likes reading factual books and her favourite animal is a dog, especially pugs.

## Miss Hodgson

Miss Hodgson studied here at the sixth form and some of the teachers who taught her now work with her. She decided to teach Maths because she really likes it when she knows she has the right answer. She is always so busy that she only gets to read on holiday. Her favourite animal is a dog because she has a Great Dane and they are always happy to see you.



## Mr Lavender



Mr Lavender wanted to become a History teacher because, whilst he was at school, he was inspired by the various History teachers he had and the fact that 'it is such a wide ranging subject'. Aside from his love of history, he enjoys both spectating and playing sport, and

# Wath Comprehensive School

journalists from THE TORCH (Abbie Lewis, Lauren Clack, Amy Renwick, Lauren Williams, Olivia Storey, Lewis to ask them the questions we all want to know. Read on to find out all about them!

likes *The Great British Bake Off* due to the fact that he has a sweet tooth. Finally, he informed our reporters that he finds comedy TV shows fun too, as they are relaxing.

## Mr Lomas

Mr Lomas came to this school because of its reputation. He chose Sociology and Psychology because there he likes a debate. He enjoys watching things like *The Great British Bake Off*; he attempts the tasks himself, but inevitably fails. As well as watching TV, he really enjoys reading, with his favourite books being *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games* and *1984* (he said he likes dystopias). His favourite animals are owls, because they're wise and they're in *Harry Potter*.



## Mr McIntosh

Mr McIntosh is the new deputy head, which is his second deputy head role. He is also a PE teacher, and he chose this job because he loves to be active. He managed to secure the post after a tough two-day interview process. He is from the north-east, which makes his accent rather distinctive!

## Mr Morley

Music teacher Mr Morley came to Wath because it was bigger than his previous school and we have a sixth form. Music has always been a main hobby and he was always



really good at it from a young age. He likes to watch comedy films and shows because laughter makes you live longer.

## Mr Motley

The new Maths teacher, Mr Motley told us he wanted to teach his subject because he always liked Maths a lot when he was little. He wanted to come to Wath because he had heard about its great reputation. In his free time, he likes to watch sports programmes, especially about water polo, and action films. His favourite animal is the black panther because it is so beautiful.

## Ms Sibanda

Ms Sibanda trained here and found it warm and friendly when she returned after many years! She enjoys reading because it is relaxing and broadens awareness.

## Miss Storey

Miss Storey enjoys teaching the clever and eager students here at Wath! She decided to teach English because she thinks it's the most important subject, as it enables you to access the world. She also loves reading because you can find out so much about the world without ever leaving your armchair. She likes to watch comedy shows because she doesn't want to be too serious after a busy day at work. Her



favourite animal is a giraffe, because she thinks they are very peaceful.

## Mr Thompson

Mr Thompson went to the sixth form at Wath so it was an easy decision to go for a job at Wath. He was particularly attracted by all the sports the school does in the evenings and weekends. He chose his subject because he loves sport (particularly rugby and cricket) and is keen to get young people involved. He enjoys watching sport on TV, or settling down with a series like *Game of Thrones*. On holiday, he loves the chance to get lost in a good book. He likes baboons as they remind him of his son!

## Miss Warburton

Miss Warburton joined us because she trained here and she really likes the staff here. She chose the subject of Science because it was her favourite and strongest subject in school. Her favourite TV is *Hollyoaks* and she enjoys reading as she says it's a very relaxing and enjoyable thing to do. Her favourite animal she said is a dolphin as she wanted to be one as a child.



# Politics and Current Affairs:

## Goodbye hate, hello #GirlLove

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

“Goodbye hate, hello #GirlLove”: the motto for an amazing campaign about empowering women and stopping sexism towards women. Started by the immensely popular YouTuber Lilly Singh, also known as IISuperwomanII, it aims to stop hate towards women and promote equality. This incredible woman is an inspiration to so many people.

For this campaign, Lilly has created a rafiki bracelet to help girls in Kenya go to school. Unfortunately, many girls in Africa don't have the privilege of going to school because they must fetch water, which can take hours or even a full day. Lilly's rafiki bracelet will fund girls' education; every one bought will send a child to school. As well as this, she wishes to add water taps into schools so girls can still fetch water while having an education.

I hope you will join me in supporting this life-changing campaign and help send girls to school in less fortunate countries by purchasing a rafiki bracelet and giving children an equal chance in the real world.

## Hurricane Matthew

By Charlotte Casey, Year 7 and Emily Balaiss, Year 9

In 2010, Haiti witnessed a terrible earthquake, from which it has not yet been recovered; it has taken six years and people are still living in camps today. To make matters worse, Hurricane Mathew has now hit them.

On 5th October, crisis struck. Hurricane Matthew devastated large parts of Haiti, destroying homes, displacing thousands of people and stretching the hospital services to breaking point.

Officials fear that the death toll could rise, especially in and around the Southern Haitian town of Les Cayes, which absorbed the first blow from Matthew and where hundreds rode out the storm in homes without electricity.

Rescue workers have been struggling to reach areas cut off by the hurricane, which was the most powerful Caribbean storm in nearly a decade. One town had been

virtually cut off from the rest of the world because of broken down communications since the hurricane.

## The Great British Bake Off

By Ellie-May Beaumont, Year 8

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*The Great British Bake Off* is one of the most popular BBC programmes to date. Bake Off has inspired similar TV programmes such as *The Great Pottery Throwdown*, *The Great British Sewing Bee* as well as its side programme *An Extra Slice*, all of which have been popular (but not as popular as the original). Often referred to as *Bake Off* or *GBBO*, this is a BAFTA Award-winning British baking competition which selects the best baker from amongst its amateur contestants. It has also been nominated for a British Academy Television Radio Times Audience Award, a National Television Award (Most Popular Factual Entertainment Programme), a TCA Award (Outstanding Achievement in Reality Programming) and a British Comedy Award (Best Female Television Comic).

The show is currently in its seventh series on the BBC, but this is to be its last, as it will be moving to Channel 4. Its original presenters, Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc, and original judge Mary Berry will not be moving to Channel 4, unlike judge Paul Hollywood.

Mary Berry said she was staying with the BBC “out of loyalty”, adding that it had “nurtured” her and the show. She said *Bake Off* had been “a unique and brilliant format from day one” and that she was “just sad for the audience who may not be ready for change”. In contrast, Paul Hollywood said he was “delighted” to be staying on the show. “It's been a huge part of my life in the past few years and I just couldn't turn my back on all that,” he said.

# Wath Students Speak Out

Nadiya Hussain, the 2015 Bake Off winner, was offered the chance to be a judge along with Paul (to replace Mary), but rejected it, as she said that she was going to be "faithful to Mary as she did create her cooking and baking career".

In my opinion, the move won't be successful because it will no longer have the hilarious hosts Mel and Sue, who are loved by all *Bake Off* viewers and dedicated fans. Mary Berry adds to the atmosphere with her cosy loving presence and baking tips and tricks. She is sadly now retiring due to the move, which may not have happened had the show remained with the BBC. Furthermore, it's likely that some fans of the show may be dedicated to the BBC like Mary.

## Money Grabbing Managers

By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

Sam Allardyce has left his post as England manager after only 67 days as manager. This followed allegations from newspaper the *Daily Telegraph*, which released secretly filmed footage of him supposedly giving advice on how to avoid certain rules on player transfers.

Allardyce resigned after one game in charge, winning 1-0 against Slovakia. He was allegedly trying to use his job to make an extra £400,000 in addition to his mega 3 million pound yearly salary. The FA paid "Big Sam" £550,000 for 67 days of work and 1 million pounds to release him from his role as England manager.

A few more incidents of the same nature have been uncovered, including Barnsley's assistant manager Tommy Wright, who has being sacked for similar allegations, supposedly accepting a £5,000 bribe from an undercover reporter.

Other clubs involved in these allegations include Cardiff City sacking manager Paul Trollope and appointing ex-Rotherham United manager Neil Warnock. Eight other Premier League teams are supposedly involved in these allegations.

This is all because of the huge amounts of money in football and it needs to stop. The game should be based on good matches and fair play, not lucrative pay checks and stacks of money.

## Fabulous Fall, Awesome Autumn

By Emily Aston, Year 8

Autumn is finally here! On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, summer is over and autumn is upon us so here are some interesting autumn facts to inform you about this spectacular season.

1. The start of autumn is indicated by the autumn equinox, which is where night and day are about the same length.
2. Heart attacks decrease after the autumn equinox. Researchers think that this is because we get an extra hour of sleep and therefore, are more relaxed and less stressed.
3. The Halloween tradition of carving pumpkins originated hundreds of years ago in Ireland where they carved candlelit faces into potatoes or turnips. However, when the Irish immigrants arrived in America, the Halloween ritual was brought to life.
4. If you lived near the Earth's equator, you would miss autumn entirely as there is constant sun all year round.
5. The Northern Lights are twice as likely to be seen in autumn as the geomagnetic storms are more frequent.
6. The word "autumn" is thought to originate from the Etruscan word "autu", meaning change of season.
7. Until the 1500s, autumn was called "Harvest" in Britain. The word "fall" is short for "falling of the leaf" and was used throughout Britain in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the French word "automne" was only adopted by the British in the 18th century.
8. Babies which are born during the autumn months are more likely to live to a hundred than babies born in other seasons.
9. In China, the beginning of autumn is celebrated as a moon festival where they eat moon cakes and other round food such as oranges or watermelons.
10. In autumn, birds prepare for their winter migration. The longest journey ever undertaken by a bird was 11,000 miles.



# Media and Review:

## Sherlock Series 4 Trailer

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Recently, the trailer for the highly anticipated (and long overdue) series 4 of the immensely popular TV show *Sherlock* has arrived. Fans of the deerstalker-wearing detective will be delighted to hear this announcement, as it seems that the last episode, aired at Christmas, has taken years to create.

After the last series ended on a huge cliff-hanger, there have been hopes that the new series lives up to the high standards, and first glimpses of the trailer suggest we will not be disappointed. The question asked by our favourite modern villain Jim Moriarty at the end of last series ("Did you miss me?") left the fans wondering whether he would be reappearing soon, and it does seem that he is in the series trailer, but we will have to be patient.

The trailer is jam-packed full of action and drama that will keep the audience hooked till the end (which hopefully won't be too soon). So, fans, keep your deerstalkers on and your magnifying glass out as you will need to make some deductions as to when the series will be airing!

## Sheffield Film and Comic Con

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

In the holidays, another amazing event came to Sheffield and enticed a vast crowd. Numerous stalls carried film memorabilia (including signed photos of famous actors), volumes of manga books (a Japanese style of comic book, often adapted into anime TV series and films) and even plushie toys. As well as this, there were some special appearances from stars like Camille Coduri (who played Jackie Tyler in *Doctor Who*), Jeff Rawle (who played Amos Diggory in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*) and many others.

Many people dressed as their favourite character from films, comics, anime and TV shows as they embraced their inner geek. It was an extraordinary event that should not be missed by any person who loves to find unique merchandise and fellow film fanatics.

## Doctor Who Monsters

By Carys Garner, Y8

With Halloween approaching, let's remind ourselves of some of the creepiest *Doctor Who* monsters.

Weeping Angels:

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These terrifying monsters are just statues. Or are they? Their movement is lightning fast. Just one blink of an eye, a mere flicker, and the angel advances on you, ready to send you back in time.

Silence:

These creatures are very sneaky. No one knows what they look like. If you look at one, you can see it clearly... but only until you look away. Any recollection of them is instantly erased from your mind, leaving you vulnerable to death.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Dolls:

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

These may look weird, but they are very scary. Their most famous appearance is in an old house in the dark. They creep around, following you, until you feel their touch. Then you lose your humanity, transformed into a blank-faced doll.

## The Eighth Story... Nineteen Years Later

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Potterheads were made happy during the summer holidays when the book of the fantastic play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts 1 and 2*, was released. It was bought by thousands who were eager to read the long awaited eighth story of the magical franchise.

The story of the play follows the life of Harry's youngest son, Albus, and his journey through Hogwarts as he

# Films, Games and More



makes new friends and enemies and navigates his new life as a student.

It is a worthy successor of the original series and is a great read. I would recommend it to anyone.

## Star Wars Update

Emily Balaiss and Josie Law, Year 9

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

There was a *Star Wars: Rogue One*. It's set between Episode 3 (*Revenge of the Sith*) and Episode 4 (*A New Hope*). A theory that we have is that *Rogue One* will be about how the Sith take over the galaxy and create the dreaded Death Star.

Another theory we have is that the rebel alliance was united and the story tells how Yoda and Obi Wan Kenobi escaped to Dagobah and Tatooine. It could also fill in the gaps about what they have been doing all these years.

## The Flash Season 3

By Emily Balaiss, Alex Law and Josie Law Year 9

To understand what I'm about to tell you, you need to do something first: you need to believe in the impossible. Can you do that? Good.

After Seasons 1 and 2, there is no telling what will happen in season 3, but judging by the trailer, it is expected to be thrilling and dangerous for our speedy hero Barry Allen.

With everything changed, will Barry be able to stop the old and new threats to Central City? Will his old friends remember him or will Barry start a new life?

A theory that we have is that the nerdy and comedic Cisco Ramone will become the new director of STAR Labs. Another thing we've thought about is the role of Barry's mother. Will she be an important character or someone on the side?

Now the series has hit our screens, it's also time to again search for the juicy Easter eggs. After the intense first episode 'Flashpoint', we are all eager to see Dr Alchemy but one of the little but good Easter eggs was Catelyn

turning in to Killer Frost. Will she become the new villain?

## Strictly Come Dancing 2016

By Emily Balaiss, Year 9

The race is on! The dancers have been working their socks off to be the ones lifting the Glitter Ball Trophy in two months' time.

There are many well-known people like Anastasia, Ed Balls, Greg Rutherford, Laura Whitmore, Ore Oduba, Louise Redknapp, Tameka Empson, Daisy Lowe, Judge Rinder, Naga Munchetty, Lesley Joseph, Claudia Fragapane, Danny Mac and Melvin Odoom, although Will Young made a shock departure because of "personal reasons".

They are being trained by the amazing dancers. Some are new like Gorka Marquez, Katya Jones, Oksana Platero, Neil Jones, Chloe Hewitt and AJ Pritchard.

Who will be the 2016 winners?

## What do people really think about the new iPhone 7?

By Jacob Linney, Year 7

After the new release of the iPhone 7, many have been saying it is awful, but some think it's better than the iPhone 6s. I'm here to end the debate.

Let's start with the iPhone 7. Firstly, the iPhone 7 has a similar outer design to the iPhone 6, but a minor difference is that the head phone jack is gone so you have to buy wireless head phones; you can buy adapter so you can still use your wired headphones but they're not cheap. Another minor difference is that there are more colour choices, such as jet black. The camera quality is far from perfect with continuous lagging at the start and there have been multiple reports of hissing coming from the phone.

Now on to the iPhone 6, which was made in 2014. Despite being two years old, however, it seems more reliable than the iPhone 7, at least at present. So my advice is to stick with your iPhone 6 for now!

# Sport and Music



## Rio Roundup!

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By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

As you may know, over the summer, the Rio 2016 Olympics took place and the carnival spirit has very much rubbed off on Team GB as they came second in the medal table, winning their best medal tally in 108 years.

Team GB have been the first nation to ever go on and win more medals at the next Olympics after hosting the games. From cycling to athletics, gymnastics to diving, Team GB performed exceptionally well as they exceeded expectations.

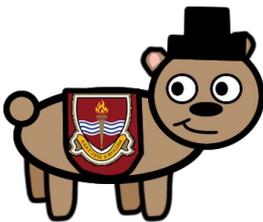
So what is the cause of GB's unexpected success? Is it the huge funding from the National Lottery or is it the fantastic new facilities provided when the Olympics were held in London? Or is it something else?

The more recent Paralympics has also been a huge success and Team GB's Paralympians also came in second place along with Team GB Olympians.

Rio has been truly successful for Team GB and a homecoming parade for the Yorkshire athletes was held on 28th September in Leeds, a real chance for the Olympians to celebrate their successes.

### WALLY THE WATH WOMBAT

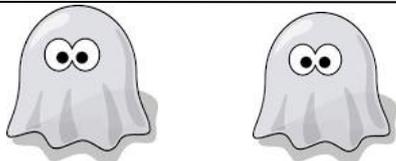
We finished last year with Wally saving Hubert! What is going to happen next?



Halloween was looming over Wally, Wisteria and all of the other students at Wath comp! Everyone was very excited!



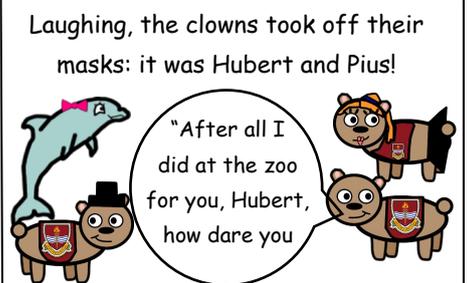
Wisteria was having a Halloween party! She was a bit nervous because the news said people were dressing up as clowns to scare people.



Wisteria spoke to her parents about it, but they told her not to worry! Wisteria and Wally both dressed as ghosts for the party.



The party was going so well... until there was a sudden knock at the door and there were 2 clowns! They started chasing people around!



Laughing, the clowns took off their masks: it was Hubert and Pius!

"After all I did at the zoo for you, Hubert, how dare you

What will happen next?