



THE TORCH

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

SPONSORED WALK 2017



On Friday 14th July, Years 7-10 and many in Y12 took part in the annual Sponsored Walk to Hoover Stand. Accompanied by many members of staff, the 6.1 mile walk saw them weaving through fields, negotiating roads (thanks to the police for lending a hand to control traffic), hiking up steep inclines and passing various checkpoints in an endeavour to raise money for the school, which will go towards prizes, awards and trips for the next academic year.

After an ominous start to the day with a splattering of rain, it remained overcast with a cool breeze

throughout the walk, which ultimately provided perfect walking conditions—not too hot, and not too cold.

Throughout the walk, behaviour was excellent and, despite the odd protestation that they were “dying”, students soldiered on to the very end, and many enjoyed an early finish to the day as a reward for their efforts.

A big thanks should go to Mr Lines who was in charge of organising this year’s event.

Summer Search

Help the summer holidays to draw in closer with *The Torch* word hunt! The word ‘**summer**’ appears **five** times (not including this page!). Can you locate them all?

If you find them, bring your newspaper back to Miss Taylor in the English department. The first five winners will receive small prizes. Others will receive merits.

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the end of the school year is almost upon us, it is an appropriate time to reflect on our achievements this year. We are, of course, proud of all of our students' achievements and throughout the year the pantomime, concerts, Movement Evening, dance shows, Love Languages Evening, drama productions, sports successes, Sports Awards Evening and D of E expeditions have given us the opportunity to celebrate the wealth of talent of our students, as evidenced in the recent end of year Celebration Assemblies.

Most recently we have specifically enjoyed a Shakespeare festival - a fantastic evening of Drama Dance and Music, all inspired by Shakespeare's work, with over 100 of our students involved. Our students gave some outstanding performances, proving they can cope with extremely challenging work and thrive on it.

The last few weeks of term have been very busy and the recent Year 11 and (forthcoming) Year 13 Proms are certainly among the highlights of the year. The Year 11 one, already held, was a huge success, enjoyed by students and the many staff who attended.

E-Safety Champions



Congratulations to the e-Safety Champions (Year 10 students Megan, Libby, Amy, Poppy and Robert), who have just won the Diana Award. Our students were selected as part of a group of only 750 outstanding young people from across the UK and the world, as they embody Princess Diana's qualities of kindness, compassion and service. They have worked tirelessly to create a film about online dangers, leaflets for the local community, and they are now in the process of designing online tutorials about safer social networking.

As always, the end of year brings some sadness as we say goodbye to staff who are leaving to take up new posts elsewhere for promotion or relocation and also to pursue other avenues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for the positive contributions they have made to Wath Comprehensive School and wish them every success for the future.

Mrs Rhodes is leaving Wath after 24 years as an Associate Professional member of staff. There are four teaching staff who are stepping down from their full-time teaching roles. Miss Makin is retiring following 15 years as Head of Maths; Mr Marsden is retiring as a member of the Associate Leadership Team, and from his roles as subject leader of Business Studies and Alternative Provision Coordinator, after 26 years at the school; Miss Huggup is retiring as Head of Computing, following 32 years at Wath; and Mrs O'Connor is retiring after 37 years of service to Science at Wath. We very much appreciate all they have done for the school and wish them well with their future interests.

In a year where we have received some disappointing Ofsted feedback, it is right to celebrate the successes in the school. Of course, none of the extra activities that do occur in the school couldn't occur without a very committed group of staff. We are working very hard to implement improvement plans to ensure every student makes the maximum possible amount of progress. We have a governing body who remain absolutely committed to our students having the very best educational experience. We are already looking forward to making even further improvements in our external examination results this summer. I am very proud to be working with such a committed group of people and I am confident that the school will continue to develop and continue to enjoy success in the years to come.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and to wish you a happy and relaxing summer holiday.

J Taylor

Headteacher



News in Brief

Design a Kitchen

On Monday 10th July, some of our Y8 students took part in a 'Design a Kitchen' project in Maths, which was run by Meares Education. Students were split into small groups and within the groups they had to select their job role (manager, kitchen designer, kitchen fitter, budget manager). Groups were then given a customer profile, and they had to design and cost a kitchen for the customer, taking into account safety recommendations. The manager of the group then presented the work back to the rest of the class. Kitchen plans were taken away to be designed on computer software so that students can see the results of their project.



"We thought the Design a Kitchen project was a great activity to do, and we learned a lot about the different job roles in the process of designing a kitchen," said Madelaine Lloyd, Katie Birks and Isaac Woffenden

"We thought the project was interesting and quite challenging. We had a good time thinking about where the units and appliances would go," said Eve Grant and Emily Ogden.

Study Scholars

Throughout the year, our Y10 "scholars" (our most able students) have been competing in teams, in two separate leagues to accumulate enough points to win a competition. The league and team progress was celebrated in five assemblies held each term with our brightest 80 students. Only A and A* (and 9 in the new system) counted for points. With so many students achieving and working hard, it was a tough league!

League A winners were: Team 9 (Cameron Hoyland, Ethan Gray, Kate Harrison, and Lucy Unijat). League B winners, the aptly named A Team, was comprised of Libby Chappell, Liam Millington, Lauren Appleby and Robert Johnson. They accumulated over 200 points between them over the 5 assessment points.

Each winner received Amazon gift tokens to spend....probably on books! Well done all who worked so hard to achieve.

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following for their exams:

- Maia Buccieri Grade 5 Piano
- Georgia Clarke Grade 3 Saxophone Merit
- Georgia Coote Grade 3 Flute
- Khadija Grieson Grade 3 Electric Guitar with Merit
- Kate Harrison Grade 1 Saxophone with Distinction
- Nathan Hazlewood Grade 1 French Horn Distinction
- Joe Hepworth Grade 1 Saxophone Merit
- Rowan Howat Grade 3 Flute Merit
- Tilly Levin Grade 2 Flute Merit
- Kirin Howat Grade 5 Violin with Merit
- Megan McCarthy Grade 2 Guitar Merit
- Caitlin Meakin Grade 1 Clarinet Distinction
- Holly Moore Grade 3 Clarinet Merit
- Sienna Thorpe Grade 2 Piano Merit

Ten Riddles to Test Your Mind

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

1. You can see me in water, but I never get wet. What am I?
2. What 4-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?
3. Rearrange the letters: NOR DO WE to make one word.
4. I am a ship that can be made to ride the greatest waves. I am not built by tool, but built by hearts and minds. What am I?
5. You walk into a room with a rabbit holding a carrot, a pig eating slop, and a chimp holding a banana. Which animal in the room is the smartest?
6. What begins with T, ends with T and has T in it?
7. What is easy to get into, but hard to get out of?
8. I have six faces but not even one body connected, 21 eyes in total but cannot see. What am I?
9. There were 5 children in a room. Iris drew a picture, Barry played video games, Cisco played chess, and Caitlin read a book. What is the fifth child, Jesse, doing?
10. How do you make the number one disappear by adding to it?

Answers:

1) A reflection. 2) NOON. 3) ONE WORD. 4) Friendship. 5) You hopefully. 6) Teapot. 7) Trouble. 8) A die. 9) Playing chess with Cisco. 10) Add the letter 'G' and it becomes Gone.



Music and Events

Yorkshire Cosplay Con

By Molly Hammerton, Year 9

Returning yet again for another exciting and fabulous event, Yorkshire Cosplay Con came back with a bang despite the worry that expanded from the recent tragic Manchester attack. The turnout was extraordinary as hundreds of dedicated fans attended dressed as their favourite superhero and anime characters, with some interesting combinations. There was also a lot of creativity shown as homemade cosplays of the Transformers and Hulkbuster were paraded around the arena, inspiring awe in many. On stage, many competitions between cosplayers took place; the winners thoroughly deserved their prizes and the ages ranged from adults to young children, all fabulously dressed.

Stalls lined the crowded floor, selling many themed mementos from My Neighbour Totoro to Harry Potter and a large amount of The Lord of the Rings merchandise that definitely relieved fans' purses and wallets of a few pounds.

Overall, the experience was amazing and will be hard to beat next year. It will be very heavily anticipated.

Art Club

By Olivia Storey, Year 8

This was an Art Club that was created by Mrs Watters and four year eights: Callum Stone, Olivia Storey, Charlotte Ting and Hattie Franklin. It was for five weeks on a Monday from 2.45pm until 4pm, and the students created little collages made from many different materials.

Callum's favourite part was "using different fabrics for the design". Olivia's favourite part was "creating a joke called Socktober" (as was Hattie's) and "thinking that I had friends, even with just the four of us". Charlotte was very happy with her art but "we could have done more, it's hard really to think of what I would change."

Summer Word Search

If you find all ten words, bring your newspaper Miss Taylor to receive an e-Praise point.

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

- | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|
| BALL | BEACH | CORNET |
| HOLIDAY | LEMONADE | POOL |
| SAND | SANDCASTLE | SUNSHINE |
| | SWIMSUIT | |



Books2Africa

Our School and Community Student Leadership Team launched a project for the whole school in May. Working with Books2Africa, we collected unwanted books for children in Africa, giving them the opportunity to have a good education and enjoy reading.

We held a tutor group competition to see who could collect the most books and organised two bake sales to raise the money to send the books to the charity. Over 1,000 books were brought in, sorted and boxed up, ready to be collected. The winning tutor group was 7WD, who brought in 81 books between them. And a special mention goes to Alana Whitelaw-Clark, in Y9, who brought in over 300 books by herself!



The Student Leaders with the books...they had a massive task of sorting them all, ready to be boxed and sent!

Hopeless Fountain Kingdom Review

By Poppy Muffett, Year 10

From hearing the first song on her first album, 'Badlands', I knew that Halsey would become one of my favourite artists. I connected with every song on the album; it was a firm favourite for me. The album is a masterpiece.

The same goes for 'Room 93', an extended play, which features 5 songs. Two of the songs are on the deluxe version of 'Badlands'. Each song is well written, and the lyrics are incredible.

You may know Halsey for her feature in The Chainsmokers' song 'Closer'. She has gained over 3.5 million Instagram followers since the release of Badlands. As well as this, Halsey's music has appeared

on the soundtrack for 'The Huntsman: Winter's War' and '50 Shades Darker'. She performed at Glastonbury this year.

The standard edition of Hopeless Fountain Kingdom has 13 songs, whereas the deluxe edition has 16. In my opinion, the deluxe edition is worth paying for because the deluxe songs, Heaven In Hiding, Don't Play and Angel On Fire are brilliant.

The album is based upon Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, and in the first song, Halsey recites the lines from the play. There are several connections between the album and the play; these can be seen by watching the music videos, or analysing the lyrics. Because of the ties between the album and the play, it helps you to understand the story that Halsey tells through the songs.

The album is excellent value for money, and I would highly recommend that you listen to it. The deluxe edition retails for £9.99 on iTunes and on Google Play.



Halsey's new album, entitled 'Hopeless Fountain Kingdom'.



Halsey's first album, 'BADLANDS', released in August 2015.



Halsey's first EP. Originally released in October 2014, but was re-released in March 2015.



Six Scorching Books



Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

A review by Emily Balais, Year 9

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time takes place in the year 1998, in and around the town Swindon, England. The fifteen-year-old narrator of the story, Christopher John Francis Boone, discovers the body of his neighbour's poodle, Wellington, on the neighbour's front lawn one evening and sets out to uncover the murderer. After Christopher hits a police man, his life gets more complicated, on top of studying for his maths and physics GCSE, he now has a criminal record to worry about. He writes a murder mystery on the case and tries to find out who the murderer is. But what other secrets will he uncover?

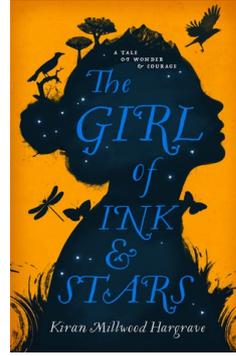
With his autism and GCSEs coming up, how will he fix these things and will he find out the truth about who killed Wellington?

Ready Player One

A review by Nathan Billups,
Year 8

Ready Player One is a book full of action and twists.

In the book, it is the year 2044 and there is a full dive virtual world (where your conscience is transported to the virtual world) named the Oasis, made by the famous game creator James Halliday. This game becomes a replacement for reality, a way for people to forget what they've done to the world... When the owner of the game suddenly dies, the millions of dollars in his will went towards a massive treasure hunt that would make people do unspeakable things to come in with a chance of winning. The challenge is to unlock three doors with three keys. After three years, nobody has found a single key until Wade Watts (a.k.a. Percival) finds the first key and restarts the hunt.



The Girl of Ink and Stars

Kiran Millwood Hargrave's first novel will take you to the magical island of Joya, to the coastal town of Gromera, which is under the rule of the strict governor, who forbids his townsfolk from leaving. It is here that the young Isabella Riosse dreams of following in her cartographer father's footsteps and mapping out the undiscovered corners of the world, or perhaps being a hero like the mythical girl-warrior Arinta, who is said to have saved the island from a destructive demon.

When a series of events lead to the disappearance of Isabella's best friend, she finds herself propelled into an adventure of her own, beyond the restrictive boundaries imposed by the governor, but she soon finds it isn't all she might have hoped for.

This novel is a great fix for any fantasy lover, as it contains all the usual tropes of the genre, attended to with care and thought. There is the gorgeously realised world of Joya, the detailed mythology of the place, strong and interesting characters, a slowly budding romance and a mixture of friendship and sacrifice that holds everything together.

You will love it if you enjoy novels like *Northern Lights*, *Lord of the Rings* or *Stravaganza*.

Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children

A review by Caitie Swallow,
Year 8

How many people have seen the film of this book? I have. But don't forget, there are three books in the series of *Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children*, and they are all amazing! Plus, there are a lot of differences between the two, that make them both a unique experience; in the book, for example, Emma is the one who can make fire with her hands and Olive is the one



for the Summer



who is lighter than air, but Tim Burton swapped Emma and Olive's peculiar abilities around for the on-screen adventure.

Each character is, of course, 'peculiar' and interesting. What makes them so intriguing is the way they have two ages, their actual age and their 'frozen' age, from the age they were when they entered the loop. For example, there is Hugh Apiston (actual age 87, age when he went into the loop, 16), Olive Abroholos Elephanta (actual age 75, age when she went into the loop 7-8), Emma Bloom (actual age 87, age when she went into the loop, 16) and of course, brilliant time-looping, Miss Peregrine. The novels revolve around the central character Jacob Portman, 16, and if you like Emma and Jacob being together in the film, then you will like the books.

In the first book, all of the children get introduced as well as Miss Peregrine and Jacob. Jacob is traumatised by the death of his grandpa, Abe Portman and is sent to see a psychiatrist, Doctor Golan. Upon the doctor's recommendation, Jacob ends up on an island off the coast of Wales, where he tracks down Miss Peregrine and finds out that all his grandpa's far-fetched stories are true. He also finds out his grandpa was killed by a hollowgast, an invisible monster that eats the eyeballs of peculiar children, (like Victor) and normal people, to try and become a wight and to have a human form once again. A wight is another monster that also eat the eyes of peculiars and normal people, and even though they have obtained human form once again, they don't have any pupils.

Hollowgasts also eat anything they can get their hands on. Even sheep, which happens in the first book. A couple of days after Jacob arrives and he finds the home, he was accused of mass-murdering the sheep but he didn't. This is only the beginning of the problems, though, as two normal men are later found dead, with never-ending darkness where their eyes were supposed to be.

What happens next, I'll leave you to find out by yourself!

Beast Quest Tecton

By Callum Mitchell, Year 8



This book is about two kids called Tom and Elenna and they are trying to stop an evil knight from making a beast called Nanook Angry, because when Nanook is angry, she could destroy Avantia.

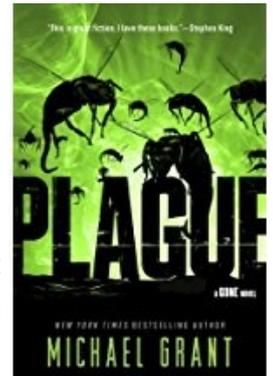
I think that it is a good book to read if you like reading, or even if you're not keen! it has got an alright storyline with quite a bit of fighting. Despite the good things, there is a downfall, which is that the pictures are not coloured, making them look more like they are from a comic than a story.

Overall I would give this book: ★★☆☆ .

Plague

A review by Jacob Linney,
Year 7

The book *Plague* is the fourth in the great book series *Gone*, and it is not as depressing as it sounds, I swear!



If you haven't read any of the series, here's a brief rundown of what has happened. Drake (the main villain) has escaped from his jail a.k.a. the basement after absolutely wrecking Ork (a kid made of rock) and the only person who can beat him is looking for a new water source while a plague that makes people cough up themselves causes havoc.

Okay, now back to reviewing the book: altogether, I think it is a really emotionally compelling book and it shows main characters changing from good to evil and from evil to good, but at times it can definitely drag on where nothing important happens, so you need to be a patient reader (though you probably are, if you get to book four in a series!).

Overall, I think it is a five and a half stars.

Year 11 Prom Goes Down a Storm

Heavy rain could not dampen the spirits of the Class of 2017, as they celebrated the end of exams at the Year 11 prom on 28th June.

Despite the downpour, students still arrived in style – with limos, sports cars and even a removal van lining the road to the AESSEAL New York Stadium. Emerging from their vehicles, students braved the rain as proud parents looked on. Blue suits and skinny ties were order of the day for many boys, with corsages and

flowing dresses being worn by the majority of girls.

Once inside, students enjoyed an evening of dancing and dining. Attendees were entitled to a complimentary portrait from the professional photographer. A whole year group photo, with students arranged on the West Stand, provided a fitting memento of the night (and a permanent reminder that Mr Fleming and Mr Machon wore exactly the same grey suit!).



Award Winners

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Prom Queen: | Kennedy Dyson |
| Prom King: | Charlie Curran |
| Best Dressed Female: | Elicia Yeardley |
| Best Dressed Male: | Lewis Adie |
| Biggest Joker: | Matthew Rhodes |
| Biggest Geek: | Mitchel Green |



"It doesn't seem like five minutes since the students walked into the main hall as fresh faced Year 7s," commented Mr Hopkin, the Year 11 Academic Year Leader. "I feel extremely proud."

As is traditional, a series of awards, voted for by the students themselves, were handed out during the night (see below left for the results). A random prize draw gave even more students a chance to win.

Mr Hopkin hopes his students "can look back on many fond memories" of their time at Wath Comprehensive School. "I would like to wish you all the best – whatever path you choose," he added.



Goodbye, Year 13!

It's not just Year 11 who have been celebrating. The Year 13 prom on 14th July bid farewell to our departing sixth formers. Sheffield City Hall hosted a formal meal, which gave way to dancing.

"They've been a fantastic year group," said Mr Gibbins, Head of Sixth Form. "I wish them every success in the future."

Right: Mr Shaw takes the annual Year 13 selfie



News, Politics and Opinion

Stowaway kittens in 1,000-mile lorry trip

By Savanna Davies, Year 8

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Four kittens were found in a lorry after 1,000 mile drive by a very surprised driver. They had travelled across Europe (from Poland) on a three day trip. As soon as they were found, the RSPCA were phoned. The RSPCA named them Bjorn, Benny, Agnetha and Anni-Frid, after the Swedish pop band Abba. The kittens are thought to be around two weeks old. The Polish factory they got the boxes from couldn't explain how the kittens got in the box. They were lucky to be alive with them being so young in the back of a cold lorry with no food.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Jacob Linney, Bella Aaltio, Nathan Billups, Louis Noble, Callum Mitchell, Savanna Davies, Carys Garner, Caitie Swallow, Daniel Nutley, Olivia Storey, Lauren Williams, Emily Balaiss, Molly Hammerton-Woodhouse, Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith, Poppy Muffett, Amy Renwick, and Miss Taylor (editor). Thanks also to Miss Radford (proofreading), and Mr Bishop (online editor). Thanks also to all staff who have contributed over the year: Mr Taylor, Mr Staniforth, Mr Fleming, Miss Owen, Miss Parramore, Mr Murphy, Mr Gibson, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Knowles, Mrs Pritchard, Mr McHale, Mrs Demetriou, Mr Thompson and Ms Williamson.



Manchester Attack

By Emily Balaiss, Year 9

At around 10pm, a tragedy occurred at Manchester Arena on 22nd May 2017. A suicide bomber walked into Manchester Arena and decided to kill himself along with 22 others, sending around 56 to hospital.

The name of the attacker has been revealed as Salman Abedi, who was born and raised in Manchester and it is said that he managed to make a homemade bomb in four days and according to BBC news, it is nearly impossible to make a handmade bomb that actually works in that period of time. The police believe that he was working alone, but have arrested several other people, so in theory, he could have been working in a group of people.

The youngest victim of the attack was eight-year-old Saffie Roussos, who had the rest of her life to live but was robbed by this cowardly event. Theresa May has said it was a cold calculated attack and has confirmed that the UK's terror threat level will remain unchanged at "severe". Also, Donald Trump has said, "I will not call these people monsters, but I will call them losers."

This is just one more tragedy to add to the list of disasters that have happened in the UK, including the London Terror attacks and the death of Jo Cox, not to mention the horrible fire at the Grenfell Tower in North Kensington.

Ariana Grande posted on Twitter, saying, "I'm so sorry for everyone who has lost their loved ones and I had no idea this was going to happen."

Other pop stars such as Katy Perry, Taylor Swift and Harry Styles have been giving their condolences to everyone who lost their loved ones and also to Ariana Grande who, a few weeks after, set up a charity concert (featuring Miley Cyrus, Cold Play, Niall Horan, Little Mix and so many more), giving all the people who bought a ticket to the original concert a free ticket to the charity concert at Old Trafford.

But luckily for Ariana, she has been made an Honorary Citizen of Manchester for all of her work helping set up the concert.

Hopefully nothing like this will happen again but we can't be sure.

Donald Trump fires the head of the FBI

By Callum Mitchell, Year 8

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On May 10th, Donald Trump fired the FBI Director, James Comey. It caught Washington completely by surprise.

The 'official' reason why Donald Trump fired the head of the FBI was because the FBI made a huge mistake by telling the public that they were launching an investigation that was looking at Hillary Clinton's emails, which in turn made fewer people vote for Hillary to become president.

However, I think, and many people agree, that the real reason why Trump fired the head of FBI was that they were looking into whether Trump paid Russia to hack the election votes so that he would become president. If the FBI found out that this might have happened then Trump would want to hide the truth and he could do so by firing that head of the FBI.

What are your thoughts on why Donald fired the head of FBI?

Formula 1

By Isabella Aaltio, Year 8

Things are heating up in the fast and furious world of driving as Lewis Hamilton has won his third race in the season and has now moved into second in the drivers' championship with Sebastian Vettel (German) still on top with 141 points, Hamilton (English) on 129 points, Valtteri Bottas (Finnish) on 93 points, Kimi Raikkonen (Finnish) on 73 points and Daniel Ricciardo (Australian) on 67 points.

The next race will be at Azerbaijan and all the teams will be hoping to grab some points.

How do you train to become a Tennis Umpire?

By Lauren Williams, Year 8

For many years, a vast array of tennis viewers and players alike have marvelled at the skills of those people who stand directly in the line of fire on the courts, from Wimbledon all the way to the U.S Open. Each year, we see these eerily talented people march up on court, in the same striped shirts and blazers, and call out every point, either in or out, or put their trust into the special technology that can accurately give us a report on how the ball landed on the court. All people watching either hate them or love them, depending upon whom they are supporting. But what does it take to have the true accuracy and precision that is needed in order to do the profound and extremely hard job of a tennis umpire?

The first stage of the accuracy contest is held at the National Tennis Centre, not too far from Richmond Park in south-west London. Almost anyone can take the test; however, only those with specific qualities pass. Eyesight is obviously an important quality required for this art of precision. All participants must have 20/20 vision, corrected or not.

In the US, the United States Tennis Association have even posted their own rule guide online. It shows 230 pages of instructions about what to do if you are put in the awful situation where a player grunts too loudly or devastatingly places their towel in the wrong place. I must mention this is a career for those who like precision to pursue.

Here are some of the best qualities an umpire should have:

- A loud voice
- A quick reaction time (not too quick)
- Good eyesight

Although, despite all these vital qualities, most umpires have a day job, that does not always involve being on a tennis court. There are even umpires who also work as medical doctors, university professors, priests and even NASA engineers. Despite our favourite players (and sometimes our own) indirect disliking for some umpires, we must come to appreciate the job they do.

After all, it is a very hard one!

Conspiracy Corner

Feeling suspicious about the world as it is? Year 10 student Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith takes you through her latest theories... This edition: Do secret societies control the world?

In the previous edition of conspiracy corner, we theorised that we *could* be controlled by a higher intelligence. If we are, who are they, and why are they controlling us...?

Do secret societies control the world?

The idea that we're controlled by some kind of secret society is a notorious idea that has been debated for years, and has brought with it a variety of theories. So notorious, in fact, that it has found its way into pop culture through the "Illuminati Confirmed" meme that escalated in 2015. In this article, we'll delve into the seemingly endless ocean of theories surrounding this, from the heads of our governments to the extra-terrestrial.

The foundation of these theories is the idea of an emerging "New World Order": a clandestine, totalitarian world elite, aiming to eventually rule the world by replacing sovereign nation states with an all-encompassing, authoritarian world government.

The term "New World Order" was first used in the 20th century, and links back to the principle of "divide and rule" we talked about in February. Many politicians, such as Woodrow Wilson and Winston Churchill, used the term "New World Order" to refer to a new period of history characterised by a dramatic change in political thought after the world wars. They saw the period as an opportunity to implement proposals for global governance, in the sense of new collective efforts to address worldwide problems, which led to the formations of the United Nations and NATO. Although it seems like a good idea on the surface, some theorists believe these organisations were the beginnings of the New World Order, and that the world wars were orchestrated by a third party to preempt their formation.

There are a multitude of theories as to the identity of this mysterious third party...

The Illuminati

As formerly mentioned, you've probably heard of this organisation. What you probably haven't heard, however, is that despite only recently making it into mainstream media, the Illuminati were allegedly formed in the 1700s!

The Illuminati society was started in 1776, by Adam Weishaupt, a professor of canon law at the University of Ingolstadt. Allegedly, Weishaupt patterned his organization on the Freemasons, and some say Illuminati infiltrated that group. Weishaupt fled to Germany, where he began expanding his philosophy of a one-world government, which soon spread throughout Europe, and even played a part in the early history of the USA. Since then, the Illuminati have been blamed for a multitude of events, from the French Revolution to the modern-day War on Terror. They've been described as "the missing link" and are the alleged third party in control of our governments, the media, finance, science and all major businesses; all with one goal in mind: global domination.

The Freemasons

Freemasonry is essentially a "religion", dating back to the 14th century, and currently boast a membership of around 6 million worldwide. Their official purpose is a club that promotes "mutual intellectual, social and moral improvement", but beneath the surface, however, there are a variety of conspiracies against freemasonry. Generally, they fall into 3 categories: political, religious and cultural.

As early as the 1700s, the freemasons have been accused of plotting for universal control of society, and this theory remains today, as they are deemed the main perpetrators of establishing the New World Order. They're also accused of being a satanic cult, with many of their rituals allegedly involving sacrificing children. Throughout history, Freemasonry has been scrutinised by Catholics, who deemed it to be promoting Anti-Christian views. In modern day society, some people believe that the Freemasons are subliminally brainwashing us by intertwining various symbols and numerology into modern culture, such as corporate logos. Freemason symbolism is particularly predominant in the US, with the dollar bill containing the symbol of the New World Order. Due to the secretive nature of the Freemasons, we know little about their organisation and what really happens inside their lodges. However, we do know that they have an abundance of *very* influential members, including: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,

Mozart, Winston Churchill, 5 UK monarchs and 13 US presidents. It's likely that they possess *a lot* of political influence.

Aliens

We often associate the idea of alien domination with modern science fiction, but in actuality the idea dates back to pre-history. Sumerian clay tablets (dating from around 5,000 BC) contain imagery of UFOs and extra-terrestrial beings, and speak of omnipotent lifeforms – the Annunaki – who created humans. Today, some theorists believe that malevolent extra-terrestrial beings invaded Earth in order to gain control of humanity. Apparently, our alien overlords settled Earth in the Sumerian period, and bred with humans to create a humanoid-alien hybrid – a being with the appearance of a human and mind of an alien (essentially a slitheen to *Doctor Who* fans!). These beings were at the top of social hierarchy and retained their authority through creating mass panic – the divide and rule tactic we talked about earlier. They're the alleged perpetrator behind many major historical events, such as the world wars, 9/11 and the assassination of JFK. Although it seems very farfetched, there is some evidence which makes this theory plausible. In ancient texts, there is a recurring theme of a union between a non-human race and humans. Sumerian texts also speak of humanity being stemmed from a great chaos – which could relate to an early example of extra terrestrial beings gaining control through panic.

Archons

Another theory involves Earth being invaded by a malevolent, supernatural race called Archons. Originally, Archons are a part of Gnostic beliefs, but have recently been talked about by conspiracy theorist, David Icke. In Gnostic cosmology, Archons are a species of inorganic beings that emerged in the solar system prior to the formation of the earth. They're essentially parasites that feed off negativity – thus, they orchestrated events of mass panic, and brainwashed us through the media, making us prejudiced and aggressive, so they could feed off the negativity stemmed from our aggression and conflict. In Gnostic psychology, they exist as a presence in our minds, rather like a set of programs operating in our mental environment. We can relate this to the simulation theory we discussed last time: we could be living in a matrix-like simulation or computer program operating from inside our minds by Archonian parasites. However, there is no intrinsic scientific evidence that supports the existence of Archons, only Gnostic ideas...

20 Interesting Facts

By Carys Garner, Year 8

1. The name of the kangaroo mouse, *Microdipodops Megacephalus* means 'two small feet with a big head'.
2. Britain has 230 slugs for every human.
3. One bite from the lone star tick can make you allergic to red meat.
4. Jellyfish contain the same number of calories as green tea.
5. After water, the most widely consumed food or drink on Earth is tea.
6. It would cost £9 billion to buy one of everything for sale on Amazon.com.
7. In Japan, nightingale droppings are used as face cream.
8. The word 'Nile' means 'river', so River Nile means 'River River'.
9. The largest and most distant body of water so far discovered is 30 billion trillion miles away, with 140 trillion times more water than Earth.
10. The Norwegian version of the Mr Men book *Mr Bump* is called *Herr Dumpidump*.
11. It would take 136 billion sheets of A4 to print out the Internet.
12. Starfish can regrow a whole new body from a single arm.
13. Falling into a black hole would turn you into a hologram.
14. A person who was invisible wouldn't be able to see anything.
15. The third most popular ice cream van jingle is the Match of the Day theme.
16. New Zealand's Ninety Mile Beach is 55 miles long.
17. In the first two years of the First World War, a soldier who broke a leg had an 80% chance of dying.
18. Young British adults rate an Internet connection as more important than daylight.
19. The first email had to be printed out to be read.
20. A gram of scorpion poison costs £415.



Media and Review:

Reviewed: Spider Man Homecoming

By Emily Balaiss, Year 9

Warning: This article contains spoilers!

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has bestowed upon us another Spider Man film in the form of Spider Man Homecoming. This film was filled with action packed fighting and the classic Spider Man villain was giving the web-slinger the challenge he always wanted The Vulture.

Peter Parker (Spider Man/ Tom Holland) has been facing many teenage challenges since he got back from Berlin (the fighting in Civil War), such as talking to girls and homework, but none of these will help him face the flying monster himself (played by Michel Keeton).

Most of you will know that Spider Man prefers to work alone and keep his identity a secret, unless your best friend snuck into Peter's room and saw him crawling on the ceiling. But then someone very famous (in real life and in the MCU) tried to change Peter's life forever. Iron Man (played by Robert Downey Jr) offered Peter the chance to become an Avenger and fight along side him whenever he wants. Of course, he says no, because he prefers to work alone.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

But before that happened, he faced the biggest challenge of his life, fighting The Vulture, which didn't go as planned when he was nearly killed and accidentally destroyed a big rollercoaster in New York.

There are many more Marvel films planned across the next few years including:

- Thor Ragnarok – November 3rd 2017
- Black Panther – February 16th 2018
- Captain Marvel – March 8th 2018
- Avengers Infinity War Part 1 – May 4th 2018
- Ant Man and the Wasp – July 6th 2018
- Avengers Infinity War Part 2 – May 3rd 2019

Films you need to see before you die!

By Caitie Swallow Year 8

This is my opinion but oh well! How many can you tick off?

1. Grease
2. Titanic
3. Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children
4. The Lion King
5. Mary Poppins
6. Big Fat Liar
7. Pirates Of The Caribbean (any one of them!)
8. Forrest Gump
9. All of the Indiana Jones films especially the Temple of Doom.
10. Back to the Future 1 and 2
11. Jurassic Park
12. Dirty Dancing
13. All Bridget Jones films
14. Watership Down
15. Sound of Music
16. Bambi
17. Drop Dead Fred
18. All Disney films (just not The Sword in The Stone)
19. The Wizard of Oz
20. Miracle on 34th Street
21. Liar Liar
22. La La Land



Flash Season 3 Finale

By Emily Balaiss , Year 9

Warning: This article contains spoilers!

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

After Savitar revealed himself and Killer Frost became even darker than before, Tracey finally managed to finish the 'Speed Force Bazooka' and the team thought that they were actually going to save Iris from Savitar but of course, they couldn't save her from the God of Speed. But Iris didn't really die, as HR took her place, using a device to change one person into another.

After HR's death, the team managed to find out how to get rid of Savitar and they were just waiting, waiting for the timeline to catch up with him. Finally Savitar was gone and Julian found a way to cure Caitlin but she decided that she wasn't going to kill any more.

Everything ended with HR's funeral, a sad time but everyone was ecstatic that Savitar was finally gone. But, what will happen with Barry? Will he manage to come out of the Speed Force and help to save the city? What will happen in Season 4? Will there be another evil speedster for Barry and Wally to face? We will just have to wait until October...

Episode I The Phantom War

By Nathan Billups and Lou Noble, Year 8

Long long ago in a galaxy far far away, the First Order is considered the most powerful dictatorship known, led by Supreme Leader Snoke. But would we on Earth stand a chance against them? Would Earth be able to defeat the First Order?

To give us a fair chance, we have to imagine the following: one, they cannot destroy the planet and must capture and take the planet for their own, and two, they must not deploy any of their Sith warriors as they are in the middle of training and have no time to battle. This, I think, will be very interesting...

So, make sure you grab the next edition of *The Torch* (after the summer holidays) to find out more.

Interesting Facts about Star Wars

By Emily Balaiss year 9

1. George Lucas' least favourite Star Wars film is *The Empire Strikes Back*.
2. In 2012, the Star Wars franchise was worth \$30 billion and was bought by Walt Disney for \$4.5 billion.
3. Star Wars Episode 4 was originally titled just *Star Wars* but was later changed to *Star Wars Episode IV A New Hope*.
4. *Episode IV* is the third highest grossing movie of all time. Behind *Gone With the Wind* and *Avatar*.
5. Originally, Luke's real name was Luke Starkiller. This is where Star Killer Base (*The Force Awakens*) gets its name.
6. C3PO (Antony Daniels) and R2D2 (Kenny Baker) are the only 2 characters who are in every film (including *Rogue One*).
7. Another thing that appears in every Star Wars Film is the phrase 'I have a bad feeling about this' (except in *Rogue One*).
8. Chewbacca is one of the only fictional characters to be nominated for a 'Life time achievement award' at the MTV Movie Awards.
9. The Millennium Falcon was inspired by a half-eaten hamburger with an olive on the side.
10. The Death star was 160km in diameter and had a population of 1.7 million people.
11. Yoda had a sea worm named after him named the 'Yoda Paparata'.
12. Wicket was originally supposed to be played by Kenny Baker but instead played by Warwick Davis as Kenny got food poisoning on the day of filming.
13. Samuel L Jackson chose to have a purple lightsaber so he could pick himself out in large battle scenes.
14. Darth Maul only blinked once in the whole film (*The Phantom Menace*).

Sports Roundup

England Win the World Cup

By Daniel Nutley, Year 8

England have officially won the Under-20 World Cup. Their Under-20 side beat Venezuela to win their first major trophy since the infamous 1966 World Cup win.

The Road to the Final:

England's road to the World Cup finals started with the team topping their group. They beat Argentina and the hosts South Korea and picked up a draw against Guinea, finishing on an overall 7 points.

Then, in the knockout stages of the tournament, England defeated Costa Rica and Mexico to place themselves in the semi-finals, where they were to face Italy.

Italy scored first in the semi-final after two minutes, setting the tone for a tough match for the young Lions. After battling long and hard, they got their equaliser in the sixty-sixth minute through eventual golden boot winner, Dominic Solanke. From that point, it just got better and better; another goal through Solanke and one from Lookman secured a place in the final with a 3-1 victory.

The Final

The Under-20 World Cup took place at the Suwon World Cup Stadium, Suwon in South Korea on Sunday the 11th June 2017.

This talented England side played their hearts out all game, though it was a brilliant effort from Venezuela, making it a very entertaining match.

The only goal of the game came in the thirty-fifth minute for Everton forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin, who has joined Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters to be one of three scorers in a World Cup final for any England outfit. His goal was a well-taken rebound after his initial shot was blocked.

Spurs' youngster Josh Onomah had a fantastic powerful effort hit the underside of the bar just after the break which could have been game over.

It wasn't a coast for the young Lions though, as in the

seventy-third minute England conceded a penalty. With seventeen minutes separating them from World Champions, time slowed down as the Venezuela player strode to strike his penalty. Saved! Despite Newcastle keeper Woodburn diving to the right hand side, he still managed to push a strong hand to the ball that was struck in the middle of the goal and become a hero for the young Lions, saving the penalty. Venezuela also hit the post with a fantastic free kick that left Woodburn stranded. But England just about held on.

After a whopping six minutes of added time, the final whistle declared England the world champions!

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

England Under-20 World Cup winning squad

So what's next?

Obviously, the young Lions have done phenomenally well, so what's next for the English talents?

Well, the future looks very bright for English football with some great talent to keep an eye on. A lot of the young players look like they could be future world stars and have great potential to break into a future generation England team.

Dominic Solanke is one of these players. Becoming the Golden Boot winner in the Under-20 World Cup, he follows great players such as Messi, Augero, Maradona, Figo and Paul Pogba in gaining this award!

The only way is up for these players, so you can expect to see a lot more of them in the future.