

# The WLD Echo

Summer 1 Edition 2025

Issue #6

Walton-le-Dale High School

## Good Luck Class of 2025!!

Study leave has now been granted for the Year 11s! This will begin when we are due back after the upcoming half term. This is the last edition we will publish while our Year 11s are still pupils at Walton-le-Dale High School, featuring the last articles from some of our Year 11 journalists.

Please see page 4 for some lovely and heartfelt messages from the staff here.



Exam season is upon us, and Walton-le-Dale has been a hub of activity for our year 11s.

We're halfway through now, the end is in sight! Please see page 6 for details of exams and when they are held for the remainder of the exam period.

### From WLD to Blackburn Rovers!

One of our incredible and brilliant Year 11s, Thomas C, has just signed a 2-year contract with Blackburn Rovers! See page 10 for more details and photographs.



Ticket sales for Prom are now closed! Prom will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> June; we can't wait to see staff and pupils dressed to the nines for the final celebration and goodbye.

One of our Year 9 pupils, Ethan R, is not just a high achiever whilst at school, he's also an exceptionally skilled kart driver! Ethan writes a sports page for the paper, and in this edition, we requested that he feature himself. Head on over to page 10 to read an article featuring Ethan's karting adventures!







# Recent School Events



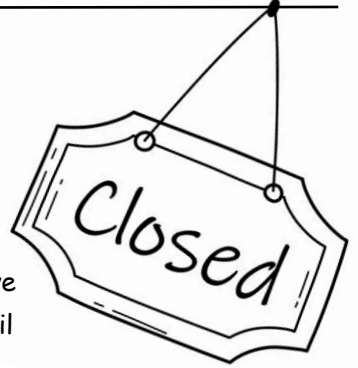
As we are reaching summertime and the days are getting a lot warmer, Hot Chocolate Rewards are being replaced with a refreshing cup of cold lemonade. Keep working hard and earning your rewards for a chance to enjoy this new treat!



During the exam season, the library will be closed on most days at break and lunchtimes due to D13 and D14 being used as exam rooms. The library will be back up and running as normal on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

This does mean that the clubs we normally have meeting during form time will be cancelled until exam season is finished but we can still communicate via Google Classroom.

A box of books, cards, chess and blankets is brought out every lunch time to the field, for the pupils that ordinarily enjoy the library.



Bamber Bridge Methodist Church &  
Community Centre  
Station Road  
Bamber Bridge

## Foodbank Fundraiser

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May from 9am – 12pm, Christian Community Larder are having a Foodbank Fundraiser!

There will be:

- A raffle
- Clothes & handbags for sale
- Crafts
- Children & Adults Tombola
- Cake stall
- Breakfast rolls for £2.50 each



On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, we saw the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day, please turn to pages 15 and 16 to see more on our festivities held to commemorate this.

Due to our exams, we were unable to celebrate to the degree we wanted, to make up for this we will be holding a WLD Street Party to celebrate this anniversary after the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

To commemorate, our Amnesty club will be putting on a performance with 1940's style music, dance and drama. If anyone has any items that would raise this performance even higher and feel more authentic, please speak to Miss Hill about donations we can borrow/use.





# Politics & World News



One of its activists, Jane Fae, told the BBC the judgement felt like a physical body blow, and that it was as if trans people were being excluded from society.

**"Today we're feeling very alone" she said. "What does this mean - can I use this loo, can I do that, can I do the other?"**

[source: [bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c&4z04j23pwo](https://bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c&4z04j23pwo)]

## UK Politics and News

Currently, a United Kingdom trans rights group has said guidance is "incorrectly stating the legal position" following the Supreme Court ruling on gender in April 2025.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC's) guidance was published in the wake of the ruling.

The ruling has directed that trans women are not legally women under the Equalities Act. This is potentially putting many trans individuals at risk. Lawyers that are acting on the behalf of the UK trans group "TransLucent" have sent out a letter warning that the guidance has incorrectly stated the position legally, fighting for the rights of the trans community.

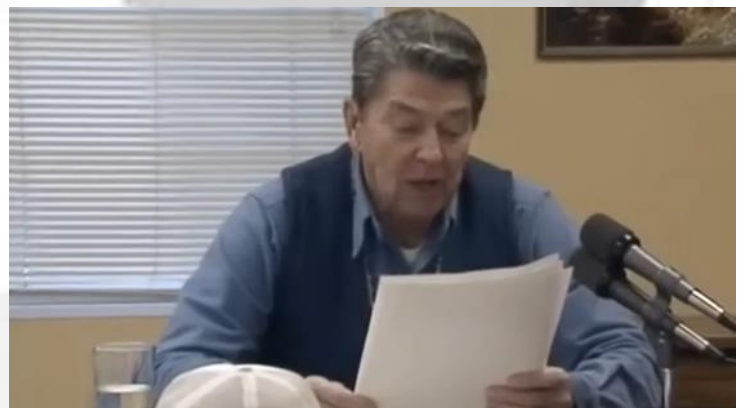
- Arabella R

## International Politics and News

Former United States President, Ronald Reagan, has warned of a "Donald-Trump style" war tactic.

A video from Reagan's speech in 1988, which mostly focused on free trade and the Canadian election, resurfaced at the beginning of April due to its large contrast to Trump's stance with the use of tariffs, a tax imposed on goods that are transported from different countries.

[Ronald Reagan's video pictured right]



US President Donald Trump is taking a strong stance against major corporations that raise prices, blaming tariffs for increased costs. After Walmart announced plans to increase prices due to the global trade war, Trump publicly urged the company to reconsider.

- Arabella R



# Farewell CLASS OF 2025


Staff from around Walton-le-Dale have left a parting message for our wonderful Year 11s, many teachers have taught these pupils since they started with us in Year 7!

**Miss Lupton** - To all my drama divas, you have made this year awesome for me. It has been such a pleasure teaching you. I have ultimate faith that you will go on to do great things with your lives. Always remember; be good humans, say hi to dogs, smile lots, and don't keep calm - be dramatic! You're ace.


**The Catering Team** - We wish you all the best for your futures, whatever paths you choose to take, we have every confidence you will all achieve amazing things, believe in yourself and you can do anything!!! Lots of love from Lynne, Nic, Tina, Denise and Chloe.

**Mr Golden** - Thanks for all the good times year 11! I have really enjoyed teaching you. Special shoutout to the year 11 basketball team who have been outstanding!

**Miss Barrett** - Best of luck for the future, Miss Barrett x

**Mrs Bancroft** - Hi to all you wonderful Year 11s. I will miss your smiling faces in Reception. Good luck for your future, whatever you will be doing. 

**Mrs Youssouf** - Be good, be safe and behave.

**Miss Ahmed** - Guys, where do I begin... I only met you guys in Year 10, but it has been a rollercoaster ride (in a good way). You have made me smile every day and your daily gossip has kept me feeling young even though you nicknamed me Tinsel for my greys (thanks :) not naming any names Lexi, Summer, Lily and Courtney haha. I will miss you all, there won't be a Year 11 quite like you guys. I know you will smash it in life whatever you decide to do. Just remember to concentrate on YOU, not what your mates are doing because YOU are the important ones and it's your life. YOLO and all that :) Lots of love Miss Ahmed xx 

**Miss Christian** - "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." initially from A.A. Milne and adapted by Carter Crocker for Disney's Pooh's Grand Adventure


My advice to you as you start the next chapter is to always be brave. Try new things, do the thing that seems hard...even if it is only once. Work hard and try to think of and support others. I guarantee that, in the long run, you will feel so much better if you've taken some chances and supported other people along the way. Good luck in all that you do Year 11, I will miss you all.

**Mrs Denwood** - You have made my first year here a wonderful one and I will truly miss all of you that visited the library. Those of you that are student librarians or journalists for the paper, Reading Ambassadors and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors! You're all capable of such amazing things, I have no doubt you're going to soar in life! Good luck in everything you do. x

**Mr Moore** - I hope you all get what you deserve from your GCSEs—you've earned the right to feel confident in the effort you've put in. Whatever your next step is—whether it's sixth form, college, an apprenticeship, or something else—I hope it's exactly where you want to be and leads you to where you want to go.

Work hard and aim for the stars. Believe in yourself, because if *you* don't, no one else will. Confidence, effort, and self-belief will carry you far beyond exam results.

Wishing you the very best for the future—keep going, keep growing, and never stop striving to be the best version of yourself. Good luck and take care.

**Mr Moorcroft** - Wishing you all the very best as you move on to the next exciting chapter in your lives. You've worked hard, grown so much, and should be proud of everything you've achieved. Good luck with whatever comes next – and don't forget to enjoy the journey. We'll miss you! "Sometimes you're ahead. Sometimes you're behind. The race is long. And in the end, it's only with yourself." 

**Miss King** - To all of you leaving WLD.... "Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good." -Minor Myers Jr. xx





# Animal Facts



## Parrot/Parakeet of the month!



### Budgerigar

The Budgerigar (also known as a Parakeet or a Budgie) are a small, long tailed type of parakeet which are native to Australia.

Budgies can be seen in many colours, but the most common colours are yellow, green and black; their feathers can fade from white to blue, green to blue or even be green, blue and yellow. They can have white or black spots on their nape, back or wings or no spots at all!

The most common hobby that all budgies have is scavenging, that's because in the wild budgerigars normally scavenge for seeds, pellets or little bits of fruit and vegetables.

A budgerigar's life expectancy is only 5 – 8 years in captivity which is quite short compared to its other bigger feathered friends, In the wild on the other hand they have a life expectancy of 7 – 15 years.

Budgies are known for their intelligence and are considered highly intelligent for their size. They can learn tricks, mimic human speech, and even solve puzzles when motivated. While not as intelligent as larger parrots, budgies are still quite smart and capable of learning and problem-solving.

Male Budgerigars are also known for being more vocal compared to their female counterparts, their more known for singing, chirping or even mimicking.

Budgerigars normally puff up their feathers. When a budgie puffs up its feathers, it can indicate several things, including feeling warm, relaxed, sleepy, or even excited or playful.

Budgerigars sometimes give their owner a little nibble with their beak, A soft nibble or "beaking" from your bird might be due to exploration, playful behavior, or a way of testing textures and surfaces.

### FUN FACT -

Male Budgerigars have higher affection rates with other males as opposed to female budgies.

- Lexi T



# Exams 2025

We are halfway through exam season! Exams remaining have been listed below. Good luck to all our Year 11s!

- ❖ Monday 02/06/2025
  - Urdu Paper 4 Writing Foundation/Higher AM [1h / 1hr 15m]
  - Italian Paper 1 – Listening Foundation/Higher AM [35m/45m]
  - Italian Paper 3 – Reading Foundation/Higher AM [45m / 1hr]
- ❖ Tuesday 03/06/2025
  - Arabic Paper 4: Writing Foundation/Higher AM [1hr 20m/ 1hr 25m]
  - Polish Paper 1 Listening Foundation & Higher Tier PM [35m / 45m]
  - Polish Paper 3 Reading Foundation/Higher PM [45m / 1hr]
- ❖ Wednesday 04/06/2025
  - Mathematics Paper 2 (Calculator) Foundation & Higher Tier AM [1hr 30m]
- ❖ Thursday 05/06/2025
  - History Paper 2 AM [2hr]
  - French Paper 4 Writing Foundation PM [1hr]
  - French Paper 4 Writing Higher PM [1hr 15m]
- ❖ Friday 06/06/2025
  - English Language Component 2 (Eduqas) AM [2hr]
  - Geography Paper 2 PM [1hr 30m]
- ❖ Monday 09/06/2025
  - Biology Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 45m]
  - Combined Science: Trilogy – Biology Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 15m]
  - Physical Education Paper 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology PM [1hr]
  - Italian Paper 4 Writing Foundation/Higher PM [1hr / 1hr 15m]
- ❖ Wednesday 11/06/2025
  - Mathematics Paper 3 (Calculator) Foundation & Higher Tier AM [1hr 30m]
- ❖ Thursday 12/06/2025
  - Geography Paper 3 AM [1hr 30m]
- ❖ Friday 13/06/2025
  - Chemistry Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 45m]
  - Combined Science: Trilogy – Chemistry Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 15m]
  - Polish Paper 4 Writing Foundation/Higher PM [1hr / 1hr 15m]
- ❖ Monday 16/06/2025
  - Combined Science: Trilogy – Physics Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 5m]
  - Physics Paper 2 (both tiers) AM [1hr 45m]
- ❖ Tuesday 17/06/2025
  - Food Preparation & Nutrition PM [1hr 45m]



# Poetry by Arabella R

## She Grew Beneath Me

For there she grew beneath me,  
intertwining her roots around my bones  
and carving love into my core.  
Scrape off the sun for there shall be none,  
for loving is gentle and warm  
and let it overflow from your heart and into the lining of the leaves.  
Your skeleton rots with beauty  
and you remember the certain way your skin crawled  
when the pastor spoke, but she will look at you a lot  
softer, from the confession booth.

- Arabella R



## Softness Will Be a Language

You say, with a drowning heart, that you  
will never feel the love you pray on your knees to receive,  
but I hear the bird's song when you near,  
and I see the light from the cracks of your soul bleeding out.  
There is beauty to be found in the kaleidoscope, which is the world,  
and your softness will be a language someone will, one day,  
speak fluently.

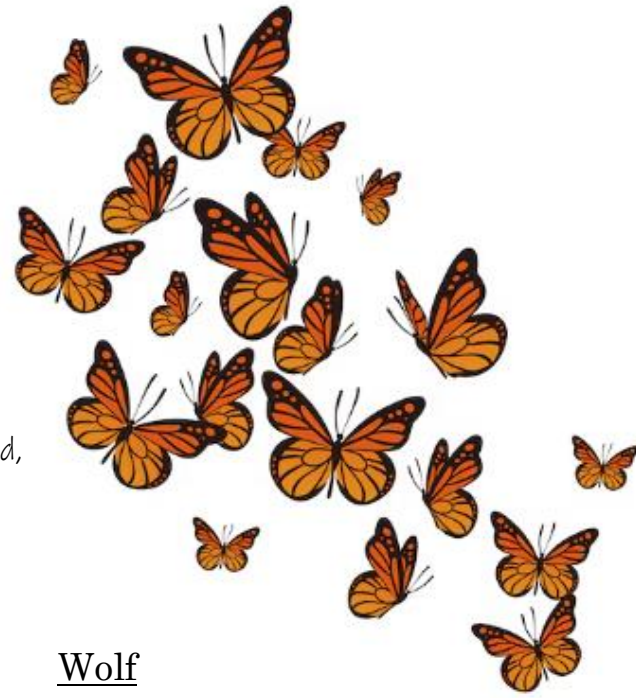
- Arabella R



## Wolf

*I am a wolf in the dark night,  
I bite the hand that holds me, the one that feeds me.  
I pray to the moon, wishing for my heart to be gentle,  
but for now,  
I have to stay angry and aggressive,  
for the ones whom my teeth mark as prey still lures*

-Arabella R



Arabella R is one of our Year 11 pupils and has written poetry for every edition of The WLD Echo, these are her last submissions as she is leaving Walton-le-Dale and on to a gloriously bright future! A poetry book has been created from all her submissions titled *Softness Will Be a Language*. We are all incredibly proud of Arabella and wish her every success in all future endeavours.



# WLD BOOK FAIR!



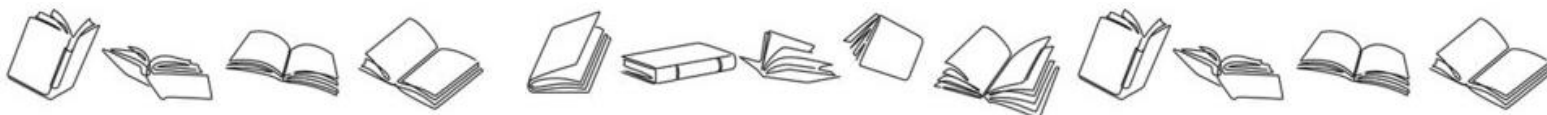
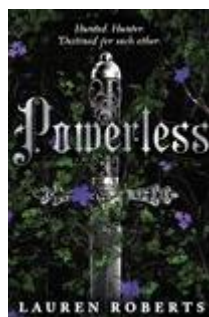
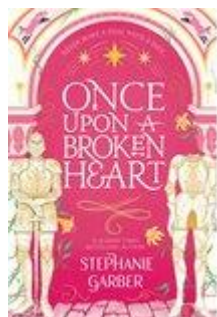
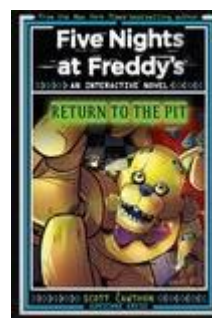
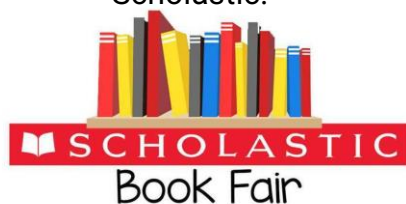
On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July the Scholastic School Book Fair will return to Walton-le-Dale High! Last year this was a wonderful success.

3 large cases of books will be on display in the library with Mrs Denwood during break time, lunch time and after school for staff, pupils and parents to purchase. Come and find your next summer read, from fiction to non-fiction there will be graphic novels, thriller, romance, teen must-reads, pencil cases, stationary, bookmarks and more!

Payment for the items can be made using a card machine in the library, alternatively you can pay via a QR code that will be emailed out and put on student notices. We try to remain a cash free school; however, we will accept cash if this is the only method you can use.



Every book purchased helps the library receive donations from Scholastic.





# Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

As Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, we are always hard at work behind the scenes to help put an end to bullying, not just at Walton-le-Dale High School, but everywhere we can. We now have a page on the school website where you can see our updates, fundraising events, any news about our progress with the Diana Award and our upcoming visits to primary schools in our area to spread the message of an Anti-Bullying culture and mindset and any news about our progress with the Diana Award.



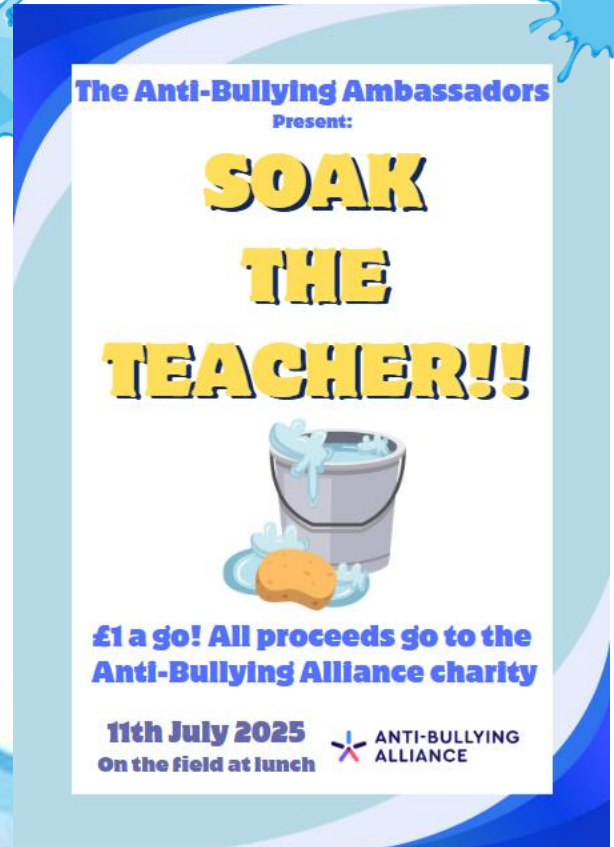
Coming soon!! On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July we are hosting a Soak the Teacher event on the field at lunch time! It's a fun game for charity to raise awareness of bullying. It's £1 a go to try and hit one of our volunteers with a wet sponge. All proceeds will be donated to our charity of choice, Anti-Bullying Alliance.

The teachers who have volunteered to take part are listed below:

- Mr Lamoury
- Mrs Brown
- Mrs Main
- Mrs Youssouf
- Miss Christian
- Mr Donnison
- Miss Barrett
- Mr Barrow
- Mrs Lloyd
- Mr Carroll
- Mr Golden
- Mr Moorcroft
- Miss Bryan
- Mrs Denwood
- Miss Ahmed

Bring a £1 with you on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July and raise money for a brilliant charity by soaking a teacher!

**£1**



The Anti-Bullying Alliance is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals working together to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn.

Click here: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/> to learn more about the charity we chose to raise money for.

- The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



# SPORTS WORLD



## WLD pupil signs 2-year scholarship agreement with Blackburn Rovers!

One of our year 11 pupils, Thomas C has just been signed to play for Blackburn Rovers!

He is progressing from schoolboy registration to the full-time footballing programme this summer.

This talented teenager put pen-to-paper on his two-year scholarship agreement, through to June 2027, at the annual end-of-season Induction Evening, which was held in the Red Rose Suite at Ewood Park.

Thomas listened to presentations about what will be expected of him both on and off the pitch, before signing his deal and posing for photos with his new team-mates, coaches and family members. Over the next two years he will hope to cement his place in Darragh Tuffy's youth team, who finished seventh in the U18 Premier League table last term, before making the successful step up to Mike Sheron's Under-21s.

Read more here:

<https://www.rovers.co.uk/news/2025/may/15/introducing-the-class-of-2025-/>

## Ethan R - Karting Superstar!

Recently in my karting journey, I was involved in an hour-long race at TeamSport Preston which was really tiring but really enjoyable, as it was the first time that I did something as long as this. At the end I had a really big gap to 2nd so I won, beforehand I was optimistic that I would do well and that came true.

Currently I am doing a championship at TeamKarting Rochdale which I am currently 7th in the standings after the 3rd round, I am really enjoying this as all the karts are really close, everyone is, so this creates good racing which means that anyone could do well at any round that happens.

Earlier this year my parents bought me an IAME X30 kart which I was really happy with and it is really fast which I am happy about as well. Recently I went to Llandow karting circuit in Wales, I had to wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning to get there on time, I had a really good time there and had an enjoyable time with my friends, what made it even better was that the weather was really good all weekend, including the Friday as there was not even a single bit of rain!

- Ethan R



<https://www.instagram.com/ethanrawcliffekarting/>



<https://www.instagram.com/teamkartingrochdale/>

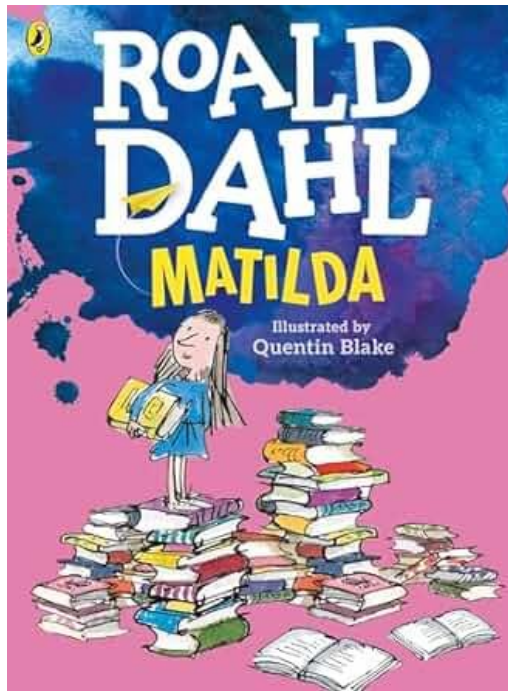




# Book-to-Film Reviews



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"So Matilda's strong young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone."  
-Roald Dahl, Matilda

For this month's edition, we chose to do a book-to-film review of Matilda.

Matilda is a book by Roald Dahl published in 1988, it was also made into a film in 1996 and then a musical in 2022. It is about a girl named Matilda Wormwood who is incredibly intelligent and has magical powers, including being able to move things with her mind.

She loves books and was able to read stories designed and written for adult when she was only four years old!

Despite how amazing she is, her family are not very nice and don't treat her well, at the beginning Matilda wasn't even allowed to go to school. Matilda discovers her powers and uses them to take revenge on her abusive family and defend her fellow pupils against the cruel headmistress at school, Miss Agatha Trunchbull, who also mistreats her kind and lovely teacher Miss Honey. We all agreed we really enjoyed the book, and the film was very good too! It's fun seeing a book character come to life in a film. But most of us agreed that we didn't enjoy the musical version.

- The Reading Ambassadors

"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world."

-Roald Dahl



Overall rating











# WIDER LIFE



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May the Wider Life teamed up with the Amnesty club! We combined our forces and mixed the Wider Life Fun Fridays with the VE celebrations and had biscuit decorating, bunting making and more. We've included some photos here, but be sure to check out our social media channels and give us a follow! Linked below.

- Mr Moorcroft & Miss Bryan



-  Cake and biscuit decorating
-  Bunting decoration
-  Wartime games
-  Wartime music and dancing



<https://www.wldhigh.co.uk>



<https://www.instagram.com/wldhigh/>



<https://www.facebook.com/wldhigh>







# Amnesty Club



On this day 80 years ago people across the country were celebrating VE Day, May 8, 1945. Bamber Bridge, Walton le Dale, Lostock Hall, Blackburn, Chorley and Preston like other towns and cities across the UK, erupted in celebrations to mark the end of the war in Europe. Street parties, dancing, and singing filled the streets as people rejoiced after years of conflict. These photos are of some of those celebrations. Do you recognise any of the areas?

Victory In Europe Day marked the formal acceptance of Germany's unconditional surrender and it provoked almost spontaneous celebrations across the UK. The streets of Preston were flooded with light for the first time since 1940 and the blackout. The town hall was lit up and Fishergate was hung with Union Jacks. Children made bonfires with Hitler effigies on top to burn, and a flag bearing the word: "A fitting conclusion to Hitler and his gang." Some didn't sleep for two days!

- Ms Hill

## What's Happening at the VE Day Party?

***"My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole."***

**- Winston Churchill on VE Day**

## Awesome VE Day Party This July!

This July, the Amnesty Club is throwing a big VE Day party to remember the end of World War II in Europe. It could not be hosted at the International VE day date because we couldn't disrupt the exams or the students' focus.

- Daniella N

- Sing-Alongs: Students and local singers will perform old songs from the war. It's going to be nice to listen to! E.g.: War favourites Medley Vera Lynn style. Takeda Lullaby (an old Japanese song.)
  - Dancing: There will be old fashioned dances and freestyles. You can even join if you want!
  - Plays: There will be short plays about history and life back then. It's a fun way to learn and enjoy some acting!
  - All-Day Fun: The whole school will be full of games, food, and cool activities. There will be something for everyone! A whole day dedicated to the celebration of the end of the War in Europe.
- The VE Day party is not just about having fun. It's also about remembering what sacrifices were made back then to protect the peace of future generations like ours today.

- Daniella N

## Be Part of the Change or Be the Change!

Amnesty Club wants everyone to join these events. Whether you're singing, dancing, acting, or just coming to watch, you'll help make the events amazing. Together, we can have fun, learn new things and pass on these stories to future generations or other people unaware of.

Let's have fun at the VE Day party, learn at the refugee assembly, and work together to make the world a better place. Starting right here, at Walton-Le-Dale High school!

- Daniella N



Human Rights

# Creative Writing

## Delila

I was in my bed, attempting to sleep, when my mother burst through my bedroom door shouting.

"Get up quickly, the house is on fire!"

I tried to move, but I couldn't. My limbs were locked and even my mouth was frozen. I couldn't shout for help, I couldn't even blink. Thick smoke began filling my lungs, suffocating me, despite this, I felt no pain.

My eyes wandered through the growing cracks in my ceiling, it was definitely going to cave in on me, any moment now. The cracks all joined together and began to gape, just then the ceiling splintered and rushed towards me. I tried to brace myself for the impact, but before it reached me...

I woke up.

Gasping in air, moving my arms and legs and I relished the freedom of being able to move them. It had just been a dream, a terrible dream, a nightmare.

I stood up and walked towards my bedroom door, pulling the door open, expecting to walk through into the faded grey carpets of our landing, but instead I walked through into a waiting room. I looked down at myself I expected to be wearing pyjamas, but instead I was fully dressed, I wiggled my toes inside my trainers, it felt so very real.

I took a seat in the waiting room and looked around, this was by far the strangest dream I'd ever had.

A receptionist seemed to materialise to my left, sat behind a long, curved, white desk.

"Delila?"

"Yes, I'm here." My voice cracked as I softly answered, my throat sounded raw and rough, like it had been overused.

"Ah, you're here. Are you all ready to see Judy in Room 12?" She spoke gently with a calming tone.

I nodded in answer and got up, I walked towards a door with a large sign depicting that as **Room 12**. I turned the handle, heart pounding, wondering where this dream was going to take me next. But the door opened to reveal Judy, my counsellor, seated at a familiar round table with 3 empty blue chairs. Judy's clipboard and papers were all present and scattered across her desk in the corner, certificated on the wall.

"So Delila, how's everything going?" She asked me as I took a seat in the middle empty chair.

Judy clicked her pen on and looked at my kindly over the rim of her spectacles and poised her pen to write.

"Fine."

This was a lie, I wasn't fine, I wasn't even confident I was awake.

"Are you sure?" She frowned a little, sceptical with my one-word answer.

I nodded, not really in the mood to engage, I looked around the room, avoiding her kind eyes that wanted to drag my truths from me. I suddenly felt very tired, I just wanted to sleep, which was bizarre as I was 90% sure I *was* sleeping.

I felt the need to talk to Judy, perhaps I really did need to talk to someone as this dream looked very real. I didn't want to lie to her, I wanted to ask her how I could escape a nightmare. Whilst gathering the courage to say this out loud, my eyes roamed over the certificates again, I never did remember what they'd said... but the information appeared blurred, I squinted but it didn't help, I got up and ran closer to them, but even with my eyes almost pressed against the glass, they remained blurred. I was still trapped inside my own unconscious mind.

I spun around and threw myself through the nearest door, needing to escape, needing to wake up.

I fell into a black abyss, tumbling without direction, I tried to scream but the abyss absorbed any sound. I hit the bottom, that felt suspiciously soft and familiar. I opened my eyes and found myself staring at my crack-free ceiling above me.

I stretched out my limbs and tried to shake off my dream, What a strange experience it was, I bolted downstairs to find the normal setting of my family getting ready for work and school.

Maybe if I had slowed down, I might have noticed. Maybe if I had paused to really see, I'd have spotted the papers on the fridge were blurred. The badge on my mother's lanyard wasn't in focus, my cereal box ingredients were gobbledygook.

Maybe I'd have noticed, I was still asleep.



# Creative Writing

## CHAPTER3: Proof.

Time: 3:00am. Location: Valley of Fire.

I wandered the cold valley feeling a sense of dread and hopelessness. I continued to walk despite those feelings, when a cold breeze forced me to shiver and tense. I heard familiar whistles and footsteps around me, I flashed my torch around... I saw something very inhuman. *I must be hallucinating.* It looked like a Coyote but, almost human like. Red ruby eyes triggered my flight response and I bolted. My legs trembled with each long step as I ran through tent canvas, round corners and into caves. But it kept chasing me. I ran through a deep cave; cold and so dark it was impossible to see. It was close, I could sense it. I backed away, terrified for my life. My breath quickened, my pulse rushing through me as I continued to back away until suddenly, I fell, tumbling down hitting rock after rock, when finally my vision blacked out.

I woke up to pain shooting through me. Groggy, I sat up and my hand instinctively went to the back of my head, I hissed in pain and I looked at my hand, seeing blood.

"Darn-it!" My throat was dry, my voice strained.

After looking around I found my torch, flicked the light on and looked around myself. I was stuck in some sort of pit beneath the cave. I frantically ran, groping the walls, trying to find an escape or an opening to the outside. But nothing. I don't even know how long I had been down there. *How do I get out? Am I going to die down here? No. I can't just die down here of all places.* I attempted for what felt like days to scale the walls and escape. Blood stained the rocks from my hands, elbows, face and nails, everything hurt, but I didn't stop, I couldn't stop.

After what felt like forever, I hauled myself over the lip of the pit, I spied a faint white light and dragged myself towards it, needing sunlight, air and most importantly, water.

## CHAPTER 4: Stranded.

As I neared the faint light, I found myself outside the mouth of the cave, alone now but stranded in the Valley of Fire, a place known for its fatality to visitors. I began to panic, breath coming too quickly, I sat down. *I need to stop panicking.* I tried to calm myself and retrace my steps, my equipment was still set up somewhere, If I could just find it, I'd be safe. I faced the shining moon, grateful for the guidance out the cave. I walked towards the moon not sure if it was north or west, I didn't know. But I walked. I walk and walk until the sun is seen above the canyons. I had not found my equipment, I just wanted to find something, a village, some food, just... anything.

After what felt like days I saw some shade, I quickly ran and hid under it. Away from the heat and sun. I caught my breath and bearings. I stayed under the shade until nightfall. I walked for longer, still, until I spotted a maze of canvas. I broke into a run, desperate for anything to eat or drink. I spot 3 water skins sat outside a tent and almost cried in relief, I drained one and kept another. A sound echoed throughout the campsite, akin to some rocks tumbling down. I couldn't make anything out in the dark, beyond a few feet, so I continued to hunt for food scraps. Once I'd sourced a few apples and filled my belly to the point of pain, I relaxed enough to sense something was following me. I heard feet padding the hot stone, growls and heavy breathing. Even though I was bone tired, I forced myself to seek help within these tents, but I quickly collapsed, panting for air. My vision blurred as I stumbled, I felt something painfully latch onto my leg, kicking out at the face of the creature, it released. Unable to run, I stumbled and crawled away. The adrenaline helped alleviate some pain but the thing was not far behind. I heard its growls and low roars. I slid through a canvas flap and quickly skated down across the floor, feeling my way through the darkness. I covered my mouth and didn't move a muscle. The creature started to pace outside. Until I heard... voices! Human voices! Different tones and deepness.

Before I rushed outside and seek refuge with fellow humans, I hesitated, if this was the creature I sought, It could mimic human voices. I hunkered down and waited for morning.

# Recipe of the Month



All You  
Need Is  
**Love**  
← And →  
A Little Bit Of  
**CHOCOLATE**

## *Mrs. Denwood's* Caramel Brownies

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup of Plain flour
- 1/2 cup of sifted icing sugar
- 2/3 cup of Cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 cups of Granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon tsp of vanilla essence
- 2 tablespoons of water
- Toppings/fillings (this recipe is for caramel brownies, so I recommend a large bar of Cadburys Caramel, but anything can be used, glace cherries and white chocolate chips are also a good combination!)

### Method

- Preheat your oven to 180°C.
- Mix the flour, icing sugar, granulated sugar and cocoa powder together in one bowl.
- Mix the oil, eggs, water and vanilla essence together in another bowl.
- Sprinkle the dry mix over the wet mix and stir until combined.
- Mix thoroughly, ensuring there are no lumps!
- Pour into a greased baking tray (the smaller your tray, the thicker the brownies, but the cooking time should be adjusted accordingly)
- Break your bar of Cadbury caramel chocolate into squares and push them about halfway into the mix (try to space these so there will be one in the centre of each brownie)
- You should have room for around 9 caramel pieces, evenly spaced.
- Cook for 20 minutes for gooey centres and 30 minutes for fully cooked.
- Allow the brownies to cool in the tray for 1 hour minimum before cutting.
- Serve and enjoy!

