



**Wath  
Academy**



## NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 12

### PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



06 January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to all of our students, parents and carers, we hope you've had a great Christmas period. We were delighted to welcome our students back on Tuesday to begin the new term.

#### Success Stories

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

#### Year 9 Options Process

On Tuesday 24 January we will be hosting our Y9 options evening. There will be two opportunities to watch the presentation, 5pm and 6pm. Following this you will have the opportunity to discuss potential choices with subject leaders and teachers. Additionally, to this we will be placing videos created by subject leaders on the school website from the 24 January for you to watch to further inform your child's choices.

#### Disabled Parking

Could I please ask that if you visit the academy you refrain from parking in the disabled parking bays at the front of school. These spaces are reserved for badge holders only.

#### Chelsea's Story

Over the coming half term, Y8, 9 & 10 students will be watching a play called Chelsea's story. The play has been seen by over 1.3 million young people and aims to raise the awareness of the following:

- What makes a Healthy Relationship
- What makes an Unhealthy Relationship
- Safe Internet Use/Sexting
- What is Consent
- The Grooming Process, Child Sexual Exploitation & the differing methods
- Avoiding Victim Blaming
- Where to go for help & advice

#### KEY DATES:

**Tuesday 17 January – Y13  
Parents Evening**

**Tuesday 24 January – Y9  
Options Evening**

**Mon 30/Tues 31 Jan –  
Movement Evening**

#### 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](#)



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We see the play as a vehicle to deliver essential messages around some challenging topics that our young people may be experiencing.

The play will be held at the academy and will be followed up by an 'actor facilitated talk' which explores the issues raised.

### **2023-24 Term Dates**

The term dates for next academic year have now been confirmed and can be seen via the link below:

<https://www.wathacademy.com/page/?title=TERM+DATES+2023+%2D+24&pid=342>

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome  
**Principal**







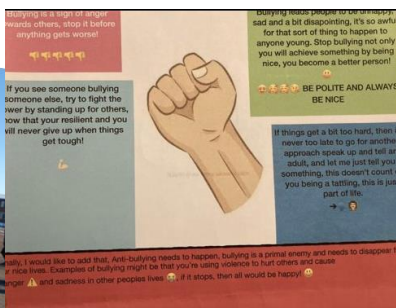
## HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

**KS3 & KS4 Friday Champions – Snowball Quidditch**  
Winner - Athens

**Box Task Winners – Anti-bullying Poster** Winner – Sparta

**Sixth Form Champions – Cracker Jokes**  
Winner - Troy

## Total House League Results



## Online Challenge Champions

### CHRISTMAS NUMBER 1S QUIZ



#### 100% Correct entries from Troy!

Max R  
Matilda W  
Thomas S  
Emily G  
Courtney H

## Coming Up This Week

*"Get involved"*

### Friday Challenge



**Rocket Flip**  
Tennis Courts  
Lunchtime  
12:50pm prompt start!

### Sixth Form Friday Challenge



**Doctor Who**  
Post entries in the Box  
in your study area by  
Friday Lunch.

### Online Challenge



**Science Fiction Books**  
Complete the quiz on  
Satchel: One  
by Friday!

### Box Challenge



**Design a Science Fiction  
Book or Movie**  
See the next slide for  
more information!



## SCIENCE FICTION BOX TASK



Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition



*Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition*



What parents need to know about setting up apps, games and software. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help any nasty surprises. In this guide, you'll find tips such as disabling in-app purchasing, take note of age ratings and watching out for imitators. #WakeUpWednesday [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com)

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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

### TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

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### FREE ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

### DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

### APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen V apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 18, for example.

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### LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

### CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

### IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

### CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

### MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

### BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

### WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

### STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

### Meet Our Expert

Harry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



**National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday







## CAREERS CORNER

Pathway CTM Connect students with leading UK employers to gain experience and figure out their next steps after school/college. Below are a selection of the virtual events coming up:

**Virtual Insight Event with PwC** - Tue 10 Jan 2023 | 18:00-19:00

**Ask Me Anything About Engineering Apprenticeships-** Thur 12 Jan 2023 | 18:00-19:00

**Apprenticeship at Jaguar Land Rover** – What's in it for me? -Tue 17 Jan 2023 | 18:00-19:00

**Insight Event with Lloyds Banking Group** - Wed 18 Jan 2023 | 18:00-19:00

**Exploring The Town Planning Profession** -Tue 07 Feb 2023 | 18:00-19:00

Please use the following link for more information and to register  
[Events - Pathway CTM](#)



## Better Learners Better Workers NHS Presentation

On Thursday 05 January, our Better Learners Better Workers Ambassadors took part in a virtual discovery session with the NHS. They heard from an Associate Physician who specialises in mental health, learning more about the roles available.

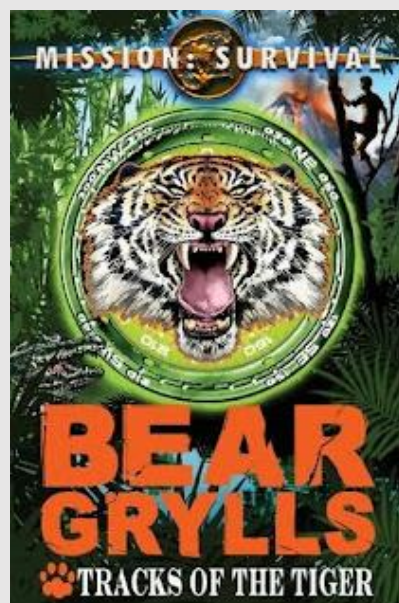
Students will be taking part in a competition to design a preventative medicine campaign, we look forward to working on this and sharing their success.



## eBook of the Week

### ***Bear Grylls: Tracks of The Tiger***

Young survival expert Beck Granger is supposed to be enjoying a holiday. But when a volcano erupts he is stranded and must flee from red-hot lava and molten rocks crashing out of the sky. If he is to stay alive, he must make his way across the jungle to safety – travelling right through the heart of tiger territory...



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](https://www.wathacademy.co.uk/school-library)

## **This Week...**

### **“New Year New Hobby!”**

Be inspired to try something new this year, check out our display of books introducing a range of hobbies and interests.





# Christmas Day

Every year Wath Academy celebrates the last day of term in style with Christmas lunch for all staff and students, followed by a range of other House system and Tutor time activities. Everyone shared the Christmas festivities including the Christmas lunch, snow machines, crackers, conversation music and feeding the reindeer!





## Ski Visit – December 2022 Passo del Tonale, Italy

An amazing visit to Italy! Our students impressed instructors with their focus and determination, we are very proud of you! Hard work during the day on the slopes, team building, house activities and time to share stories in the evenings whilst enjoying fantastic Italian cuisine! A great week ended with our Ski Driver Awards Ceremony, celebrating our students values and achievements.

