

The Magazine of Wath Academy

Vol. 102 No. 3
Jan/Feb 2025

Torch

*Movement
Evening '25*



Wath
Academy

Torch

Volume 102 Number 3
January/February 2025

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

You can contribute to *Torch* by
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or by emailing articles to
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HOUSE UPDATE



The house competition is heating up this half term, with some incredible achievements across all houses!

Work Cup: Rome leads the way!

Games Cup: Troy remains dominant.

Staff Cup: Rome holds strong at the top.

Since Christmas, Thebes has made a huge push for victories, securing first place (joint) for Christmas Day alongside Troy. A big shoutout to their win in the PE activities and an impressive second place finish, thanks to IOVKE's fantastic retro CD trash wreath. Special mention to James J (Year 9) for his incredible home-coded computer game, which secured a creative task win! Thebes also triumphed in 3 out of 4 Friday competitions this term – but with participation being key, their wins haven't yet translated into a major rise in the overall standings.



Our collective efforts before Christmas were formally recognised by the chief executive of the charity Shiloh with a certificate of appreciation and letter.

The amount of clothes donated was truly inspiring.

Troy continues to rule the online quiz, sixth form, and staff paper entries, proving their consistency. Meanwhile, Rome and Thebes are locked in an exciting 2-2 tie for staff online quiz wins this half term.

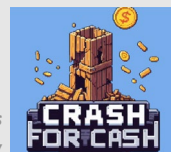
A fantastic new initiative launched this term: the Student House Leaders Development Programme. Our captains and vice-captains have set out their vision and will continue honing their leadership skills to push their houses to greater heights.

In sports, the Year 7 and Year 8 Football Round Robin Tournament saw Carthage and Sparta secure a place in the final. With Year 9 and Year 10 yet to play, all eyes are on the final showdown in the last week!

Well done to everyone for an amazing half term of competition, teamwork, and house spirit! Get ready for an exciting next term with hopscotch, octopus games, netball hoops, and Just Dance Friday competitions!

Mr Brown • Head of Thebes

James J's app icon for his creative task entry



MURDER ON THE CATWALK

A fashion show became a crime scene.

The glitz and glamour of the fashion world took a dark turn at the annual *Rogue Catwalk Gala* held in the heart of Milan. This prestigious event, known for showcasing the latest trends and designs from top designers, became the scene of a shocking murder that left attendees in disbelief.

As the lights dimmed and the first model stepped onto the runway, the atmosphere was electric with anticipation. However, the excitement quickly dissipated when a piercing scream echoed through the venue. Backstage, renowned model Lilliana L. Ust burst through the white linen tables in tears. Her husband Gregory G. Luttoni was dead.

The once-vibrant backdrop of creativity and artistry transformed into a crime scene, with security cordoning off the area as the investigation began.

Detectives quickly discovered that Lilliana was not just a beloved figure in the fashion industry but also a woman with many secrets. Rival designers such as Raquel, Silus and the renowned *Rogue* author, Eve N. Vee were jealous colleagues. Even the head of the prestigious brand 'Nouveau Couture' emerged as a potential suspect. Each celebrity with a motive to silence their demise. As investigators delved deeper



The cast of the murder mystery night

into the murder, they uncovered a web of deceit, betrayal, and fierce competition that painted a picture of a cutthroat industry where ambition often overshadowed morality. With the clock ticking and the pressure mounting, the detectives raced against time to find the killer before they could strike again, leaving the fashion world to wonder: who would dare to kill on the catwalk?

In a creative twist, the Year 13 Drama class at Wath Academy had embarked on an ambitious project: writing a murder mystery set during a glamorous catwalk fashion event. The students channelled their talents into crafting a gripping narrative that blends the allure of high fashion with the intrigue of a whodunit.

Tom A • Year 13



A scene from the fashion-themed murder mystery evening, *A Crisis of Couture*

WHAT IS BULLYING?

What is bullying? This article will show you if you or your friends are being bullied, as well as how to deal with it.

Bullying is a repetitive act of teasing and unkindness toward others. It is not just being teased, they must be genuinely upset with the situation.

What is the 'Talk' button, and how do we use it?

On our school computers (found in Computing rooms, some English and Science rooms, the library, and Graphics rooms), you can click on Microsoft Edge in the bottom left corner of your screen, and it will immediately take you to the school website. On this, it will show the 'Talk' button, and the 'Safeguarding – Keeping You Safe' button, which will also give you a lot of information.

Back to the 'Talk' button, you will be able to list your name and a brief description of what has been going on. This will then be

sent to Mrs King, who is our safeguarding lead and manager.

Is there another way to report incidents?

Yes! If you don't feel comfortable using the computer, you can inform someone like your PYL, AYL, or someone from the safeguarding team (Mr Davis, Ms Smallwood, Mrs Haigh, Mrs King and Mrs Dickson).

Where can you find help?

You can find the safeguarding office across from Reprographics, which is where you can find some help off safeguarding. As well as during lunch and break, you can talk to you AYL and PYL.

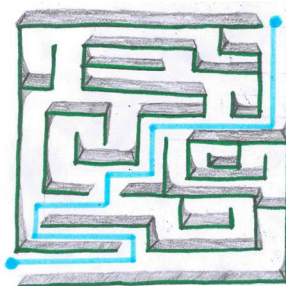
Poppy G & Jasmine S • Year 7

Write for Torch!

We're always looking for articles!

Attend the enrichment club on Tuesdays at 2:50 pm in G20

Alternatively, email articles to torch@wathacademy.com



Puzzle Solutions

Maze
See right
King's Coronation Quiz
1. 14th February
2. Love
3. Cupid
4. Red/pink
5. Chocolate
6. "I Love You"

The Snow Day

Monday 6th January was meant to be the first day back at school after the Christmas holiday, but it became a bonus day off due to the heavy snow.

The snow in January has been awful to the point of school and trains closing because it was too dangerous for cars to drive and too slippery on the tracks.

Wath Academy hasn't had a snow day since March 2023, so it was a shock to the system when student received the announcements.

In the calendar, there is actually a national snow day and it takes place on 3rd Sunday January!

The snow has taken place in the following

places: Wales, The North York Moors, much of the Pennines, The Lake District, The Southern Uplands and a lot of central Scotland.

Snow, as we know, is very rare in the UK to see so it was a great start to the year with a pretty sight to see in the mornings.

The place for it most likely to snow is Cairngorm National Park in the Grampian Mountains and least likely to snow will be south west meaning that Cornwall owns the title of least snowy in the UK.

Miley W-L & Isabelle G • Year 7

Christmas Concert

In December last year the Christmas concert was a huge hit – for those onstage and off.

The concert featured performances from bands from the school, the musical theatre group, sixth-form GCSE pieces and Wath's very talented singers and musicians.

At the interval, parent enjoyed biscuits and catted amongst themselves at the beautifully placed tables.

The parents enjoyed it immensely, singing along to the opening and closing numbers and making the children feel particularly special after their moments of glory.

Isabelle G • Year 7





Movement Evening

With performances taking place on three consecutive nights in the last week of January, the school's annual dance event was welcomed back for another year.

Movement Evening was a colossal success as students from as young as Year 7 to as old as Year 13 performed their routines that they had been working on for five months.

The three soloists from each night did a terrific job displaying their dances and, in one case, song to the audience of parents.

Enrichment dance worked their hardest to prove themselves perfect and to great success. The two gymnastics acts did an incredible job.

Lunchtime clubs such as Ballet and Tap, Jazz and Contemporary and Musical Theatre also performed to phenomenal applause and as each student took their bow they soaked up the praise they so desired and deserved.

Isabelle G • Year 7







Images: Adam Galliford Photography

MATHS LIVE! AT Disneyland[®] PARIS

Maths LIVE! 2025 was a fantastic opportunity to delve into the mathematics behind all our favourite rides at Disneyland Paris by applying our knowledge to real life scenarios, teaching us how to handle our future finances and putting our brains to the test by solving challenging puzzles.

During our time at the theme park and Walt Disney Studios, we had the opportunity to bond with our friends, peers and teachers in ways we couldn't have ever imagined. Many would agree that the highlight of the trip was getting to watch the fireworks over the Disney castle, which is a memory we will treasure forever.

Thanks to our incredible teachers Miss Goulty, Mr Bullers, Miss Haigh and Ms Pritchard, we had a wonderful time and we'll never forget it. It was Mr Bullers' iconic personality and humour that got us through the long coach journey and overall made the trip as special as it was.

This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity that we are so grateful to have experienced with our friends and teachers. It will be running again in 2026 for the current Year 9s, so sign up now!

Holly D, Caitlin H & Alice 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). In early 1974, a strike by miners meant businesses were limited to using electricity for just three days a week. At the height of this energy crisis, students in the 4th Year (Year 10) surveyed Wath locals to discover their views.



4th Year Current Affairs Public Opinion Survey (1974)

As a 4th year Current Affairs group, we carried out a survey of public opinion on the present crisis. The survey involved 75 people who we later divided into 5 groups using the Registrar-General's official classification of socio-economic status. We asked people to give their opinions on which jobs they considered contributed most to the national prosperity and what jobs they thought to be the highest paid at the moment. Other questions enquired about prices in the shops, the value of pensions and whether a General Election should take place.

The first question listed 10 different jobs and the public was asked which of these helped most towards national prosperity. The results were as follows: most people thought that the miners contributed most and almost everybody agreed that entertainers contributed least. The dockers and the ambulance men were thought to be in the middle.

The second question dealt with the highest paid jobs at the moment. The entertainers were rated the highest paid and the lowest paid were thought to be the nurses. The results showed that people were undecided about the miners' pay. We came to the conclusion that people thought that although the

entertainers contributed least to national prosperity, they were the highest paid.

Question 3 dealt with what affected prices in the shops and the results were that most people thought that world prices had the most effect on prices in the shops. This shows that most people believed the Conservatives in their election campaign when they said that world prices had caused the price increases in Britain. Out of 5 different classes of people we interviewed, 4 classes thought that profits and dividends had the least effect on the price increases. The third class (skilled workers) thought that wages had the least effect on prices.

Question 4 dealt with whether people felt that pensions bought more today than they did in 1954 and 1964 and most people agreed that pensions bought less today than in previous years.

The last question asked whether people thought there should be a general election at the present time. The result was that the majority of people asked said that there should be.

*Jane Corbishley, Elizabeth Graham,
Angela Lowe, Pauline McAdam,
Eunice Shepherd & David Wood • 4th Year*

History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is on the last day of this half term. But, beyond the cards and chocolate, what do you know about the man it is named after or how Valentine's Day became the event celebrated around the world today?

Many know Valentine's Day as the holiday of couples, a modern concept introduced by the media. However, it has a deeper history than that. It is actually a Christian holiday which celebrates the feast day of the martyr Valentine. It is celebrated as Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II, as he married

young couples after being told not to, marking the beginning of the celebration of love.

The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Saint Valentine on July 6th and the feast on July 30th, while the West celebrates it on February 14th as a singular holiday, as fixed by the Western Christian Church.

The holiday has been banned in countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia due to its collisions with Islamic holidays as it is a Christian holiday. Despite this, many people of these cultures still appreciate the holiday.

In recent years, Valentine's Day has diversified due to increasing social acceptance of increasing family types and how relationships work in the modern day.

Ruby R • Year 12



Saint Valentine by Matija Bradaška
(Image: public domain due to age)

SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

We only have one world and it's important we look after it.

Every day , more than 400 animals are killed due to environmental changes and hunting. Today , you can make incredible changes to our world.

Planet Earth is decreasing the population of animals as we speak! This scenario is not just of natural causes but because of humanity. Just imagine a world where there is no deforestation , no animal cruelty or harm done.

Deforestation

Did you know that over the size of an average football pitch is cut down every 12 hours? You can save these poor creatures by donating to charities or even planting a tree is all that is needed to save our environment.



Seals need the environment protecting

(Image: author's own)

Erin C • Year 7



Eva R tells us about the UK's biggest theme park.

I am here to tell you about an amazing theme park called Alton Towers. This place is located in Staffordshire and the postcode is ST10 4DB. This is a great place and there are rides for every height and age.

For younger riders, there is a section called CBeebies Land. Within this part of the theme park, there are multiple themed rollercoasters like a Postman Pat ride, and many more.

For slightly older riders, there are rollercoasters called the Runaway Minetrain, the Wicker Man and TH13TEEN

— although, they both may be slightly fast for some riders.

For older riders, there is Nemesis, Galactica, Smiler, Oblivion and Rita. All of these rides are really fun and exhilarating. Out of the main seven rides, I have been on Nemesis, WickerMan, TH13TEEN and Galactica. Out of all of these, my favourite is definitely Nemesis. This ride consists of seven inversions and one main loop. Because of the loop's oval shape, you slow down when you reach the top and then you speed back up again!

Eva R • Year 7

REVIEWS

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children is the first book in a six-book series by Ransom Riggs.

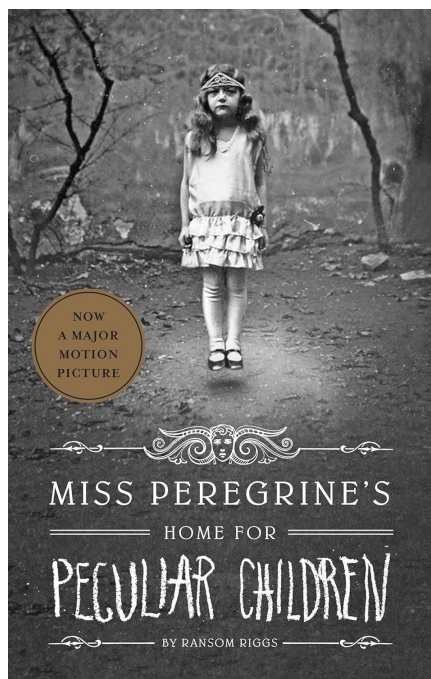
The first book focuses on the shy, social outcast, sixteen-year-old protagonist, Jacob Portman. As a child, his grandfather shared anecdotes of his own childhood in the form of bedtime stories. He shared stories of children with peculiar traits such as a girl who could float, and a boy that was completely invisible. He claimed that they all lived together in a children's home in the 1940s in Cairnholm, Wales. Jacob was fully convinced of his grandfather's words, but as he aged he became sceptical of his grandfather's tall tales.

The book follows Jacob in the aftermath of his grandfather's death on a quest to see for himself if the stories were fabricated or could potentially have some truth behind them. He travels to Wales from America to explore the island his grandfather grew up on to see if the children's home may reveal some truths to him.

In my opinion, this book is the perfect introduction to the *Miss Peregrine* series and helps build both the world and characters perfectly. The writing quality is excellent and kept me engaged throughout.

I originally read this book in Year 3 but revisited it almost a decade later to find the book oozing with nostalgia and it holds a special place in my heart for being the first book I read that was over 100 pages long.

Despite this book being so well written, I would argue that it isn't the best one in the series, as that title belongs to *Hollow City* (the second book), which is easily my personal favourite.



But coming back to the first book, I would rate it an overall 8/10. I would recommend this book to anyone, as it transcends age and the story can be enjoyed by any reader.



Abigail G • Year 12

Avatar: The Last Airbender – The Rise of Kyoshi

by F. C. Yee with Michael Dante DiMartino

The Rise of Kyoshi, written by F. C. Yee and *Avatar* co-creator Michael Dante DiMartino, was one of those books I simply couldn't put down. After watching the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* series, I had always wanted to learn more about avatar Kyoshi and her adventures as the avatar two generations before Aang, so when I found out that a book adaptation had been made of Kyoshi's story, I jumped at the opportunity to add it to my Christmas list.

The book follows the journey of a sixteen-year-old earth bender named Kyoshi, a humble servant that figures out that she is the avatar after being under the impression that she was just an earth bender her entire life, and her adventures with her friend Rangik after finding out this life-changing information.

We see Kyoshi's transformation from a lowly, meek servant to a fierce and merciless warrior throughout the book.

The story itself is incredibly written, and I would recommend reading it after finishing the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* series and *The Legend of Korra* so you can fully understand the context and world; however, it is not a requirement to watch these to enjoy the

book. To keep this spoiler free, I will just say that the ending was truly captivating and made me want to read the next novel in the series, *The Shadow of Kyoshi*.

There are also other novels developed by the creators of *Avatar* following other avatars' stories such as Yangchen and Roku. Throughout *The Rise of Kyoshi*, the backstory of *Avatar* Kuruk, the avatar in the cycle before Kyoshi, is also revealed and we are also introduced to members of his inner circle from when he was alive throughout the book.

The Rise of Kyoshi was such a gripping read and really expanded the already rich world of *Avatar* and introduced many likeable characters and unlikable villains that I love to hate. As a hardcore *Avatar* fan, I would easily

rate *The Rise of Kyoshi* five stars due to the immersive world that was created and built on by the authors.

The riveting backstory of Kyoshi and the metamorphosis of her character was something us *Avatar* fans didn't know we needed. ★★★★★



Isobel G • Year 12

The Poisoned Ascendancy Tour

Bullet for My Valentine and Trivium went on a UK tour during the week during the end of January, playing their albums *The Poison* and *Ascendancy* respectively. Both albums were released in 2005 and are celebrating their 20-year anniversary. Bullet for My Valentine are a Welsh metal band, formed in 1998 and Trivium are of the same genre but derived from the United States, forming a year later.

They played most of the songs from each album as well as a few of their greatest hits, a great addition to their respective setlists. Personally, I knew about half of the songs they played, having heard the rest but not really knowing and will say that I still enjoyed the concert a great deal despite this fact.

I attended one of the concerts, alongside my brothers and a friend, to enjoy the double-set tour. They were supported by a band called Orbit Culture, though I didn't get chance to listen to them as I arrived as Bullet for My Valentine came on stage – quite a timely entrance. They played their set and the music sounded amazing live, with an acoustic version of their biggest hit

'Tears Don't Fall', helping the crowd build energy.

Trivium, the band I don't know as well, were better live than I could have ever imagined. They filled the room with energy and had people dancing to songs of theirs, which aren't as known as others. To say they were the smaller band, you certainly couldn't tell as the audience shared their love for both bands equally, creating a united appreciation for both.

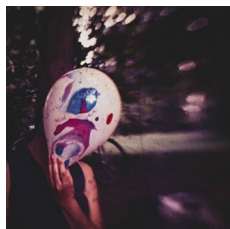
The arena was great and the bands were incredible live. Out of all the concerts I've been to, this one I must say had one of the best atmospheres as everyone was friendly and just there to enjoy the music and appreciated the event. Even the music in between the bands was selected to suit the audience, with tunes from bands like Pantera and Queens of the Stone Age filling the gap to keep the audience engaged in the event during the intermission period. It was also very clean and spacious, often something which many event locations lack.

Ruby R • Year 12



Mini Music Reviews

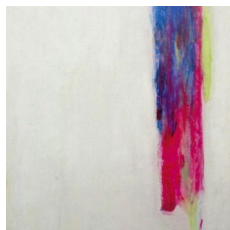
Pluralone – ‘The Night Won’t Scare Me’



‘The Night Won’t Scare Me’ is an indie track which is from the small artist Pluralone, also known as Josh Klinghoffer. He used to be

the guitarist for Red Hot Chili Peppers but eventually moved on to his own work. The song is a good example of emotional expression and the instrumental talent a single individual can have. It is definitely different than lots of mainstream music due to it’s slower tempo but still has an artistic sound. ★★★★★☆

Dot Hacker – ‘Order/Disorder’



In another of his projects, Josh Klinghoffer came together with other musicians to form a band named Dot Hacker.

My favourite song of theirs is ‘Order/Disorder’, showcasing their contributions to the experimental rock genre. Personally, I believe this song deserves a lot more attention as it is so well written and has potential to become a hit. ★★★★★☆

The Ruts DC – ‘Babylon’s Burning’

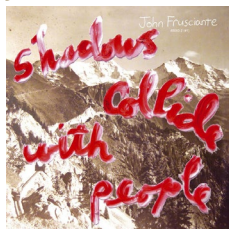


Another 1979 release by an English punk rock band, which is known for its use in the media. It resonates with many people

due to the band’s very working-class background and political beliefs. It is very standard compared to music of the same genre released in the same era and is still a great song despite its stereotypical traits.

★★★★☆

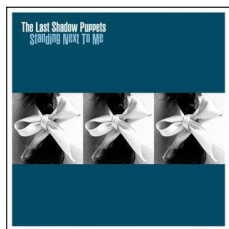
John Frusciante – ‘Omission’



Another former member of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, John Frusciante created this song as part of his solo discography to

show his abilities away from his previous genres of work. It uses an acoustic sound to create a softer sound but still includes a faster tempo to keep the rock sound to the song. ★★★★★☆

The Last Shadow Puppets – ‘Standing Next to Me’



This song was made by the Arctic Monkeys frontman Alex Turner and fellow musician Miles Kane as their supergroup The

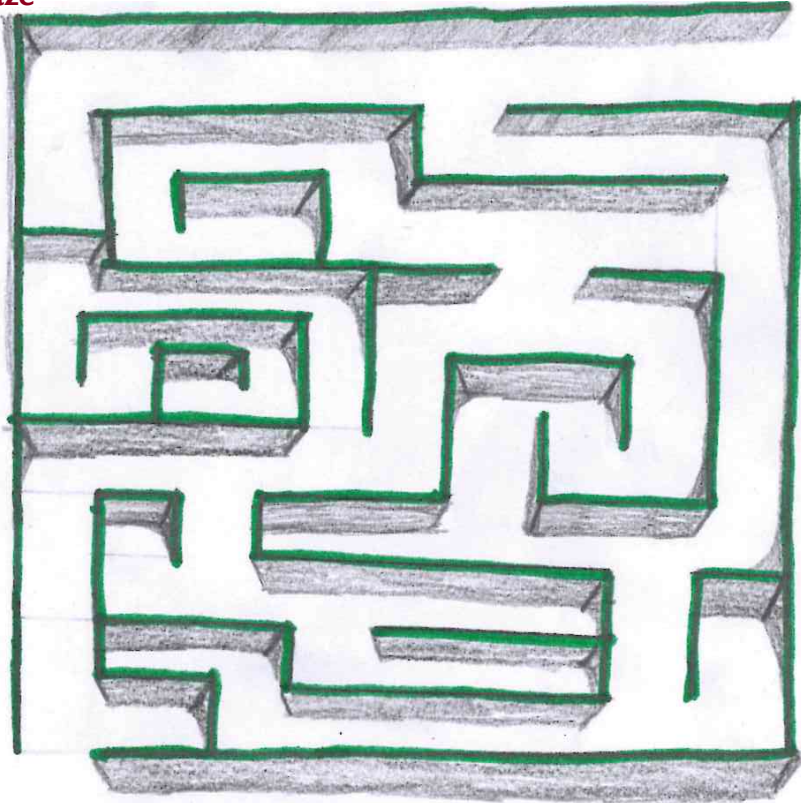
Last Shadow Puppets. The song shows their individual talents away from a band and allows them to explore a new genre, opening to a smaller but different audience than their typical work. ★★★★★☆

Ruby R • Year 12

PUZZLES

Solutions on
page 6

Maze



Erin C • Year 7

Valentine's Day Quiz

1. Which day is Valentine's Day on?
2. What is Valentine's Day for?
3. Which angel shoots love arrows?
4. What colour symbolises Valentine's Day?
5. What type of sweets do people normally give their valentine on this day?
6. What do people say to their loved ones on Valentine's Day?

Eva R • Year 7

WE WILL ROCK YOU



SCHOOL EDITION

Wath Academy presents;

WE WILL ROCK YOU

School Edition Music and Lyrics by QUEEN

Story and Script by BEN ELTON

Monday 10th March | 6:30 pm

Tuesday 11th March | 6:30 pm

Thursday 13th March | 6:30 pm

Tickets:

£6.00 | Concession

£8.50 | Full Price



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