

THE FALCON

March 2026



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The Show – Behind the Curtain!

By Harry Pringle, Year 10

Here at Thirsk School, we do an annual show in February. We have rehearsals running from September to the day before opening night. These rehearsals are singing, dancing, and staging. This year, we performed 'We Will Rock You', a show that takes place in the future on earth, now called the 'i-planet,' where music is banned. The only music allowed is generated by the 'Killer Queen.'

Behind the scenes:

A lot of work goes into creating the stage and props. Along with the on-stage cast, we have the amazing backstage crew. They are responsible for creating the props, organising who has what, and many other things.

Performing the shows:

Performing the show is incredibly exciting yet stressful. We perform for three nights in February, usually in the last week of term.

Highlights:

My main highlights are the last few weeks running up to opening night; they are so chaotic but so much fun. When the tech guys put all the stage lights up and switch everything on, it all looks so cool. Another highlight is the backstage chaos on opening night!

Special thanks:

And finally, a special thanks to the staff who take time and energy out of their day for the show. Mrs Stimson, Mrs Dickson, Miss Beecroft, Miss Macdonald and Mr Pierce-Williams. Mrs Stimson and Miss Beecroft stage the show and teach us some of the dances. Miss Macdonald teaches us the rest of the dances. Mr Pierce-Williams teaches us the words to all the songs, he also plays in the band alongside Mrs Dickson. These people are amazing and we physically could not perform the show without them. They are an essential asset to the team and we can't thank them enough.



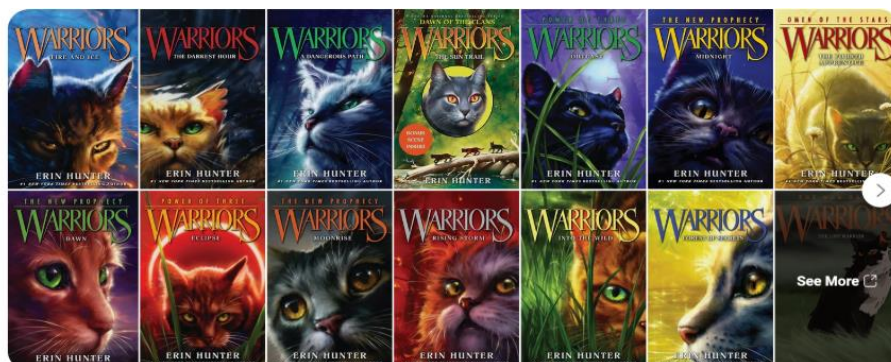
The 'Warrior' cat franchise - book series recommendation

By Sophia Nolan, Year 8

I would recommend reading the 'Warrior' cat series because it's not really a children's book, there are some elements of gore and even death for a more dramatic read. There are also betrayals, love stories and fights. The franchise has about eight novels long, and one unfinished book. There are also a few super editions, novellas and graphic novels.

I have read the first three novels so far and I personally prefer the second book because it's about how the cats have to move home due to their forest being destroyed. They go on a long journey to find a new home. which star clan (cats who have died who watch over them) guide them to. My favourite character is a cat called Brambleclaw who at the start was judged by who his father but then became deputy of the clan in the second book.

To give you an overview of the first book: kittypet (a house cat) joins one of the four clans and helps the clan thrive, while another cat is trying to kill the leader. Then in the third book, it's about how three cats have the 'power of the stars' in their paws, but they find out many secrets between the clan during the series.



A thank you to our Year 11 Falconers

Since 2022, Emilia Allen, Charlotte Cockerill and Lily Dixon have been an integral part of The Falcon. I cannot stress enough how much of a privilege it has been to work with the three and I also cannot thank them enough for their extraordinary efforts towards our school newspaper.

Not only are they brilliant writers, but they are fantastic role models for our younger students. One of my favourite things about The Falcon is how the students all look out for one another, regardless of what year group they are. Therefore, I must emphasise how sorely missed our Year 11 Falconers will be.

From all of us here at The Falcon, we wish the girls the best of luck in the coming months and we are excited to see what the future holds for them in the years to come.



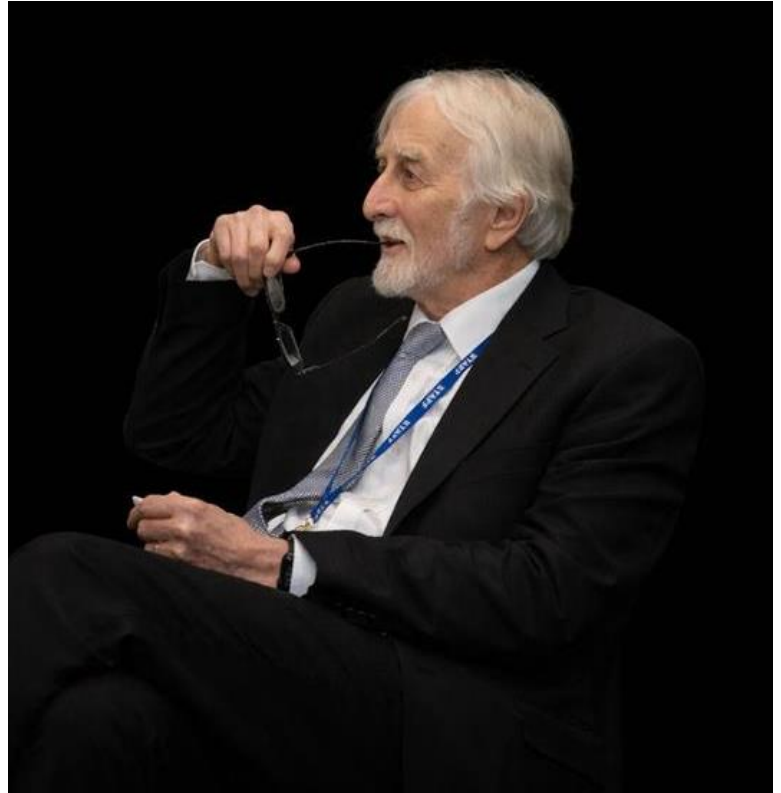
Our Interview with Mr Wilson

Written by Lily Dixon, Year 11

Photography by Polly McKee, Year 8

With a career spanning over approximately 50 years, Mr Wilson is one of the most talented, knowledgeable and inspirational people to grace the corridors of Thirsk School. Therefore, us Falconers wanted to conduct an interview to honor all of Mr Wilson's efforts for our school and the wider community, alongside hoping to learn from his wisdom.

Mr Wilson's career at Thirsk School began in 1974, when he was appointed the post of Head of Music. We asked Sir what he enjoyed most about this role, to which he responded, 'making music with the students.' Countless students across the years have been introduced to the joy of music and a multitude of instruments by Mr Wilson. He has also taught them the value of working as a part of a team, whether that be a band or choir. Many extra-curricular activities enabled Mr Wilson to make music with his students. He said that he greatly enjoyed being involved with supporting the musicality of his students alongside the wonderful Miss Dickson, who followed in the footsteps of Mr Wilson, becoming Head of Performing Arts. His role in music at Thirsk school did not just stop at being head of music; he regularly accompanied music



exams for students starting in about 1980. He suggested that the number of times he has done this, including rehearsals for the exams, is around 500!

In 1985, Mr Wilson joined Northallerton Music Centre as a conductor and musical director. He still has a massive involvement in this currently. He is conducting the main orchestra and a woodwind band. What he has enjoyed most about working at Northallerton Music Centre is the concerts that have happened in the Sage concert hall in Gateshead, and also, just the small term concerts at Northallerton school. He says that he has participated in approximately 120 concerts over the 40 years. He told the Falcon newspaper that he loves the enthusiasm of the people attending the music centre, as their passion and love for music is clearly shown every week by their willingness to get up early and play whatever they are given. He says his biggest challenge at the Music Centre is the weekly movement of equipment and instruments.

He is also a musical director for the Northallerton theatre company. He performs with them about once a year. The most recent musical was *Sister Act*, which he said he was thoroughly enjoying. He is a conductor for a Thirsk based string group called “Strings Attached” and is also a conductor for the “Mowbray Singers” choir. Sometimes, he will show his amazing musical skills and play keys instead of directing.

According to Mr Wilson, he only planned to work as the Exam’s officer for three years, but he was convinced to stay and work here for a longer period of time. We are extremely fortunate that he is still working as Exam’s officer to this day, as exams run very smoothly under his care. He says his biggest challenge as exams officer is the responsibilities he applies on himself.

He says his proudest feats are that he managed to help spread the gift of music to so many students during his time as the Head of Music at Thirsk. He says he is proud of his own sons being musical professionals, and that some of his ex-students are also now musical professionals as well. One student has worked as a Cellist for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Mr Wilson says that he feels extremely proud when ex-students not only remember him, but also what he taught to them and what he told them. He also states how currently helping students through their exams gives him a sense of pride as well.

Whilst we were interviewing him, his humbleness was very apparent. He is an extremely kind man who definitely deserves appreciation for all the hard work he has put in for our school and other places in the county over the last 50 years.

Thank you, Mr Wilson! – The Falconers.



