



THE TORCH



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Able, Active and Qualified
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE!

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Charlotte Ting, Year 10

It's that time of year again! When trees are up, decorations are being hung, statues of reindeer and snowmen are outside people's houses and Christmas songs are playing on the radio, you know Christmas is coming. It's now rare that we see snow in South Yorkshire, but that doesn't stop us from celebrating the festive holiday!

However, we don't celebrate Christmas just for fun, do we? Christians celebrate Christmas in order to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. However, December 25th is not the exact day he was born; in fact, there was no official date for his birthday! There was no date in the Bible either! We celebrate it on this day

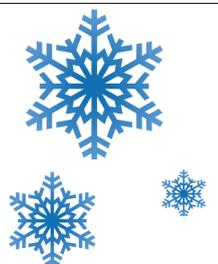
because it was first celebrated in 336 AD, during the time of the Roman Empire.

There are also a few reasons why we eat what we eat on this day, such as turkey. This is because of King Henry VIII, but it wasn't until the 1950s that the turkey was a more popular Christmas meal than a goose. To this day, we eat more than 10 million turkeys every year! 25% of British people buy their turkeys months in advance!

There are a lot of other reasons why we have what we have during this time of year, but we all must remember why we celebrate Christmas: to remember the birth of Jesus and to spend time with family and friends.

*I'm dreaming
of a White
Christmas...*

While the skies may be snow-free this Christmas (so far!), there has been a sprinkling in THE TORCH this month! The word 'snow' has appeared in **seven** different places within this issue (**not** including this page!). Can you help us to locate them all? **Find them and bring your copy to Miss Taylor to receive a merit!**



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write as we look forward to two particularly significant after-school events in the life of the school. On 18 December, we have our annual Christmas Concert, where many of our gifted musicians and singers will perform a range of traditional and more contemporary music, and where there will be hearty audience participation with the more familiar carols, particularly to the rousing traditional finale of 'Twelve Days of Christmas', complete with actions. The calendar year ends with our Year 13 Presentation Evening on 20 December, when most of last year's final year should be available to join us for the annual presentation of certificates and awards. We look forward to hearing how everyone is doing after joining the world beyond school. We are delighted that a huge proportion of the year group have already indicated their desire to join us on that evening.

At the very end of last half term, the Performing Arts faculty hosted a Murder Mystery Evening, this year with the title 'Halloween Homicide'. The fancy dress in the audience certainly added to the atmosphere as we tried to work out 'who done it' from a cast of Sixth Form drama students. The acting was of the highest calibre and thank you to all the staff from the Performing Arts faculty for hosting such an entertaining evening.

As the end of term approaches, it is a very busy time for students preparing for external examinations. Year 11 students have recently completed their GCSE Trial Examinations. In January, they will receive a 'mock' certificate in a special assembly, attempting to mimic the publication of the Summer 2018 external



examination results. Let us hope that any tears that need to be shed are dispensed with now rather than in August.

The Trial Exams are very good practice for the external exams that begin after the Easter break, only just over four months away. It is a very important time for Year 11 as they prepare for exams that will determine what options are open to them post-16. We hope as many as possible will be successful and will be able to take advantage of the courses that we offer in our own Sixth Form.

Following the Year 11 exams, Year 13 students have now had their own Trial Exams, which took place in the penultimate week of the term.

The Main Hall was packed on 25 October for our 'New Sixth Evening', where prospective students came to hear about the opportunities on offer for next year's Year 12. It was very encouraging to see the number of students that had been attracted from other, neighbouring schools across the region. It is very pleasing to note that the Sixth Form at Wath is held in such high regard.

On 15 November, we had our 'Year 11 Presentation Evening' where certificates, prizes and awards were made to last year's Year 11 students. I wrote in the last issue about their very pleasing exam results. It was lovely to welcome so many of them back together again as a year group, with students pursuing training and courses at local colleges joining with those who had moved into our own Sixth Form.

Important forthcoming dates

29 January

Y10 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers: 3.15-6.15pm.

6, 7 & 8 February

Dance & Movement Evening: 6-8.30pm.

12 February

Y8 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers: 3.15-6.15pm.

Across our school community, we continue to focus on raising academic standards and opportunities, remaining fully committed to our aim of ensuring that all of our students receive a high quality educational experience and can leave us able, active and qualified. The target date for academisation has been pushed back again by the Department of Education, this time to 1 February 2019; however, we continue to work very closely with executive leaders from across Maltby Learning Trust, our sponsoring academy trust, to ensure continued success.

Following improvements to the car park and main school entrance, we are in the final stages of completing some new fencing around the car park to create a clear differentiation between pedestrian and vehicular use at the front of school and to create an extra security precaution for all those within the school during the working day. Despite the improvements, it would still be appreciated if parents didn't try and bring their vehicles onto the site at the start and end of the school day when it is, of course, very busy and can present an extra hazard for students walking across the school site.

Individual tutor groups are currently busy putting together the final touches to their hampers for our annual Christmas Hamper Competition. Once the judging has taken place, the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the local area and to a few residential centres. Thank you if you have been able to support this by sending in any items, such as a tin of food, a bottle of drink or a book. There will be a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for 'best in school', which will likely feature in the next edition of *The Torch*.

Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated. May I please take this opportunity to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Please note that the school closes to students at 2.45pm on Thursday 20 December and re-opens at 8.30am on Monday 7 January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Headteacher

REVISION TOOL ADVERTISEMENT:

Seneca Learning



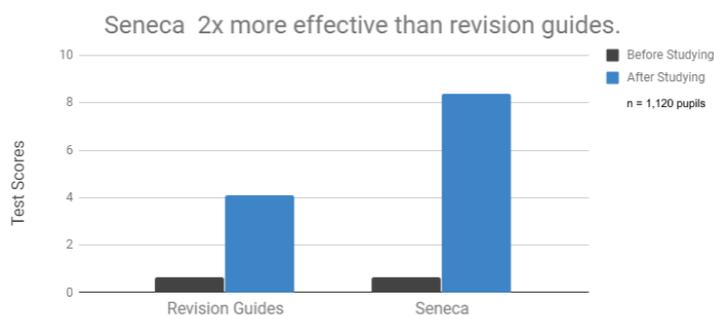
All students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun. Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses, condensing what students need to know for their exams.

An Inspector Calls Act 1 Main quotes AQA GCSE Revision English Literature

SENECA

<p>Mr Birling</p> <p>'Well, it's my duty to keep labour costs down, and if I'd agreed to this demand for a new rate we'd have added about twelve per cent to our labour costs.'</p>	<p>Mrs Birling</p> <p>'I don't think you ought to talk business on an occasion like this.'</p>
<p>Sheila</p> <p>'Mummy - isn't it a beauty?'</p>	<p>Eric</p> <p>[Not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive]</p>

The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster.



Seneca also is totally free for students, teacher and parents. You can sign up via [senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com).

5 reasons why Seneca Learning can help your students revise for their GCSEs

- Evidence-informed**
Our platform is based on cognitive sciences. We apply strategies known to enhance learning, such as retrieval practice, spaced practice, interleaving and dual-coding.
- Research**
In a randomised control trial with 1200 pupils, those using Seneca performed 2x better than peers using revision guides. The full report was published in the IMPACT Journal.
- Free**
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- Exam-board specific**
Our GCSE courses were written by senior examiners and experienced teachers. It's exam-board specific (AQA, OCR, Edexcel, CIE, IGCSE, WJEC).
- Monitor students' progress**
The courses are automatically marked and you can monitor students' progress. Analytics show how the class responds to each lesson, assisting you when planning the next one.

For more information and to try our free GCSE courses, visit www.senecalearning.com

Latest News and Updates from

A-Level Biology Field Trip

By Nemesha Nelson, Year 13



In late November, Year 13 travelled to North Yorkshire for an A-Level Biology field course, where we put into practice the theoretical sampling techniques required to pass. Despite the cold, we enjoyed a day at Filey, where we sampled the environment to study desiccation. In the evening, we dissected owl pellets to practice species identification from bone structure, and on the following day, we investigated succession in a wetland. The trip was beneficial as it consolidated our ecological knowledge and understanding.

Remembrance Day Library Display

Article and Photography by Isobelle Fenton, Year 7



Earlier this year, in November, the library made a display to explain about Remembrance Day. A big sign was decorated, and the book stand was decorated on

one side with poppies made of paper and books on the wars such as *War Horse* and *Horrible Histories* book on the First World War. It is important to acknowledge Remembrance Day every year because if the soldiers did not fight for the Allied Forces, then life would be horrible today. We should appreciate this day because it signals not just the end of the 'War To End Wars', but also allows us to appreciate anyone who has given their life in a conflict since that terrible war.

Year 7 Christmas Carol Trip

By Chelsey Cowling and Casey Willis, Year 7

In the evening of Friday 30th November, over 100 Year 7 students went to the temporary theatre at Leeds Playhouse, filling two coaches, and joining many other people in the theatre.



The play was written by Deborah McAndrew and based on the novella by Charles Dickens that we have been reading in our English lessons.

When everyone finally arrived at the theatre, we bought refreshments in the time before the show started and then we went into the auditorium. It was really good, especially as it is only a temporary building as the real theatre is being renovated. Wath students took up half of the seats in the audience.

It was really exciting when the lights went down and it got really dark to the point we couldn't see. Then the lights came on and Scrooge and Bob Cratchitt entered. When Scrooge shouted, he scared some people. The actor playing Scrooge, Robert Pickavance, was a very clear and good actor.

"I loved the man who played Scrooge," said Kelsey Titterton of 7EWI. "He sounded really mean and

Wath Comprehensive School

was very loud. His posture was excellent.”

The set was really good. It had a machine above the actors that made fake snow fall down.

Scott Jessop in 7SFI said, “The stage effects were really good with the smoke when each ghost arrived.”

The interval was really cool because you could buy sweets and ice-cream. Lots of people there hadn't been to the theatre before.

Elexi Walker started the second half as the Ghost of Christmas Present. She was one of the best actors because she was really clear and funny.

Near the end, these black figures appeared and it was really eerie. My friend cuddled up to me because she was scared!

“It was fun,” said Alfie Pell in 7LPR. “I really liked when Marley came out shouting.”

“It was good,” said Candice Brammer (7EWI). “I'd never been to that theatre before.”

The coach journey back was really fun because we all talked about the show. We got back late (10:15), but it was definitely worth it.

***Romeo and Juliet*: RSC Schools' Broadcasts**



Everyone in Year 11 was privileged to attend a rare live-screening of the play *Romeo and Juliet*, which took place in Stratford-upon-Avon on 21st November.

The beauty of a live-screening means students were able to watch the Royal Shakespeare Company production from the comfort of the school hall, similar to other students in many other schools around the country.

The performance, which occurred on a bare stage to evoke a modern, urban space, was faithful to

Shakespeare's original script, even though there were a few curious directorial decisions for casting, such as the gender-swapping of Mercutio and Lord Montague.

It was a brilliant chance for students to experience Shakespeare in the way it was intended, and was also excellent revision, since all Year 11s will be required to answer a question on *Romeo and Juliet* in their coming examinations. Students were given revision booklets at the start of the performance, and many took the opportunity to carefully fill these in as they watched the performance with key points and ideas.

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Hopefully, they now realise that 'Wherefore art thou Romeo?' means 'why are you called Romeo?' (rather than the common mistranslation of 'Where are you, Romeo)!'

ABRSM Exam results Autumn 2018

Congratulations to the following on their recent ABRSM exams:

- Abigail Germany Grade 3 Violin Distinction
- Sophie Robinson Grade 2 Singing Distinction
- Kirin Howat Grade 6 Violin Merit
- Emma Walters Grade 1 Flute Distinction
- Lucy Hepworth Grade 3 Piano

All these excellent grades are testament to the hours of hard work and dedication put in by students. Particularly impressive is the Grade 6 by Kirin Howat in Year 10, as a Grade 6 or above is worth UCAS points, which students need in order to get into university—not bad going for someone who has yet to finish his GCSEs, let alone decide on A Levels and maybe a university place!

If you are interested in taking up music lessons through school, please speak to Mrs Hole in the Music department.



Festive Fun and Opinion



Dogs are for life, not just for Christmas

Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

Dogs Trust are continuing to stress how important their Christmas slogan 'Dogs are for life, not just for Christmas!' really is around the festive period; they state they receive a 'flurry of dogs' at Christmas, mainly because people don't understand the dog won't be a puppy forever, or just don't want it. The slogan has been iconic ever since it was released 39 years ago.

In all the excitement of taking children to see adorable little puppies, parents seem to forget how much responsibility will come with the new addition to the family: walking, feeding, playing and most importantly training it so it doesn't wreck all your stuff and so you can leave it alone for long periods of time without causing separation anxiety – when a dog gets nervous about being parted from their owner. Also, the dog could cause itself injuries when it's trying to escape from its crate.

Hundreds of dogs get abandoned or dumped at shelters every year and it's up to us to stop it. We need to think about whether we really need to get it at Christmas because (with all the gifts we are buying) money can go down quite quick, meaning you might barely have enough to buy the dog itself, never mind all the equipment that you'll need to take care of it. Here

are some good questions to ask yourself before you even consider buying a dog:

1. Can you afford it right now?
2. Are there any children in the house too young to understand responsibility?
3. Would a dog be right for everyone in your family (think of people with mental health conditions, ill people, allergies, young or old people and other pets)?
4. Is there enough space in your garden (a puppy can't go out for walks straight away!)?

When you've asked yourself all these questions, you can then start considering breeds. There are toy dogs like Lhasa Apso, medium dogs like Cocker Spaniels, bigger dogs like Siberian Huskies or giant dogs like Bernese Mountain Dogs. Remember to choose one you can take care of, not just because it looks cute! Enjoy having your very own fluff baby!

Iceland's Christmas advert rejected!

Grace Clowrey, Year 8

For many people, the release of big brand shops' Christmas adverts marks the official start of Christmas. However, this year, one has been banned! The advert was produced with Greenpeace and is a very controversial case – it has been banned for being "too political" and apparently going against advertisement rules. It urges customers to have an "orangutan-

Christmas Word Search

Made by Lillie Connolly and Cara Saville, Year 8

There are quite a lot of words to find in this festive word search... can you find them all? Return completed puzzles to Miss Taylor for a merit!

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Christmas | tinsels | icicles |
| reindeers | snow | pudding |
| Santa | gifts | treats |
| tree | dinner | crackers |
| stockings | family-time | ice |
| baubles | poppers | |



friendly Christmas” as the company is campaigning against the use of palm oil in production. Iceland will still be creating ads – but they will just be 10 second clips highlighting palm oil-free products.

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In my opinion, the advert shouldn't have been banned, as it highlights the important issue of deforestation. It was very emotional and would have melted people's hearts as well as beating other Christmas adverts – the founder of Iceland said it would have “blown the John Lewis ad out of the window”. The orangutan, who features in the ad, is now classed as critically endangered, thanks to palm oil production. These creatures could become extinct, and it will be our fault. We need to raise awareness of this issue!

Origin Of The Christmas Tree

By Ellisia Bowman, Year 8

Christmas trees are in most houses when it gets close to Christmas, but where did England get this idea?

In Germany, the first Christmas Tree was decorated with edible things such as gingerbread. Britain was first introduced to the idea in the 1830s, but it became very popular in 1841 when Prince Albert (the German husband of Queen Victoria) placed a tree in Windsor Castle. A picture of the family ended up in the newspaper and decorating a Christmas tree then became fashionable. They were decorated with sweets and cake (hung by ribbons) and candles to resemble children in the sky; however, this was a great fire hazard so we used coloured lights nowadays, which, in my opinion, look better.

In the 19th century, Christmas trees were a rarity in America. In 1830s, the first recorded Christmas tree was displayed by German settlers of Pennsylvania. From then, their popularity rapidly grew, until, by the late 1840s, Christmas trees were accepted by most Americans.

Top 10 Things To Do This Christmas

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

1. Go to a Christmas market: whether it's a big one like Manchester's (which has everything from fake snow to gems) or just a little one like Wath Light Switch On with just a few stalls and rides, Christmas markets can really make you feel Christmassy and happy.
2. Make a snowman soup: while it may sound weird, a snowman soup is one of the best drinks to have at Christmas. It's made with hot chocolate, whipped cream and marshmallows and a candy cane in it.
3. Get a Christmas tree and decorate it: go to a farm – like Billingley Christmas Tree Farm – and get lots of fun decorations for it. You can get tinsel in every colour from red to gold, baubles with glitter and feathers on them, or in crazy shapes (I've seen a broccoli one before!) and you can't forget the star or angel on the top!
4. Bake something: if you want to do something easy, peppermint bark is just white chocolate and candy canes, but things like chocolate log and gingerbread houses are a bit harder.
5. Buy something nice for a family member: even though Christmas shopping might seem like a bore sometimes, just imagine their face when they open their present!
6. Wear a Christmas jumper to celebrate Christmas jumper day.
7. Go for a drive to see Christmas lights (or the Peak District: it has a lot of snow because it's elevated).
8. Go ice skating! There's a rink at Wentworth garden centre and most big Christmas markets have one too! Even if you're bad at it, you'll still have lots of fun! Make sure to wrap up warm, because even the plastic ice is freezing cold!
9. Watch your favourite films in your best Christmas PJs. Netflix has released *A Holiday Calendar* and the *Princess Switch*, both excellent films.
10. Send some cards to family and friends: you can get them with jokes on, cute puppies and kittens in Santa hats or you can make them yourself!

However you choose to spend Christmas, Merry Christmas, from everyone at *The Torch!*

UK News and Sport

Who should be on new £50 note?

By Caitie Swallow, Year 10

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The Bank of England is asking the public to take part in choosing which British scientist should feature on the new £50 note, which will be issued after 2020. There are limits on who it can be. The Bank's rules state that anyone featured on a banknote, apart from the Queen, cannot be living. They must also be a real person, leading the bank's governor Mark Carney to rule out the Doctor from Doctor Who saying, "Time Lords from whatever gender" aren't allowed.

Early contenders are thought to include Stephen Hawking, Alan Turing (who broke enemy codes during the Second World War and developed artificial intelligence) and Ada Lovelace (who is often called the first computer programmer).

The paper note will be replaced with ones made from polymer, to make it more hygienic, waterproof and harder for criminals to copy. Once members of the public have sent in their ideas, a committee of experts will draw up a shortlist. The final choice will then be made by Mark Carney.

Titanic 2 set to sail

by Emily Rodgers, Year 7

A £5,000,000 investment has been made by the millionaire Clive Palmer to rebuild and re-sail The HMS Titanic by re-building the ship and setting it back on due course to complete its original journey.

The original boat travelled from Southampton, then stopped in France and Ireland then got half way across the Atlantic before it hit an iceberg and sunk. The reason so many people died was because of the lack of

lifeboats on the ship; it originally held 3,000 people and was carrying around 2,000 people, but there was only enough space in lifeboats to carry 1,000, since they believed the ship was 'unsinkable'.

I really hope that one of the changes that they are making to the boat is that there will be more lifeboats to stop this terrible tragedy from repeating itself. Let's hope its maiden voyage goes more successfully than its predecessor!

Though the preparations were postponed for two years, they have picked up again. However, if you are planning on investing in a ticket, you might want to start saving up as people are offering up to £1,000,000 for a chance to ride on this ship.

The airline Flybe have announced that they are selling themselves

By Bradley Luke, Year 7



Budget airline Flybe has announced that it is going up for sale as its profits have nose-dived (excuse the pun). The reason for this is to do with fuel. Fuel prices have risen so much in recent months and this has resulted in Flybe putting themselves for sale.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Bradley Luke, Ben Nutley, Isobelle Fenton, Georgia Tidy, Emily Rodgers, Hari Sukumar, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Grace Clowrey, Ellisia Bowman, Phoebe Orwin, Jacob Linney, Dan Nutley, Olivia Storey, Caitie Swallow, Charlotte Ting, Elizabeth Gray, Lauren Williams, Emily Balaiss, Lillie Connolly, Cara Saville and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to Nemesha Nelson, Mr Bishop, Miss Perry and Miss Taylor. **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.**

My personal thoughts are that British Airways will buy them as they compete on the London to Scotland route. However, that's just a theory.

Leicester City FC Helicopter Tragedy (continued from the back page)

By Daniel Nutley, Year 10

Another example of heroics after the terrible crash of the helicopter at the Leicester City FC grounds was Danish goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, who, according to witnesses, had to be held back by emergency services as he rushed to try and help the victims. Speaking in an interview for the Guardian Sport, Dr Richard Mobbs from the University of Leicester (who supports the Foxes) said: "Then Kasper Schmeichel came charging out and lifted the barrier up, a security man also came running out and dropped his radio, I picked it up and the first thing he said was: 'The helicopter's gone down.'"

This incident clearly affected Schmeichel on a personal level as, when partaking in a minute's silence before the Foxes next game, he couldn't hold back the tears. It is thought that he had a great relationship with the owner, who was loved by all the Leicester players under his management.

Another incredible gesture by the Leicester team was that all the players travelled to Thailand to attend their club owner's funeral a week or so later. As Buddhist tradition dictates the funeral lasted for a few days of mourning and all the current team paid their respects. The family didn't want wreaths to be presented at the ceremony and would rather have the money which would be spent on a wreath donated to a hospital which Vichai had been involved with.

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Vichai Shrivaddhanaprabha had such a legacy with the football club and did his best to be involved in the

community. A hospital in the local area of Leicester said that he had previously made a huge donation of one million pounds to them.

An area of controversy followed in the first game since the accident when after Demari Gray scored and removed his shirt. Under his shirt was a thermal layer which had "For Khun Vichai" printed on the front of it. Subsequently, the player was booked, as it is the FA's rules that players are not allowed to remove their shirts in celebration. The referee, Lee Probert, came under fire for being insensitive to the situation, as it was clearly a mark of respect. However, others say that he was just doing his job and abiding by the FA's rules and that the player would have already known the consequences of his actions before he even celebrated.

Two and a half years ago in May of 2016, "Khun" Vichai was on top of an open-air bus, holding the Premier League trophy aloft in celebration of Leicester City FC's wonderful triumph of winning their first Premier League title. It is such a shame that he will not be able to see any more of the club's future glory, which may come; however, there is no doubt that his legacy will live on with the club forever.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Please turn to the back page for more details of the tragic helicopter disaster that led to the death of Vichai Shrivaddhanaprabha and four others.

News, Politics and Current Affairs:

Around the World

By Caitie Swallow, Year 10

New Zealand: Chance Rescue

An 18-month-old baby has been rescued from the ocean in New Zealand by a fisherman. The boy had wandered from his parent's tent, which was near the beach, and ended up in the water. Gus Hutt, who saved the baby, said he was only in the area because he'd changed his mind about where to go fishing.

Narmada river, Gujarat, India: World's largest statue

The world's largest statue has been unveiled in India. The 182-metre monument is of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, one of the country's former leaders.

However, there have been protests by local communities, who want to be paid for their land (on which the statue was built). The statue cost around £314 million.

Kagem mine, Zambia: Giant gem unearthed

A huge emerald (estimated to be worth around £2 million) has been found at the world's largest emerald mine in Kagem. The stone, which weighs more than 1.1 kilograms, has been called Inkalamu, which means lion in the local in the local Zambia Bemba language. Only the rarest gems are given names.

According to the mining company that found the gem, the emerald will be cut into smaller pieces and auctioned in Singapore.

Emeralds are rarer and sometimes more valuable than diamonds, and are mostly found in Brazil, Colombia and Zambia.

Sicily, Italy: Severe weather worsens

At least 29 people have died in Italy, following a week of high winds and heavy rain, which caused a river to burst its banks on the island of Sicily. The severe weather also caused more than 1 billion euros worth of damage in the worst flooding Venice has experienced in the last 10 years.

In Montevago, in the south, firefighters have rescued 14 people from a hotel that was at risk of flooding.

California Wildfires

By Georgia Tidy, Year 7

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More than 250,000 people were evacuated out of their homes after three massive wildfires (Woolsey Fire, Camp Fire and Hills Fire). Reports suggests that the fires have moved very quickly due to the wind, low humidity and grass. They have reached somewhere called Malibu, a place that's home to many Hollywood stars. Lady Gaga, Kanye West and Kim Kardashian were some amongst those who had to flee.

It started one Thursday in November and has been raging ever since. These fires moved so quickly, many were forced to leave their cars and possessions behind. This year has been particularly bad for California as there have been many wildfires across the state. This is another example of extreme weather patterns that seem to becoming more common.

Singapore Airlines 16 hour route

By Bradley Luke, Year 7

Singapore Airlines have the longest route in world, which is from Singapore to New York, taking a huge 16 hours. They have just restarted this route on their new Airbus A350-900 ULR.

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The seats on this aircraft are one of a kind!

News From Around the Globe

Pre-historic animals making headlines

Georgia Tidy Year 7

Siberian Unicorn has once walked the Earth

History museum says the Siberian 'Unicorn' was around at the same time as early humans, 35,000 years ago. It has been described as 2.5 meters high, weighs 3 tons and has a massive horn in the centre of its head. Below is an image of what scientists think the unicorn would have looked like:

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

No one knows where the idea of unicorns came from. Many people in the middle ages believed that the horns of unicorns could heal sickness. Throughout the years, people have reimagined unicorns in many different ways. Which version do you prefer?

Dino fossils and tracks found

Small footprints of a 110-million-year-old dinosaur have been discovered. The creature was thought to be the size of a small bird, as shown in the images below.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

They are said to have be about 1cm long and were found in South Korea, Asia. A group of scientists said that it was thought to be from a raptor. They are still unsure whether it was from a small adult or baby.

Rainbow Crest Raptor

Elsewhere in the world, preserved remains of another new species of dinosaur have been found. In

China, the 'rainbow dinosaur' fossil has been discovered. It has been called *Caihong juji* which is Mandarin for 'rainbow with the big crest'. Below is an image of what scientists believe this dinosaur would have looked like:

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Cells in this dinosaur resembles the same cells found in a hummingbird. This dinosaur is thought to have walked on two legs and hunted like a raptor. Despite the fact it had feathers, researchers don't believe that it could fly. They would have been more likely used to keep the animal warm.

Chocolate Disaster!

Georgia Tidy, Year 7

A town in Germany has been left in a sweet mess after a tank of chocolate has spilled all over the streets. Fire crews in Westönnen used blowtorches, spades and hot water in an attempt to remove it as it had hardened in the cold.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Almost a tonne of the sweet treat had escaped from a nearby factory. The owner told reporters that the factory still had a few weeks to recover before everything was chocolate-free. Despite the spill, locals' spirits are still very high.

One person has said, "If I were them, I'd have checked if the floor was clean and then called everyone over to eat it!"

Feature: Space Updates

NASA Space Craft

By Georgia Tidy Year 7

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A NASA space craft has travelled closer to the sun than any other space craft in history! It is within 15 million miles of it. That may seem a huge distance, but in space exploration, it's a massive deal!

If the space craft were to go any closer, it would suffer extreme heat and radiation conditions that may affect the craft. This is the closest observation of the star ever seen.

Because of the heat coming off the sun, the space craft will always have to point its heat shield at the sun. Otherwise, it will be burn up and the research will be lost...

Worms in space?

Georgia Tidy Year 7

36,000 tiny worms are being sent on the ISS (International Space Station) on a very serious experiment. The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched from NASA Kennedy Space Center, carrying its unusual passengers.

The *C. elegans* (the tiny worms) are so small, you can only see them under a microscope. Although they may sound very weird, they are not that different to humans. The scientists' mission is for the worms to help them understand the changes that happen to an astronaut's body whilst in space and find the secret of why our bodies age on Earth.

An astronaut's body ages quickly whilst in space. This is because space speeds up the process. They are

hoping that this experiment will help them understand how an astronaut's muscles work in this environment.

The transparent worm (nematode) is about 1mm long. They share many biological characteristics with a human. Scientists think that studying these worms will help find cures for diseases that weaken muscles and the skeleton.

What do you think? Would you like to send worms into space?

The Moon can have Moons?

By Emily Rodgers, Year 7

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Scientists have discovered that under certain conditions, moons can have their own moons.

The primary moon has to be big enough and far away enough from the planet its orbiting for the smaller, secondary moon to survive.

But, given this, they found that moons in our very own solar system could theoretically have their own smaller moons. Two of Saturn's moons and one of Jupiter's are candidates, so is the Earth's moon.

But the big question is what would they be called?

There are many sensible options such as sub-moon or micro-moons, but by far the most requested name is moon-moons, and as you can probably guess the internet is a big fan of this one.

Feature: Environment

Recent Renewable Energy Sources

By Ben Nutley, Year 7

There are surely some strange ways to make energy, but a solar panel on a lamppost and roadside wind turbines? Really? Here are some strange (and really expensive) renewable energy sources.

Self-Charging Lamppost.

When you think about lampposts, you don't think about them having a solar panel on top, do you? However, scientists are developing a concrete lamppost that will be able to charge through the day, store their energy, and use it to power themselves at night. Although renewable street lights will cost more than an average street light to install, by producing their own energy, it reduces their cost in the long run.

Roadside Wind Turbines.

When cars travel down roads, not many people think about the wind that is generated when cars go forward but scientists at Devici Tech are some of the people who are.

They have developed a vertical wind turbine that stands at the side of the road, collecting the wind generated by the passing cars. This method could be especially useful at the side of motorways, as over 100,000 cars drive on those roads every day, each travelling at around 60mph, generating a huge amount of wasted energy.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Submerged, Street Solar Panels.

With solar panels being such big source of green energy these days, companies are finding any way they can to make new places accessible to use them. With wall-mounted solar panels and solar panels on the tops of cars, weird places aren't that new. However, scientists

at Colas have developed a solar panel that is on the surface of the road.

In principal, it would be a relatively good idea as you could charge them up all day and power street lights at night. However, with cars travelling on top of them all day, light would come only in between cars, and with cars constantly travelling on the roads, I think these wouldn't be as useful as other power sources, as they would surely suffer from damage (think how hard it is to keep a road clear of potholes!)

So yes, there are a lot of different and kind of weird power generators out there, but some aren't as useful as others. Of course, it is important for scientists to develop new forms of green power generators and power harnessers, weird or not, given the urgent need to reduce the carbon levels in the atmosphere.

Creative Corner

Murderous Children

A short story by Isobelle Fenton, Year 7

I woke to my daughter's horrified screams.

Jacob came running into the room, tears streaming down his face as he explained through his sobs that something was after his sister.

"It's just a dream," I told him. "Go back to bed."

"No, it's not! She's in her bed now to prove it!"

I was chilled to the bone when the pile of dinner plates we had just finished putting away crashed to the floor.

"What just happened?" I asked Jacob, but when I turned around, he was no longer there.

How was that possible?

I felt my stomach flip as I realised a sickening truth... Whatever had just taken Jacob must still be inside this room.

Turning around slowly, my heart racing, I looked over to the side.

A shiver ran down my spine; I could see the white eyes of a human, boring into my soul. The eyes of a child. A child none of us had ever known.

I had to think fast...



Media and Review:

Stan Lee dies at 95

Georgia Tidy Year 7

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After bringing all the Marvel characters to life, Stan Lee sadly passed away at the age of 95 on 12th November 2018. Fans gathered at Stan Lee's star on the Hollywood walk of fame on the evening of his death.

He created some of the most popular superheroes in the world including Black Panther, Iron Man, Thor and The Incredible Hulk. The highest rated Marvel movie so far is *The Avengers* (2012).

His daughter has paid tribute to him, saying: "He felt an obligation to his fans to keep creating. His family loved him, and his fans loved him. He was irreplaceable."

One student at Wath said: "I'm really quite sad as he has created some amazing films." Another added: "He will be missed but I love his films."

Stan Lee is also notable for his cameos in all the Marvel films to date, a whopping twenty in total, shown below:

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Death won't stop him as he is set to make posthumous appearances in *Captain Marvel* and *Avengers: Endgame*, both set for release in 2019.

I'm a Celebrity 2018 John Barrowman Left Camp?!

By Emily Balaiss, Year 11

John Barrowman has been rushed to hospital and his future on the show is in jeopardy.

I'm a Celebrity star John Barrowman may be forced to quit the show after he was removed from camp following a serious injury on 1st December 2018.

The popular *Doctor Who* star, 51, was removed from camp after suffering an ankle injury. Barrowman was walking down the path with former Spurs and West Ham manager Harry Redknapp when he sprained his left ankle.

After visiting the jungle medics, he spent the night away from camp and was put into "lock down" by *I'm a Celeb* bosses, while awaiting an assessment on his medical condition.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Barrowman has been excluded from 2nd December 2018's second public vote off – but may never return to camp.

He was helped into the medical hut by *DIY SOS* host Nigh Knowles and *Hollyoaks* star Malique Thompson-Dwyer. Jungle medics advised that Barrowman needed to go to the hospital for an x-ray on his ankle.

After his ankle was strapped up, he nervously waited for the doctors to tell him his fate. Barrowman sent a message to his fellow campmates which proves he is still in high spirits.

He said: "I'm lying here, sipping champagne in a

Films, Games and More ★☆☆★★

hospital. Continue to live your jungle life as normal. I want to be back in there with you all soon. But please get some rest this evening.”

He then cheekily added: “PS, I want my dinner when I get back.”

I'm a Celebrity reps have confirmed that all money that viewers spent for John Barrowman will be refunded via the website. We hope that Barrowman will return to camp soon.

Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke lose legal battle over song 'Blurred Lines':

Lauren Williams, Year 10

The recent long running copyright feud between Marvin Gaye's family against Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams has finally concluded, with the accused (Thicke and Williams) having to pay 3.9 million pounds in total, out of the huge sum of 13 million they made from the original song, 'Blurred Lines'. Fifty percent of all royalties from the song are also now entitled to Gaye's family.

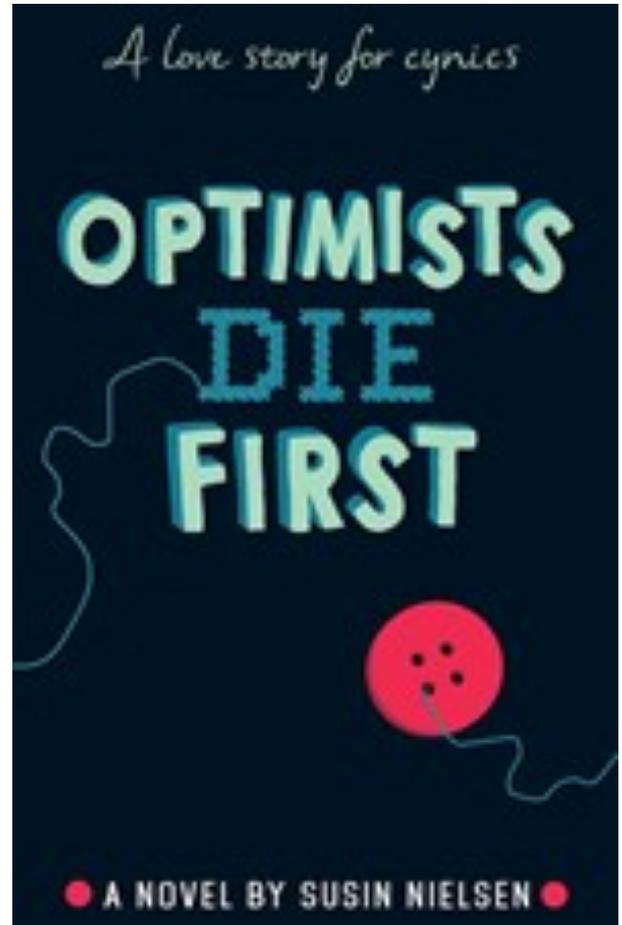
The lawsuit began in 2013, with Gaye's family initially winning the case back in 2015, due to the apparent plagiarism of his song from 1977, 'Got to Give it Up'. Many people feel the song was not directly plagiarized, with the lyrics not being copied, rather the style of the song had a similar feel. Circuit Judge Jacqueline Nguyen said the song 'differed in melodies and harmonies' and went on to describe how this would certainly have a bad effect on the career of upcoming and future musicians.

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Book of the Month

Optimists Die First – by Susin Nielsen

Reviewed by Emily Rodgers, Year 7



Petula, is an anxiety ridden, paranoid teenager that sees danger in everything, from something as simple as making salad to crossing a construction site.

She is naïve and scared until Jacob (an amputee) walks into her therapy group (this group is filled with other social outsiders, suicidal people, addicts, and people distorted by grief).

They slowly bond while working on a school project together, and after spilling their hearts out to each other about their traumatic pasts, something more than a friendship seems to be forming.

However, when some deeply buried secrets get out, can they manage to keep the friendship they created intact?

Sport Update

Leicester City FC Helicopter Tragedy

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Daniel Nutley, Year 10

As you may know, on Saturday 27th October, the football world was shaken by a horrific tragedy, in the form of a helicopter crash outside the King Power stadium of Leicester City football club. It is known that there were five fatalities: everybody on board the helicopter at the time of the crash.

Included in the five people who lost their lives was club owner Vichai Shrivaddhanaprabha, the pilot of the helicopter, two members of the Thai-billionaire owner's staff and a passenger. The helicopter was only in the air for roughly 40 seconds before crashing not far from the King Power Stadium.

BT Sport pundits, who were providing post-match analysis for the Leicester City 1 West Ham United 1 match, were sitting in the studio inside the ground with a glass panel behind them overlooking the pitch.

Inside the centre circle was Vichai Shrivaddhanaprabha's helicopter and the pundits watched as the helicopter took off from the pitch whilst talking about the game. Minutes later, because of the awful events, BT Sport's Premier League tonight show was cut short and footage from the King Power stadium was stopped as the stadium was evacuated, and emergency services raced to the scene of the tragic events.

Despite the tragedy and trauma that was caused, a few moments of incredible heroics were displayed during the aftermath of the crash. Firstly, the pilot, Eric Swaffer, according to reports steered the helicopter away from the crowds of fans, who were still near to the stadium, and directed it to the ground to avoid hundreds of possible casualties.

Story continued inside on Page 9.

