



Wath Academy

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 10

KEY DATES:

Tuesday 13 December - Christmas Concert

Friday 16 December - Christmas Lunch

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](#)

09 December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Success Stories

Last weekend Mackenzie in Y11 competed in the North of England Cyclocross Championships and won! Mackenzie is now the North of England U16 Champion! Well done Mackenzie we are very proud of you!



If you would like to share your success stories with us, please email us via the following address:
achievement@wathacademy.com.

Christmas Day at the Academy

We are looking forward to hosting our annual Christmas Day at the academy next Friday. Students will go to tutor time and lesson 1 as normal, but then after break they will engage with Christmas activities and have Christmas lunch together.

Students are able to wear a Christmas Jumper in exchange for a small donation to their house charity. We are accepting Christmas Jumpers as donations so that students of families who may not be able to afford a Christmas jumper can also wear one on the day.



**Wath
Academy**

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Christmas Concert

We will be hosting our Annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday 13 December at the academy. Tickets are available from Mrs Hole, £4 for adults and £2 for children.

Academy Audit

On Monday we welcomed a visitor to the academy to review the quality of provision around Reading, Sixth Form and Personal Development. The visit was very successful, we received high levels of praise whilst also getting some invaluable feedback as to how we can make provisions even better. As always, we will be looking to implement this feedback to ensure our offer to students is exceptional.

Staff Appointments

This week we have appointed two new Pastoral Year Leaders who will join us after Christmas. Miss Measures will work with Y10 and Miss Walker will work with Y9. We will be sad to see Mrs Grey leave us but we wish her the very best in her new role. Mr Orr will be staying with us and beginning his training to become a teacher. We are very pleased that he will be continuing to work at the academy and we are certain he will be an excellent teacher.

We have also appointed two new teachers within PE. Mr Rhymes and Mrs Hopkin will join us in January as will Mr Henshall in Spanish.

We are again delighted we have been able to appoint some exceptional staff who will help us continue on our journey towards our vision.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome
Principal





HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

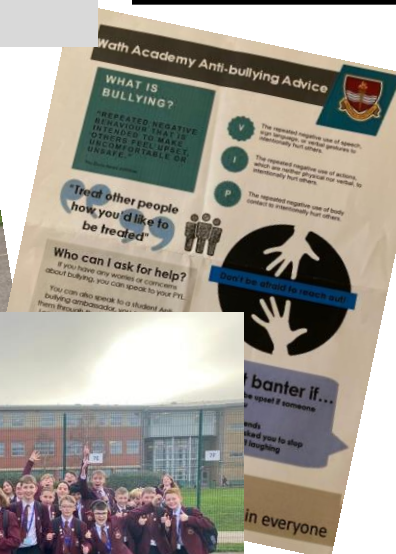
Sixth Form Riddle Challenge- Troy
Box Tax Anti-bullying poster – Sparta
Computer Science quiz – Troy

Overall League Table of Everything

1st	Troy	2nd	Athens	3rd	Carthage
53715	43835	34770			
4th	Thebes	5th	Sparta	6th	Rome
31310	30910	30075			



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition



Praise from Miss Ashton For Sparta!

"I have missed everyone from school, staff and students, but most of all I've missed leading Sparta."

A massive thankyou to Miss Guirdham for stepping in.

This week I am back so lets take the other houses by storm!"



Coming Up This Week

"Get involved"



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition

Friday Challenge



Dice Elimination Challenge
Tennis Courts
Lunchtime

12:50pm prompt start!

Online Challenge



Holiday Traditions Quiz
Complete the quiz on Satchel: One by Friday!

Sixth Form Friday Challenge



Christmas Carol Emoji Challenge
Post entries in the Box in your study area by Friday Lunch.

Box Challenge



Holiday Celebration Card Challenge
See the next slide for more information!

HOUSE BOX TASK



Create an
Anti-Bullying Poster!

It could be hand-drawn, painted, or printed.

Post your entries in the boxes in reception with your **name and tutor group** by **2nd December**.



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition

Safeguarding

free online safety guide on social media and mental health. In the guide, you'll find tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online.

WakeUpWednesday [Free Online Safety Guide](#) | [Social Media & Mental Health](#) | [National Online Safety](#)

At 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 issues 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 SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces. Involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azmi is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-56246935>
<https://spousal.co.uk/insight/social-media-algorithms/>

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Sixth Form

Reading Mentor Programme

This week, we have launched the Reading Mentor Programme, where over 40 of our sixth formers have volunteered their time to support our Y7 students with their reading. Every Wednesday, Y7 will be collected by their sixth form pair. They then have an opportunity to select a book from the library and spend 20 minutes reading and relaxing in a large space.

Our sixth formers have taken a fantastic opportunity to gain experience working with younger students, something that will only strengthen their character and any application! Throughout the reading sessions, sixth form students are encouraged to ask Y7 students questions about the book, characters and plot. Sixth form students will read and listen to Y7 students, they will model the fluency required and help to combat any difficult words.

We hope that our Y7s see our sixth formers as really positive role models and it increases both the confidence of Y7 and Sixth formers alike.



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



Sixth Form Scholars

Wath Academy Rugby Scholarship

With Christmas fast approaching we aren't going to stop. Our next open training session will be on Monday 19 December.

For more information about this day click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/nbb6j2QGBDQQJq2P9...>

If you would like any information on our scholarship programme, please contact Mr Burrows, directly by email: rburrows@wathacademy.com



Wath Academy Football Scholarship

We're holding our first open training session of the year for prospective students wishing to sample the football scholarship programme [@wath_scholars](https://forms.gle/3wGXxn1Ut1g61ey9p9...)

The session will be taking place on Monday 19 December.

Sign up here:

Boys - 10am-12pm -
<https://forms.gle/3wGXxn1Ut1g61ey9p9...>

Girls - 1.30pm-3.30pm -
<https://forms.gle/cAafiMrGThh5NK9q6>

WATH ACADEMY FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP
EXCEPTIONAL FOOTBALL EXPERIENCES. SUCCESSFUL LIVES.
'THE WATH WAY'



OPEN TRAINING SESSION
MONDAY 19th DECEMBER



BOYS - 10am-12pm **GIRLS - 1.30pm-3.30pm**

ALL PLAYERS WELCOME
SAMPLE THE SCHOLARSHIP



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

Useful links and information



Success at School helps young people to explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, courses and advice



Whether you're deciding what to study, taking your exams, planning a career, or just curious, BBC Bitesize is here to explain the world of work, with advice from people who've found the right path for them.



Free and simple to use, icould.com features over 1000 videos of people talking about their careers – explaining their job role, career path, and how different factors have shaped their direction. Videos can be filtered by job type or subject.



Prospects are the experts in graduate careers. They help to guide students and to a bright future with unrivalled information, advice and opportunities, including information about self-employment. Work experience and working abroad.



There are more than 350 different careers in the NHS. Many work with patients while others work behind the scenes. What they all have in common is that they make a difference to people's lives. This website allows you to explore and discover more.



Expert careers information and tools for 11-19 year olds, all in one place. It's never been more important to look in detail at your career choices, find out where jobs are and which courses to do. Explore Careerpilot to find out more.

Y11 Careers Guidance

Careers guidance is available for Y11 students to support with their post-16 options. Please speak to a member of the careers team in the library or the careers hub for more information.



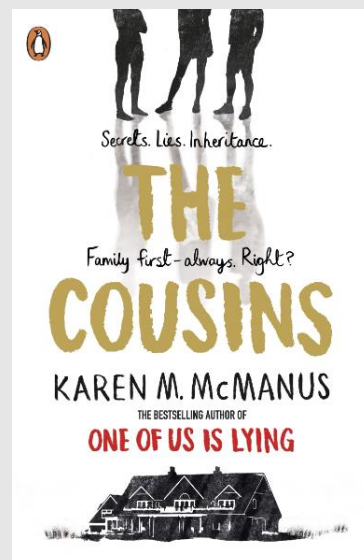
eBook of the Week

The Cousins, by Karen M. McManus

The Storys are the envy of their neighbours: owners of the largest property on their East Coast island, they are rich, beautiful, and close. Until it all falls apart. The four children are suddenly dropped by their mother with a single sentence: *You know what you did.*

They never hear from her again.

Years later, when 18-year-old cousins Aubrey, Milly and Jonah Story receive a mysterious invitation to spend the summer at their grandmother's resort, they have no choice but to follow their curiosity and meet the woman who's been such an enigma their entire lives.



The ePlatform by Wheelers app is available for all students free of charge. Please see the following link for more information [Wath Academy - school library](#)

This December...

“Secret Santa”

Discover something new... borrow a Secret Santa library book!

