



December 2012

In Touch

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the end of the first term in the school year is drawing near, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few special events that will take place before the end of term, which I hope many of you will be able to attend.

The school pantomime this year is Little Red Riding Hood which several staff and the huge cast are busy rehearsing for. There will be a full dress rehearsal on Tuesday 11 December for all our primary feeder schools in preparation for the three evening performances on Wednesday 12, Thursday 13 and Friday 14 December. The performances start at 7 pm and tickets are available now from the school office. I would advise you to buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment; the pantomime is always very well attended and often a sell-out. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £3 for children and senior citizens.

Another popular evening for which early purchase of tickets is advised is the annual Christmas Concert; an evening of seasonal and contemporary music and song which sets us all up beautifully for Christmas. This will take place on Thursday 20 December at 7 pm in the school hall; tickets are again available from the school office and cost £5 for adults and £3.50 for children and senior citizens.

In addition, we are looking forward to the Year 11 Presentation Evening on 6 December and the Y13 Presentation Evening on 18 December where Joyce Thacker MBE, Director of Children and Young People's Services in Rotherham will be our guest speaker. These evenings give us the opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our students in the Summer 2012 GCSE and A level examinations. Invitations have already been sent out for these prestigious events.

In school currently Year 11 and Sixth Form students are sitting their preliminary examinations. All tutor groups are busy preparing the hampers for the annual Christmas Hamper Competition. Once the judging has taken place the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the areas which the school serves, as well as to local residential care homes. There is an added incentive of a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for the best in school. Staff and students rise creatively to the challenge and the hampers are always amazing. The results of the competition will be announced in the January edition of 'In Touch'. School is therefore very busy indeed and I am sure we are all very much looking forward to the Christmas holiday.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

P Ward
Headteacher

Welcome

Already, it seems to be that time of year again! Prelim exams for Y10 and Y11; preparation for AS and A2 modules; oh, and Christmas! We hope you are all well on the way with your hampers, which will be greatly appreciated by the vulnerable in our community.

If you are in the middle of exams, or preparing to take them in January, we would like to wish you good luck and remind you that 'little and often' is the best way to revise.

Even though we have only been back for a term, there are lots of things to reflect upon and feel proud of already. From Drama productions to raising money for charity; sporting success to involvement with local politicians, we have shown that we are an extremely talented and caring school where there is always something going on.

We hope that the last few weeks of term are exciting and productive and we wish you all a fantastic Christmas break and a Happy New Year!



The Student Journalist Team



Pumpkin Patch Competition

(L-R) 9WS, 10TP, 10GM, 9CL

Winners:

The **winners** of Y9 were 9WS with their pumpkin weighing in at 400g.

The **runners up** of Y9 were 9CL with their pumpkin weighing in at 235g.

The **winners** of Y10 were 10GM with their pumpkin weighing in at 2.6kg.

The **runners up** of Y10 were 10TP with their pumpkin weighing in at 2.39kg.

The pumpkins are in the Library if you'd like to see them!

Blue Remembered Hills

Year 13 blew the audience away on 25th October with their interpretation of Blue Remembered Hills by Dennis Potter.

They faced many challenges in the portrayal of this play, the most noticeable probably being the thick West Country accents all characters had to adopt and the challenge of having too many actors and not enough characters! They all pulled it off however – each one of them having a convincing accent through the character of seven year olds in 1943, and a swift character change in the middle of the performance.



The audience fell in love with the comical characters such as Adan Osbourne as Willie and Sophie Kirkham as Audrey. The simplistic view of a war setting through an innocent eyes of a child was not only meaningful but also portrayed the moral of the play that Dennis Potter would have been proud of.



Despite the rather solemn ending that gave everyone goose bumps, everyone left the production with a smile on their face and warmth spreading through their heart.

Written by Jessica Beever

Year 13

Well Done Wath Comp Free Runners!

On Saturday the Wath Comp Free Runners performed at the Moved By Art Project at Barnsley Civic. The students were an absolute credit to the school, resulting in many of the choreographers, producers and film makers involved commenting on the students and their professionalism.

The students spent all afternoon braving the minus degree temperatures to rehearse with the other 3 groups that were part of the project and then at 4.30pm performed along side the champion Sheffield Parkour Crew in a 20 minute performance.

Mrs Cartwright also organised an art group to work collaboratively with the free runners and all of their work was displayed in an exhibition to compliment the performance.

I would also like to thank Mr Ashmore for giving up his whole Saturday afternoon to help supervise the event and also thank Mr Mirrlees, Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Exton and Mrs Shurdhi for coming along and supporting the students in their performance.

All in all it was a great Saturday afternoon!

Thanks

Miss Anyon



Hockey report

Match got off to a great start. Bethan W. and Eve B. were defending, Lucy J. and Katie S. along with Katie J. were midfield and up front were Ellie M. and Paris R. The score was 2-1 to Wath at half-time.

We had a team discussion, where we discussed tactics and what we needed to do to improve during the second half. We all agreed that we were obviously doing something right; we were 1-0 up. However, the team all knew that when passing we needed to look up, in order to see who to pass to. This would help us keep the lead.

The second half didn't go so well. We were tired and over confident with our performance and the match finished at a draw: 3-3.

Goals scored:

Katie S. – 2

Katie J. – 2

By Y8 Girls Hockey team

Diary of a Y11 student

The pressure is mounting, the Controlled Assessments are all nearly done (hopefully!), the prelims are underway and the final exams are on the horizon.

It's hard to believe that my five years at Wath Comprehensive are nearly over. It seems like five minutes since I started in year 7, with all of my worries and hope for the future. Now I'm almost at the end of that journey, has it all been the way I hoped it would? Yes, I can honestly say that it has.

Despite the millions of exams and other assessments, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed my time at school. In some ways, I never want it to end! I don't really regret anything, but sometimes I wish I'd worked harder from the start. If I could give any advice to the younger years, I would say: make the most of your time at school! It goes more quickly than you think.

Anon

The importance of charity

On the 19th November, the whole school left their uniforms at home and brought in a donation for Children in Need. This, together with a wonderful range of imaginative money raising schemes run by staff and students, meant that the school raised an impressive total.

This money will help fund and support schemes and charities which make children's lives better, so we should all feel very proud of ourselves! Some of the fund raising schemes included: car washing, cake sales and even a penalty shootout with a Rotherham United footballer!

Well done to everyone who was involved in making Children in Need such a success this year.

Josh Small, Year 10



YOUNG WRITERS – poetry competitions for Y7 and Y8

7LD

In the first half term all the students from 7LD entered a 'Sporting Days – Going for Gold' poetry competition. A few weeks later they were all delighted to find out that their poems had been selected for publication in a special poetry anthology and they all received certificates from **Young Writers** along with congratulatory letters to their parents and the chance to order a copy of the anthology. We will receive one in school too so our Library will soon have a poetry book with our own students' work in! Fantastic effort by 7LD – well done!

8C1

This half term Young Writers introduced another competition, this time called *The Poetry Games*. Students had to pick a topic or issue they feel strongly about and write a poem as a way of expressing their views. Students in 8C1 have entered and we are still waiting to hear how they have gone on (there are some amazing prizes up for grabs – an iPad for the winner, 12 Kindles for runners up and cash prizes for schools) but in the meantime I wanted to share some of the amazing poems that some of these students have produced.



Mrs Eyre
English Department

Stand Strong - by Jessica Knowles

We all feel alone, small and weak.
Scared to go out, even to speak.
The things they say, the things they do,
Would you like it, if it were you?
These are bullies, we don't understand.
So let's come together and fight, hand in hand.
Unite today and show that we're strong,
For we're the innocent, we've done no wrong.
The tears stream down our face,
This is a complete disgrace.
We need to put all this behind
And get rid of their sick minds.

Hillsborough - by Christian Cooper

On that fatal afternoon of '89
96 people lost their lives
'just off to see a football game'
They never saw their friends again.
The crowds collapsed, the walls caved in,
It's the policemen's fault, justice, we will win.
As mums and dads watch and wait,
The falling crowd will decide their fate.
As laid in hospital beds,
They slept to rest their innocent heads.
96 dead we'll never forget
We'll get justice, you bet.
And still to this day they say it's our fault,
The accident hit like a lightning bolt
And still to this day for justice we stand,
And still to this day we fight for the dead.
Hand in hand.

War Devastation – by Joe Parry

Dead silence fades through the night
As the attack is ready and waiting
The soldiers are like chameleons
Poised and ready to kill their prey with stealth.
The artillery destroys the night sky
And the night blends into space
The sky lights up and is blinding with terror and
fright.
As we fight until dawn
My life is a curse through the death and torture of
my comrades
Si I sit there and lay
All I can do is pray
And redness surrounds the land.



Consideration - by Alex Miles

The forest burns.
The world is dark.
Upon our land,
Lies a terrible mark.

Deforestation.

All is destroyed.
The sky is black.
Everything lost,
It cannot come back.

Deforestation.
From the fiery inferno,
Leak horrible fumes.
By chopping down trees,
We walk to our doom.

Deforestation.

But from the depths,
Of our We may all yet,
Find hope and salvation.

Deforestation.

She no longer weeps,
Our Mother Earth.
Now she is happy,
And full of mirth.

Salvation.

Try not to waste,
What we plunder.
From our great planet,
Instead try and wonder.

Consideration.

fading nation,



Dates for your Diary:

Y11 Presentation Evening: 6th
December

Y13 Presentation Evening: 18th
December

Christmas Pantomime: Wednesday
12th—Friday 14th December



Word of the week – Whole school literacy challenge!

Each week there will be a wonderful word (lovely alliteration there!) and my challenge to ALL students is to use it in at least one subject anywhere during the week.

O W C M Y A X K E K P Y Z F S
A B Y D L G D S P J J L J O U
L E M C I U F A M M S C N R O
Y A X G N I Y F I R R O H M E
D S E C N R W C C C L B A I T
W R B Z R M R O Q D K I L D R
L E R C M U W E X H N V K A U
M I S C O N C E P T I O N B O
V B F I O P H I R A Z G X L C
K X U N H E V I A Q R N W E Y
W G Q W P T G Y F T N T T H S
O E O V A U A S O F I Y E X I
D R Q T E I A P F M D N Y E P
V I G O R O U S M C Z H G Z T
E D I T E L U Y X E A L R O J

COURTEOUS
FORMIDABLE
MISCONCEPTION
YULETIDE

EMPATHISE
HORRIFYING
REPARTEE
ZEAL

EXCRUCIATING
INTRIGUE
VIGOROUS

Fascinating Facts

12-15 million hectares of forest are lost each year, the equivalent of 36 football fields per minute.

Comedy Corner!

Why don't reindeer like penguins?

Because they can never get the wrappers off!