

The Magazine of Wath Academy

Torch

Vol. 101 No.1
Autumn Term 2023

Wath Academy
is 100!





CONTENTS

Page

3-4 Wath at 100

5 House Update

6-7 School Trips

8-9 Sixth Form Open Evening

10 Enrichment

11 Axolotls

12 Sport

13-14 Reviews and Jokes

15-16 Wellbeing at Wath

16 Christmas Celebrations

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

You can contribute to Torch by selecting it as your enrichment activity or by emailing any contributions to torch@wathacademy.com

Published by Wath Academy, Sandygate, Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7NW

Wath Academy is part of Maltby Learning Trust



Wath Academy



This issue's cover photo was taken in 1948 and shows students of the school at that time taking part in a science lesson.

Celebrating 100 Years of Educating Wath

Recently, our school was lucky enough to celebrate our 100th year anniversary: a moving event for everyone as the school reminded all of us of the rich history our prestigious establishment has.

On Sunday 17th September 2023, there were multiple items on display in the main hall from the 1920's to 2010's and beyond. This meant that many people from different age groups could enjoy the day at Wath. The school showed off many pieces of its history via a tour through the hall showing historical items such as old photos of the school buildings, staff and students, the old uniforms through the ages for both younger years and sixth formers and old artefacts such as trophies and even past editions of The Torch. Many of the senior students returned to share and remember their fond memories of the time they spent at our great school.

Also on the day of the 100-year anniversary of Wath Academy, there were many activities to entertain the guests who came along including face-painting, an inflatable slide, and an ice cream van. This kept many of the younger children who came with their parents and siblings entertained during the day bringing a sense of fun and celebration to the historical day.

Before the celebratory date, the whole school created an aerial shot of the students, forming the phrase 'Wath 100' by standing together. We did this on a sunny Friday afternoon, when sixth formers and year 11 students outlined the letters and numbers and year 7 to 10 students filled them in. Even staff joined in by creating a line of faculty members at the front. It was exciting and fun to be part of the school's history and join in on something that made our school feel like a community.

By Kathryn E



House Update



Wow! What a first two half terms. It looked like Troy were going to dominate the competition again after a brilliant HT1 win for combined Staff and Student Events. However with the move to Half Termly competitions, Carthage have stepped up to plate and taken Half Term 2 by storm!

Below are the Staff and Student Half Term tables so far. An update on the Annual Games cup will come in the next Torch update.

HALF TERM ONE:

HT 1 Staff League		
Position	House	Score
1	Troy	11255
2	Carthage	10685
3	Rome	9125
4	Athens	6105
5	Thebes	6030
6	Sparta	5890

6th Form League		
Position	House	Score
1	Troy	4700
2	Thebes	3310
3	Rome	2905
4	Carthage	2830
5	Sparta	2220
6	Athens	1905

Student HT1 League		
Position	House	Score
1	Troy	20170
2	Rome	16560
3	Athens	14635
4	Thebes	14050
5	Carthage	13925
6	Sparta	13320

HALF TERM TWO:

Staff League HT2		
Position	House	Score
1	Carthage	9160
2	Rome	7705
3	Sparta	6635
4	Athens	6305
5	Troy	5350
6	Thebes	4365

6th Form League		
Position	House	Score
1	Carthage	3020
2	Rome	2570
3	Thebes	2355
4	Sparta	2345
5	Troy	2260
6	Athens	1835

Students HT 2		
Position	House	Score
1	Athens	12735
2	Thebes	12565
3	Carthage	12435
4	Sparta	12030
5	Rome	12030
6	Troy	11475

OVERALL:

Combined HT1 League		
Position	House	Score
1	Troy	32825
2	Rome	26985
3	Carthage	25310
4	Athens	21440
5	Thebes	21080
6	Sparta	20410

Combined HT2 League		
Position	House	Score
1	Carthage	21595
2	Rome	19735
3	Athens	19040
4	Sparta	18665
5	Thebes	16930
6	Troy	16825

By M Marriott

School Trips

Sixth Form Royal Society of Chemistry Lecture

In half term two, 38 sixth form Chemistry students attended a Chemistry lecture arranged by the Royal Society of Chemistry. The lecture was held at the University of Sheffield and was titled 'Artificial Intelligence in Chemistry'. The lecturer explained what AI is and the very important role it has in our everyday life as well as in world of Chemistry. Students left the lecture inspired by the link that AI has to a new diagnostic tool that is being introduced to detect early signs of Breast Cancer and the possibility of the impact that AI could have on their future in Chemistry.

By C Gruszka



A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip

Excitement mounted amongst the group of Year 10 and 11 pupils as they boarded the coach heading for the Rotherham Civic Theatre. The festive feeling was evoked as they followed Scrooge's journey of redemption in the production of A Christmas Carol performed by the local theatre group, Rotherham Rep.

Gathered in the foyer were a group of Carol Singers that pupils were encouraged to join in singing Christmas classics upon entrance. This talented group appeared several times throughout the performance and accurately established the ambience of the theatre. Despite the performance including its own interpretations of Dickens' novella, the actors accurately reflected key aspects of their characters and effectively communicated central themes.

Comedic aspects had the entire audience relishing in infectious bouts of laughter which were contradictory to Scrooge's pessimistic attitudes. This experience truly delivered on Wath Academy's Curriculum Intent and created a joyous, lifelong memory shared between those who attended.

By E Scholes

North Star STEM Event

It was a pleasure to take ten Y9 students to Gulliver's Valley for the North Star STEM event founded and hosted by Professor Brian Cox. The students were treated to six excellent workshops that tested their knowledge of physics and engineering, and talks that challenged their ideas of the Universe. The workshops began with the group testing parachutes, evaluating the ability of different shapes, via increased levels of air resistance, to stop a Vulcan Plane on landing. They went on to build a fully functioning hydraulic arm that was used to pick up and place items from one area to another, and created movement due to the electromagnetic fields created by electron flow within copper wires. The day progressed to using thermal imaging cameras to investigate the rate of cooling of the liquid from a chocolate fountain on strawberries and marshmallows. This being their favourite workshop for some reason! The science behind this was related to the steel industry, where they test the quality of the liquid metal using cameras that can process information from waves in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum to show up the impurities that cannot be seen by the naked eye. The talk on Black Holes by Professor Brian Cox was fascinating and although a little highbrow even for myself, offered an insight into what actually happens to matter and time at the centre of a Black Hole. This was beyond degree level, and truly cutting-edge physics.

By R Fox



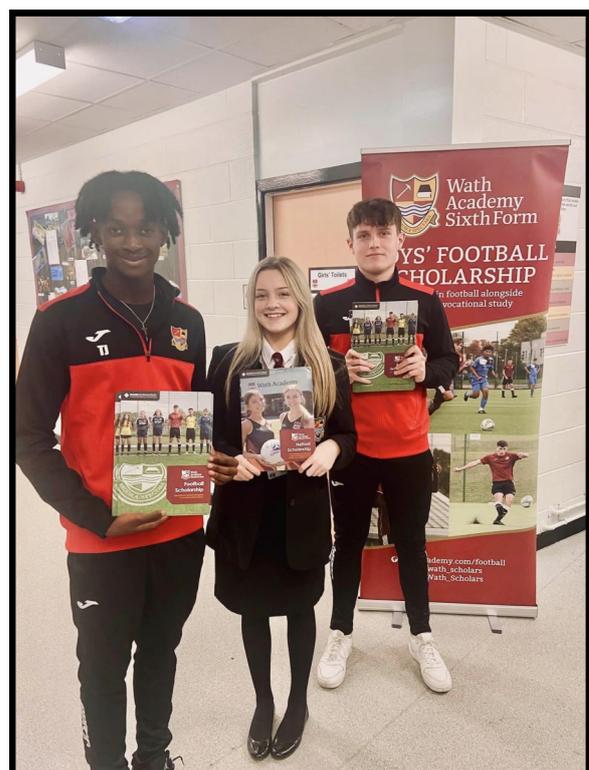
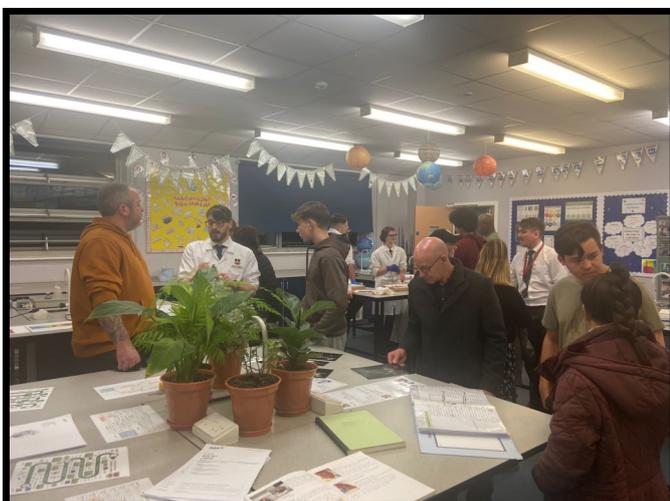
Sixth Form Open Evening

On Tuesday the 7th of November our school invited many aspiring students to learn everything they wished to know about our incredible school and the various courses they are personally interested in studying further at A-level.

On this evening, I was personally helping with Media Studies, a subject I enjoy very much, and I was happy to help recruit as many individuals as possible to be intrigued enough to consider taking the exciting subject at our school. The media studies' room was meticulously decorated and organised so any visitor could get a good look and understanding of what the subject is like and what we do throughout the two years studying here. In the room, there was a small team of Year 13 helpers and our teacher, Mr. Bishop, who were all

prepared to answer any questions that parents, or aspiring students had on our opinions and facts on the course we take.

My allocated job for the majority of the evening was to encourage all passers by to come in and look at media studies, even if they were not considering it before. Other helpers were circulating the school and giving out handouts to any interested students who may not have had the time to visit the subject. They also tempted some people to come to and look around at our displays and work, which interested them even more in choosing to take media studies at A-Level.





A student I interviewed spent their open evening helping in the computer science room with Mr. Wilby. In this area there were display boards showing the course content for both papers the learners would be tested on. The computers surrounding the room displayed the 39-week plan for the first year of their sixth form experience. Further, on the whiteboard there were examples of careers that someone who takes computer science may consider in the future. Finally, there were examples of coursework being shown which are being worked on by the current year 13s.



The student's role was to talk to any interested parties showing these potential students their coursework and to answer any questions that parents and students may have. Many visitors had questions about specific courses such as the content and work within subjects but also they wanted to know what Wath was like to attend as a school and our school ethos.

We hope that the visitors enjoyed their time in our school and we look forward to welcoming many of them as new sixth form students in 2024!

By Kathryn E



Enrichment at Wath Academy

Every Wednesday afternoon is 'Enrichment' time at Wath Academy. This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to take part in an activity creating memories that last a lifetime and developing character to complement their academic achievements. Participating in an activity can be pivotal in maintaining positive mental health, and there is an extensive range on offer from Animal Care and Baking to Boxing and Chess. Our writers really enjoyed their term one choices. Read about their experiences below.

Dance

If you're looking for something new and exciting to do for your enrichment, I know just the thing for you: Dance! Dance offers a range of opportunities for you in many ways including performing your piece in front of the whole school. We played some fun games at the end of sessions to cool off, and it was good to watch other groups' performances while practising and rehearsing.

Term 1 Dance has even offered me the chance to be a part of the upcoming Movement Evening on the 23rd - 25th of January, which will be the highlight of the month!

It is run by Miss Wrigglesworth and is held in the Top Gym located near the Sports Hall. You will need your PE kit and dance shoes if you have any.

By Erin M

Netball

Is netball enrichment for you? Netball enrichment is a place where you can learn the game from scratch, advance your skills or just have fun with friends in a safe, fun environment.

It is all about sports and a terrific way to stay healthy in the cold, winter months by having a breath of fresh air while having fun.

A terrific way that helps you advance your skills is that you usually, at the end of every session, have matches with all the year groups mixed into a team so you can play diverse levels of expertise which will help with your advancement on the game and with your ability to adapt to other strategies. If this still sounds like you, your PE kit will be needed every Wednesday. Try netball enrichment!

By Ava R

Amazing Axolotls

Axolotls are aquatic animals originally from Mexico. They look like lizards, with 2 arms and 2 legs but they have gills on the side of their heads and spend all their time underwater. Axolotls have wide heads. Their eyes have no eyelids which means that they do not like bright lights. They can live between 10 and 15 years in captivity when properly looked after.

They are cold-water creatures that like to hide in caves and dark places as they are sensitive to sunlight. Their diet consists of mainly worms and brine shrimp. In the wild, they would also eat a variety of insects and bugs.

They can live in groups but do also like to be alone. They should be kept in a large aquarium with plenty of space for them to hide and explore. This is important if you are keeping more than one axolotl in the tank, to make sure that they have enough room.

As axolotls have poor eyesight, their tank decorations need to be simple. Any decorations should be smooth and stationary to avoid any injuries. Axolotls will swim into their tank decorations so it is very important that there are no sharp edges in the tank. They also do not like rough currents so their tank water should be as still as possible, with only minimal movement from the filter.

Axolotls have the amazing ability to regenerate lost limbs and because of this, scientists have experimented on them to find cures for diseases and illnesses. There are lots of different

colours of axolotl and they have become more popular due to being introduced to the popular game, of Minecraft.

Axolotls are extinct in the wild: their habitat has been destroyed due to urbanization. It is important that people keep them as pets to keep the species alive.

I have 2 axolotls named Tofu and Sushi. Tofu is pink and Sushi is black. I am currently raising baby axolotls which I have bred myself. I plan on continuing to breed baby axolotls to help their species to survive.

I believe that axolotls are amazing creatures. They have cute faces and smiles. They also have their own personalities which make them very interesting to watch. Keeping them as pets is a lot of fun and is helping their species thrive.

By Pheonix D



Should Formula One continue to race in Qatar?

A lot of fans are questioning if we should continue to race in Qatar after the race this season. We learnt a lot about the dangerous conditions for the drivers after the Qatar Grand Prix this year. There are multiple examples of drivers complaining about the extreme conditions during their race and then having to deal with the consequences of the highly physical track.

Logan Sargeant, who drives for the Williams team, had no choice but to retire as he felt too physically unwell to continue racing, and if he did, he could have been in more danger than he already is as a driver. His conditions were due to the blistering heat in Qatar that night and the fact that he was dehydrated was not helping his health at all. Another unfortunate report was that after the race many drivers complained of feeling faint, some even had to go to the medical centre to get taken care of if they were feeling too faint.

These are only a few of the long list

of many medical based incidents that were reported on during and after the race in Qatar. It has made many fans question, is people's entertainment getting placed in front of our driver's health? Also, it has made many fans believe that this race should never have happened in the first place if the FIA were aware of the dangerous conditions for the driver's health. Therefore, it has been argued that due to extreme conditions affecting driver's health massively the Grand Prix at Qatar should no longer happen.

In conclusion, I would argue that the FIA should have considered the effects of the conditions on the driver's health before they gave the okay to the race continuing. The driver's health should be at the forefront of all our minds, including those who run Formula One. Therefore, I believe that Formula One should not come back to Qatar after this year's events proving it is far too dangerous for drivers and their health.

By Kathryn E

REVIEWS

They Both Die at the End

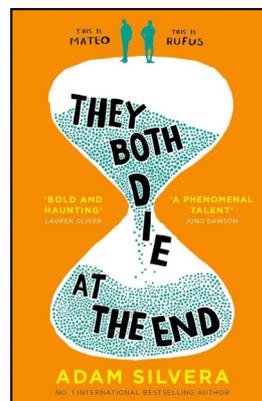
They Both Die at the End, written by Adam Silvera, is a young adult romance book. If you like books that have a mix of romance with a dash of adventure and a sprinkle of tearful scenes, then this is a book for you. As the name suggests, yes, they do both die at the end, but this book makes even the biggest plot spoiler still feel unexpected and cry-worthy.

The main plot of this book is two 18-year-olds who find themselves not able to see tomorrow. With both people lonely and longing for a friend to live their last day with, they decide to meet and face the day together. After a life-threatening encounter, they find their real purpose in life and they fall in love, living the rest of their day with a feeling of fulfillment. If this book intrigues you, you can find it in the school library.

Find the school library on the first floor!

Heartstopper

Heartstopper is a teen LGBTQIA+ romance that melts your heart and breaks it at the same time as crying your eyes out onto the floor. It has a cheerful, yet realistic, view on being a part of the queer community with a variety of diverse characters. It follows the sweet story of Nick Nelson and Charlie Spring who meet at school and fall in love. If you are interested in this book, it is available in the school library along with the rest of the series (there are currently 4 books available with a fifth one scheduled for January 2024!).



By Ava R

REVIEWS



Blox Fruit is a game on a platform called Roblox. It is also an MMORPG (a Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game). When you enter the game, you will be sent to the main menu which will ask you whether you want to become a marine or a pirate (I choose pirate all the time because it is incredibly fun for me). Furthermore, there are fighting styles, powers, swords, and guns to choose from (which all have different level or money requirements).

How to play

Once you have chosen to be a marine or a pirate then you can get into the actual game! You will spawn on an island which is designated for your selected team.

Once you have spawned, there will be some enemies which you will fight. An example of a pirate enemy is a bandit who will try to punch you. Other enemies in the game include monkeys, gorillas and snowmen. When you level up (by completing quests) and you are ready to progress, there is a compass which will point you in the direction you must go.

The game itself is very time consuming. I think when you get into it, it is fun and addictive. So, for people who want to experience the feeling of getting to the top and getting to be the best, this is the game for you!

Jokes!

By Mario G

*How do you get
Pikachu onto a
train?*

Pokemon!

*Why do bees have
sticky hair?*

*They use a
honeycomb!*

Wellbeing at Wath



We work really closely with 'With Me in Mind' (WMIM) who provide mental health and wellbeing support to children, young people and their families in school.

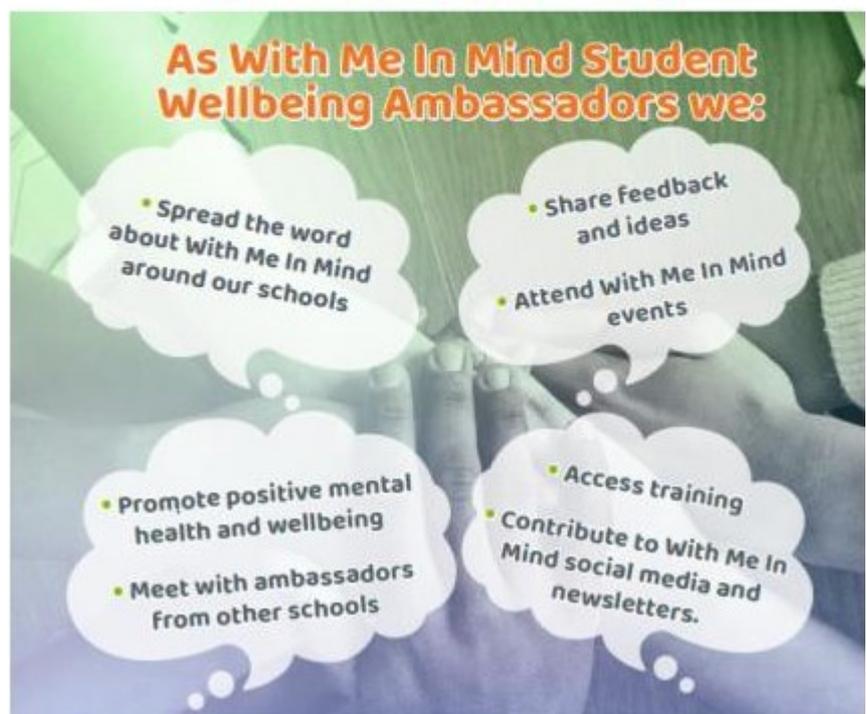
They have 2 free apps:

- Students – access an appointment with a professional from the WMIM team. This appointment is for a live instant messaging chat to discuss your concerns.
- Parents - access an appointment with a professional from the WMIM team, who are an early intervention and prevention service. This appointment is for a live instant messaging chat to discuss your concerns regarding your child.

WMIM Ambassador We will soon be launching the WMIM Student Wellbeing Ambassador programme in school. If this is something you think you could help with look out for the application information coming soon.



WITH ME iN MIND AMBASSADOR



Wath Academy Achieves Gold!

We are so proud to have achieved the Be Well@Work Gold award.

The Be Well@Work Award is a framework for a schools and businesses to work towards to build good practice in workplace health and wellbeing.

Gaining this award at gold level sets Wath Academy apart as an employer of choice when it comes to supporting employee health and wellbeing.



Gold Assessor feedback:

Wath Academy without doubt are a school of choice. The feeling I get each time I go there is of great togetherness and support for each other. The work that has been done over the past couple of years is excellent. It is clear wellbeing is very much embedded and this now feels as if it is something that is a natural thing to be doing every day. In the focus groups the staff were very positive and complimentary about the culture and support.

Christmas at Wath Academy



The Christmas spirit was alive and well at Wath Academy on the final day of term!

The whole staff body worked hard to make sure that the day ran like clockwork and students had the chance to enjoy the day and make some positive school memories to last a lifetime.

Special thanks must go to the catering team who provided a full Christmas dinner for over 2000 people!

