



Wath Academy

NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 6



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

11 November 2022

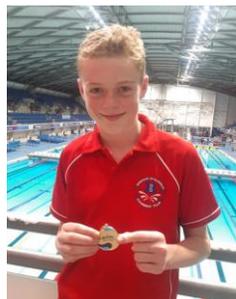
Dear Parents / Carers,

Success Stories

We would like to continue celebrating the successes of our students as we did last year. If you would like to share your success stories with us, please email us via the following address: achievement@wathacademy.com.

This week it is great to be able to share the success of Freddie Cooke-South, Freddie is one of our Y7 students and he swims for the Borough of Barnsley Swimming Club. Over half term he competed in the Yorkshire Championships and just this Weekend he competed in the North East Regional Championships. He had a number of successes, but his standout performance was in his 50m breaststroke where he got Gold, which means he's the North East Regional champion!

Well done Freddie!



KEY DATES:

Monday 21 November - Sixth Form Cabaret Evening

Friday 25 November – Careers Fair

2022/23 TERM DATES

Our term dates and INSET days for this academic year can be found on the academy website by clicking the following link [Wath Academy - Term Dates](#)

Remembrance

This week we have continued in our preparations for our Armistice Day tribute. Each morning students have had an assembly which was delivered by members of the Royal British Legion during which they have observed the Last Post and a period of silence.





PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Each year we form a display which has poppy crosses on which students show their gratitude to those who have lost their lives for their country. This year we also had the display and the front of school lit up in red.

At 11.00 am this morning the whole school will partake in two minutes silence outside on the Tennis Courts and Astro-turf. We have decided to conduct the silence outside so we can do this together as a whole school. A poem will be read, followed by the last post before finally observing two minutes of silence.

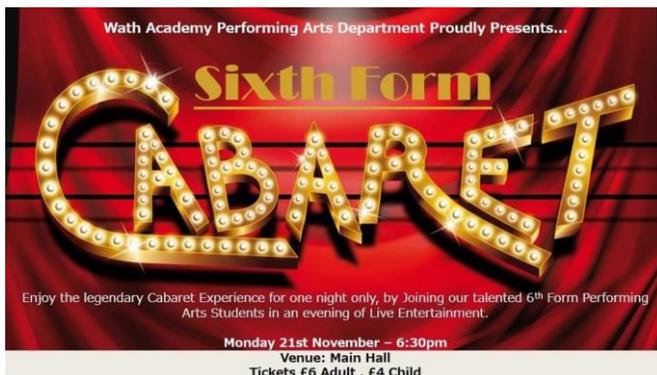
On Sunday, students and teachers from the Academy will also be present at the service held at Wath Parish Church on Remembrance Day.

Y11 Trials

This week Year 11 have started their trials. They have done this in an exceptional manner. Their attitude and commitment has been excellent and we are already looking forward to seeing how they have done.

Sixth Form Cabaret

We will be hosting this years Sixth Form Cabaret on Monday 21 November at 6:30 pm. Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for children. We hope you can join us to celebrate the exceptional talents of our Sixth Form students.



Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome
Principal



HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

KS3 & KS4 Friday Champions - Longest Conga Line
Winner - Athens

Box Task Winners – Spooky Creation
Winner -Troy

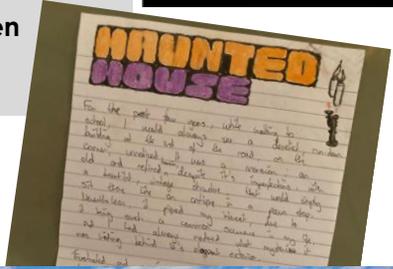
Carve a Pumpkin
Winner – Troy

Sixth Form Champions – Halloween Emoji Challenge
Winner - Troy

Total House League Results

1st	Troy	32320
2nd	Athens	28880
3rd	Carthage	22215
4th	Sparta	21905
5th	Rome	21075
6th	Thebes	20090

Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition



Praise from Miss Gouly For Athens!

“Well done Athens for our first Friday win! Love to see our hard work paying off. Let’s keep it up and try to win half term 2!”

Coming Up This Week
“Get involved!”

<p>KS3 and KS4 Wednesday Challenge</p> <p>Three-legged Race Challenge Tennis Courts Lunchtime 12:50pm prompt start!</p>	<p>Online Challenge</p> <p>World Science Day Quiz Complete the quiz on Satchel. One by Friday!</p>
<p>Sixth Form Wednesday Challenge</p> <p>Pumpkin Carving Challenge Post entries in the Box in your study area by Friday Lunch.</p>	<p>Box Challenge</p> <p>Remembrance Story/Poem See the next slide for more information!</p>

Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition

REMEMBRANCE BOX TASK

Write a poem or a story with the theme of remembrance day.

Post your entries in the boxes in reception with your name and tutor group by **18th November**.



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition

Safeguarding

Amigo is a social platform NOT suitable for Under 18's. It encourages its users to build up online relationships to unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more features become available to them. Please see the guide for information. #WakeUpWednesday

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with aggressive statements such as "You're not my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take these relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a false age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while others are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Sixth Form Open Evening

An amazing evening showcasing our Sixth Form curriculum offer, along with performances and demonstrations from our current students! We hope all who attended found the evening very informative.



Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.



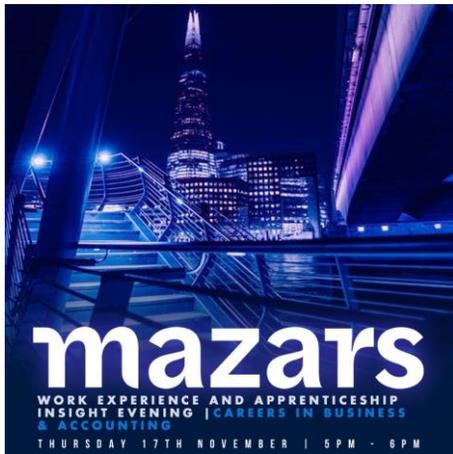
CAREERS CORNER

Coming soon...

Wath Academy Careers Fair

Friday 25 November

Including...



Are you interested in **Business, Accounting or Finance**? Looking for some work experience to enhance your CV? Perhaps you're considering an apprenticeship role when you leave school or college? If this sounds like you then we've got a fantastic opportunity for you below.

On **Thursday 17th November** from **5pm - 6pm** we are hosting a virtual insight to global professional services firm Mazars for their national kick-off event showcasing their newly live work experience and apprenticeship programmes. Please use the link below to register [Insight to Mazars - Business & Accounting Work Experience / Apprenticeship Evening_Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mazars-work-experience)

Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

Springpod have just launched new opportunities for virtual work experience with **Barclays, Atkins** and the **NHS**, with many more to follow.

These free experiences are great for students in Year 9 and above, allowing them to explore industries they are interested in at their own pace.

Students also receive a certificate of competition which looks great on CVs, personal statements and application forms. Please see the following link for more information. [Virtual Work Experience Search \(springpod.com\)](https://springpod.com)



Open events

Deerne Valley College Saturday 26 November 10am -12pm
Rotherham College Saturday 19 November 10am – 12pm
Barnsley College Thursday 24 November 4pm – 6pm



