

CONNEXIONS

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Welcome to your special Souvenir Edition of Connexions, the magazine that keeps you in touch with the achievements and successes of students at Wath Comprehensive School. Inside you will find a special pullout section of photographs of the school through the decades before it changes forever. Our cover photograph shows the students on their active visit to Spain as they prepare to go canoeing. Read about their visit and more - all inside your Souvenir Edition of Connexions

WATH OPEN DAY 2003

On June 22nd the school held an open house day for former students of the school. The day allowed visitors to relive old memories of the school before it changes forever when the current buildings are demolished. There was also an opportunity to meet with old friends and former members of staff.

During the day there were tours of the school, exhibitions of photographs of the school through the past 75 years, staff photographs spanning decades and other school memorabilia. Visitors could contribute their memories of the school directly onto the school's website, or write in books which will be housed in an official school archive. There was also the opportunity to buy copies of a painting of the main school building, especially commissioned by the school as a memento of its very first buildings. It was a wonderful day and a fascinating way of meeting former students and staff of the school.



SENIOR STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

Our congratulations go to the following Y12 students on their appointments to senior positions within the school:

Head Boy:
Matthew Williams

Head Girl:
Danielle Scarfe

Deputies:
Mark Bailey
Matthew Cottle
Luke Jones
Jamie Skirrow

Deputies:
Shameela Ahmed
Jessica Ainley
Rachel Leasley
Amy Smith

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Congratulations go to the Young Enterprise group, 'The Last Supper', whose business sense earned them awards at the Rotherham area final of the Rotherham and Dearne Valley Young Enterprise Board. The group, which consisted of Matthew Williams, managing director, Richard Andrews, finance director, Shameela Ahmed, operations manager, Nasreen Kadarsha, company secretary, Thomas Wright and Richard Hoyland, IT, Andrew Dainty, sales, and Richard Merry, assistant managing director, produced, marketed and sold their own recipe book as their mini-business. At the Awards Evening, the group won Best Overall Business, Best Company Report and Richard Andrews won the award for Best Achiever.

In July, the company will represent the school at the Yorkshire Show in the Education Tent and they will sell a new international version of their recipe book.



HEADS AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST!

The school has been very lucky to have had an 'artist in residence,' Philip Cox, on two occasions this year; once in October to work with Y11 art students and then again in March to work with Y9 and Y10 art students. On both occasions, he worked with students on producing life-sized figures, and heads and shoulders out of cardboard. The end results were absolutely stunning. The students enjoyed the sessions and learned a lot about size, scale and producing models.

MAMA MIA! WHAT A GREAT SHOW!

In January, the music department organised a trip to London to see the hit musical 'Mama Mia'. It was a treat for those students who had contributed to the music department in some way. The day started at 7.30a.m. We eventually arrived in London and we were treated to a ride on the London Eye which some members of the group found daunting but the view was absolutely amazing.

We attended the matinee performance of 'Mama Mia'. The musical was written by two of the original members of Abba. The show used the most popular Abba songs and incorporated them around an interesting plot line. The show had us all singing every word and in some cases, dancing in the aisles (Mrs Hole)! What a great and fantastic show for us all.

Cordelia Wild Y12



CONNECTIONS

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FANTASTIC MOVEMENT EVENING

In April, the school held its annual and eagerly awaited gym, dance and movement evening. The evening always causes much excitement and this year was no exception, with both nights complete sell-outs! On both nights the audiences were entertained and thrilled by exceptional displays of highly energetic gymnastics, and a variety of contemporary and traditionally influenced dances and movement from different traditions and cultures, all performed by a wide range of students from different year groups: 'Outstanding', 'brilliant' and 'marvellous' were some of the words used to describe the evening by members of the audience. If you did not get a chance to see the evening this year, make sure you do next year - it is an unforgettable event!



THE FLAVOUR OF SPAIN

In February this year, 12 'A' level Spanish students, accompanied by Mrs Leatherbarrow and Mr Bacon, flew to Malaga in Spain to immerse themselves in the Spanish language and culture. 'We stayed in the Hostel Derby which overlooked the harbour,' said Paul Hirst, 'and we were able to use the lounge for our daily Spanish lessons. During the week we went on a tour of Malaga and visited the castle, the fortress, the cathedral and harbour. On Tuesday we caught the bus to Granada where we visited the world famous Alhambra Palace. It was a magnificent building, with many courtyards and fountains, in true Arabic style. On Thursday, we went to the local English newspaper, 'Sur', to see the paper printed and we had our photograph taken for the following week's edition. We had plenty of opportunities to use our Spanish and converse with the local inhabitants. On our last evening, we watched an authentic display of true flamenco music and dancing, which was a real taste of Spain. We had a very enjoyable visit and gained a flavour of the real Spain!'



SCIENCE IN FRANCE - C'EST MAGNIFIQUE

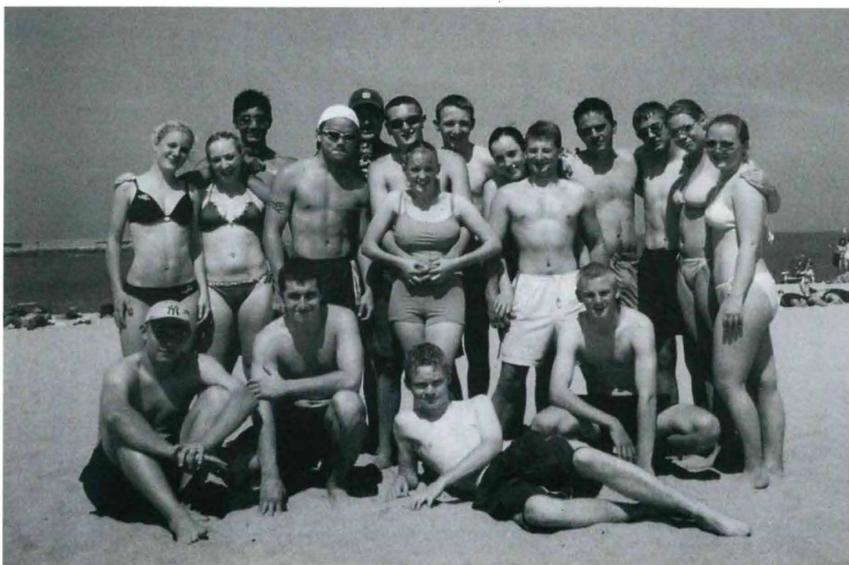
In September 2002, a group of almost forty students from Year 8 and five members of staff took part in a visit to study science in France and to practise their French at the same time. The study visit was action packed and involved staying in three different hotels. There was a tour of La Rance Hydrodam, the biggest tidal barrier in Europe and this was followed by a visit to the beautiful town of Saint Malo, where students had the opportunity of shopping for souvenirs and trying out their very best French. The following day was spent at the Futuroscope where students spent time in three different cinemas, one of which was in 3D. There were also some incredible simulations that left all the visitors stunned and amazed. The next day, the group travelled to Paris, where they were taken on a conducted tour of the city, including a visit to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Whilst in Paris, the group spent time at La Cite Science Museum where they boarded a simulated journey in the space shuttle, went into a soundproofed room that contained invisible drums - and were allowed to make as much noise as possible - and some students conducted science experiments while other students watched a film about the planets, in French! Miss Williamson commented that, 'The group was a credit to the school' and that the teachers had received many compliments about the behaviour of the group during the various stages of the visit.

Y11 PRESENTATION

On Friday the 16th of May, Y11 received their Records of Achievement in a presentation in the school hall. Mr Chisholm introduced the presentation and the Records of Achievement were presented by the Vice Chair of Governors, Mr Blackburn. During the presentation, there were musical items from James Ludlum, Stephen Walker, Jenna Smaliman and Samantha Whitehead; a Latin American dance was performed by Jerri Taylor and Sadie Hill and Stephen Walker performed 'Lord of the Dance'. Our congratulations go to all students in Y11 and we wish them well for the examination results in August.

BUILDING BRIDGES

In October, the Royal Engineers visited school to work with Y10 technology students. The visit, which lasted a morning, let students explore the technology of building bridges, testing out different structures for strengths and weaknesses. The soldiers from the Royal Engineers gave their advice and helped to test the bridge structures the Y10 students had designed.



ACTIVE IN SPAIN

Last summer, 18 students and two members of staff flew to the Navarra region of Spain to take part in a cultural exchange and to fulfil part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The group stayed in the local Youth Hostel and took part in a range of activities organised by the Spanish company Sedena. Each day began with breakfast at 8.30 a.m. and was followed by a morning activity. Lunch was either taken at the Hostel or consisted of a packed lunch if we were out all day. The activities that we took part in ranged from white water rafting, canoeing, mountain biking through to trying our hands at archery. We spent a challenging morning rock climbing and we undertook a hike through the villages and the lower hills of the Pyrenees. We also went on three excursions: one to Pamplona, but we arrived too late to see the bull race (which was at 8.00 a.m.) and to Hundarribia which was on the coast. Our final excursion was to San Sebastian which also included a visit to the wonderful aquarium where you can observe sharks, mantas and turtles from glass tunnels. It was a highly active week but one we shall all remember for some time.

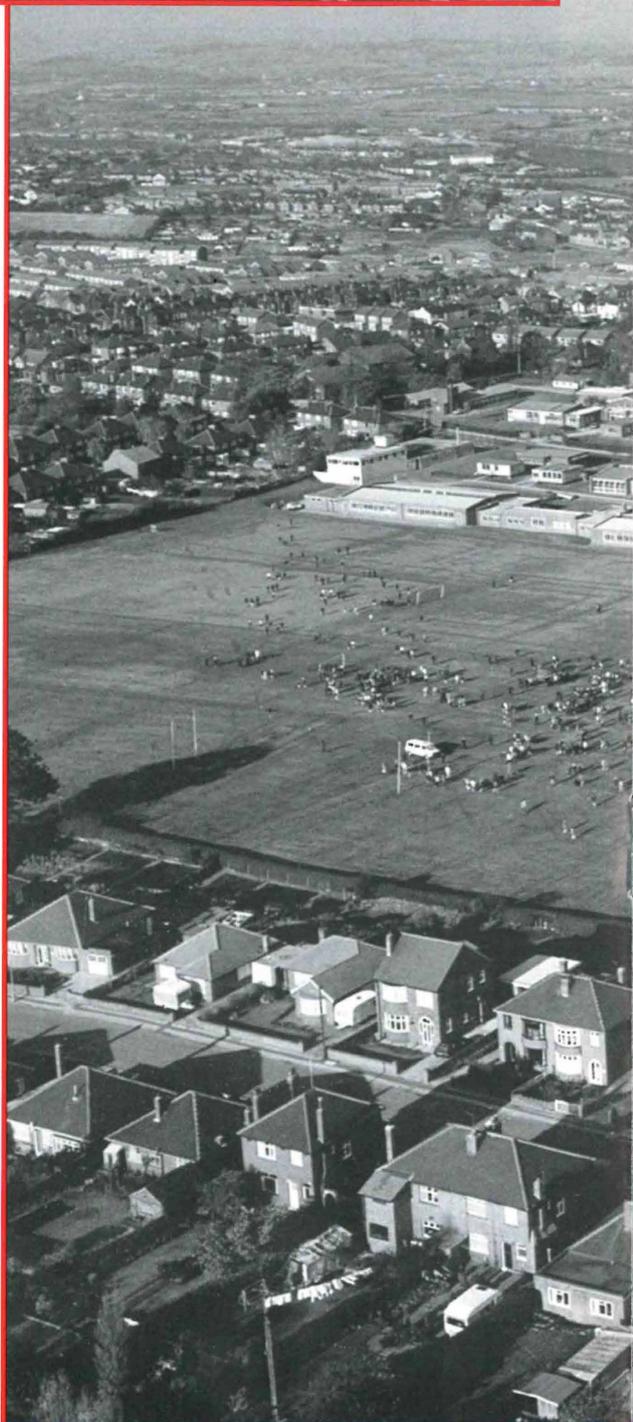
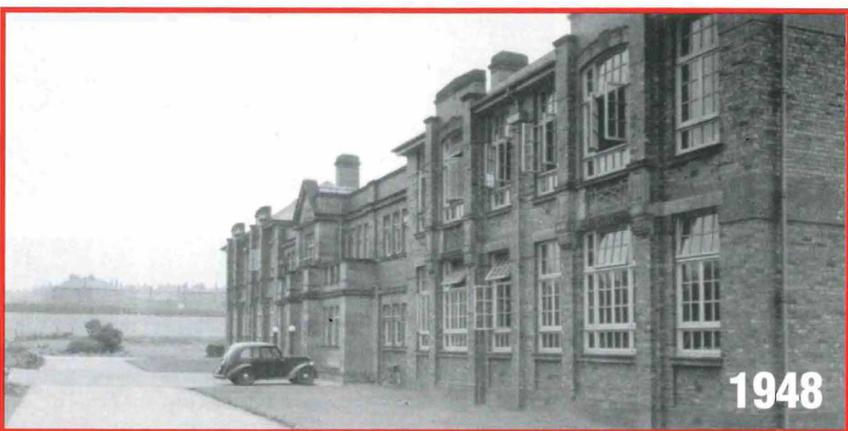
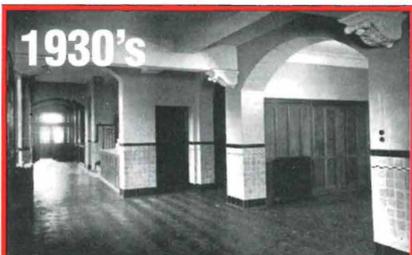
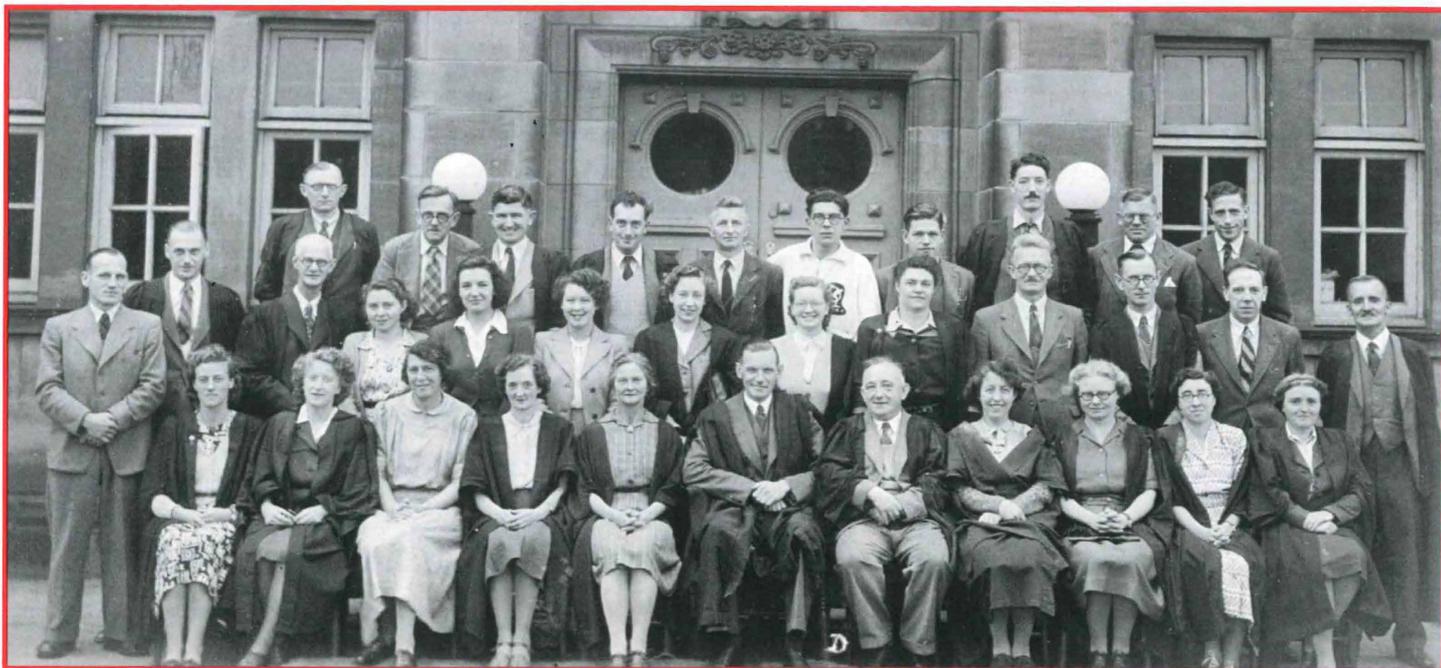
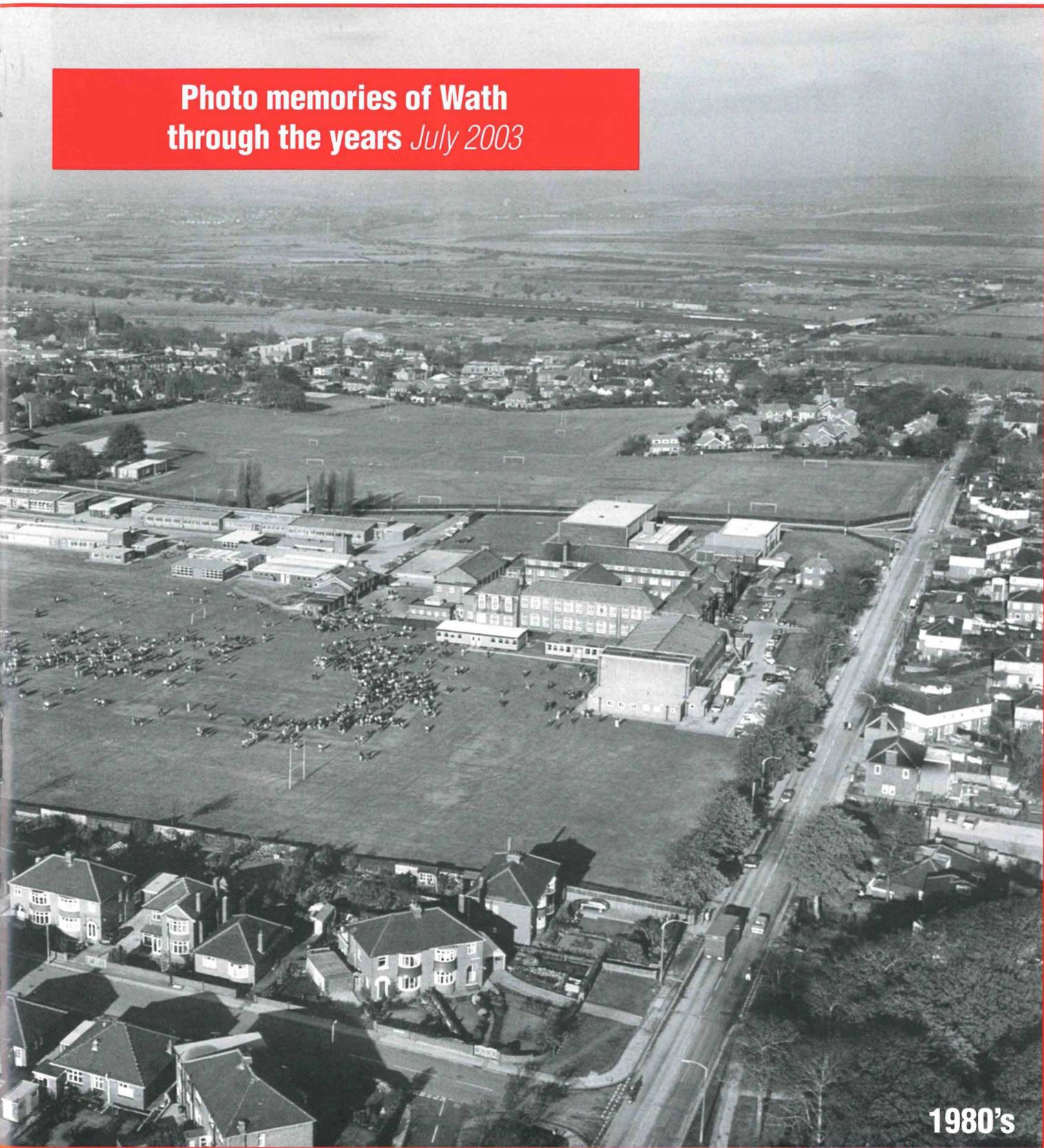
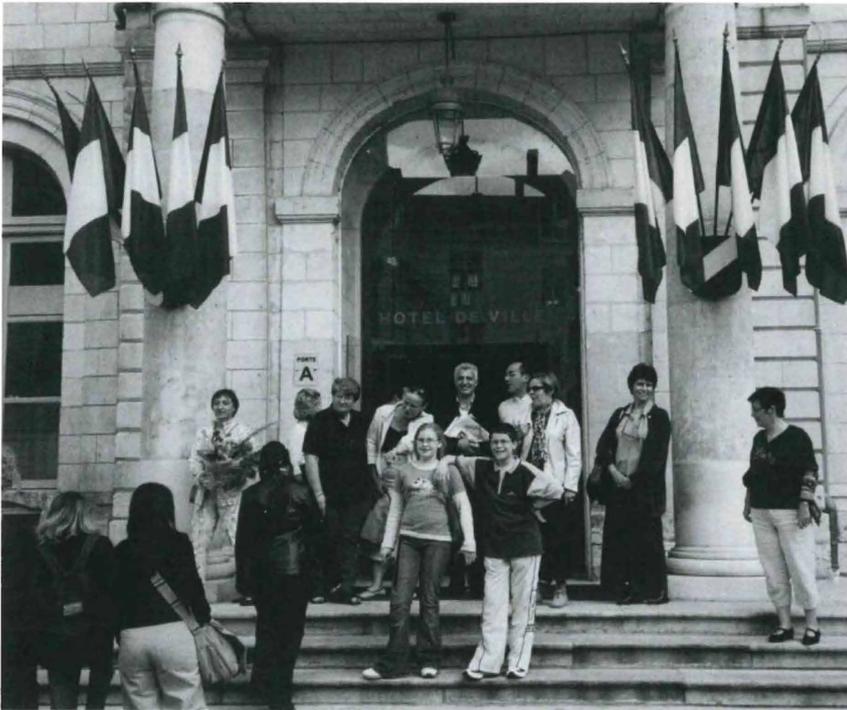




Photo memories of Wath
through the years *July 2003*



BLOIS FRENCH EXCHANGE



At the beginning of November, a group of French students arrived from our partner school in Blois. The group stayed with families from the Wath area and took part in a range of different activities, from learning how to cook the perfect curry as demonstrated by Mrs Morley and Mrs Gracey, to visits to the historic city of York and Wakefield Mining Museum.

The group also spent time in school on a variety of language activities. Victoria Mower, in her report on the exchange, wrote, 'We all found the experience very enriching and worthwhile and we feel that we have made many new friends. We are also looking forward to returning to Blois to experience French life and culture first hand. Whilst in Blois, we will be staying with a French family, undertaking work experience and involving ourselves in a range of language based activities.'



AIMING HIGH

In October and March, groups of Y9, Y10 and Y11 students attended open days at Sheffield Hallam University and Hull University with the intention of encouraging as many students as possible to stay in education and to aim for university. On both days, students were shown round the universities and took part in a series of activities in various venues around the campus so that they could see what university life is like. The students enjoyed the days very much and returned to school with the idea of aiming high.



BUSINESS IN BRUSSELS

23 Y12 and Y13 Business Studies and 3 members of staff, took part in a study visit to Brussels, Belgium, to look at how businesses are run. The trip included visits to three very different businesses - the Belle Vue Brewery, the National Bank of Belgium and the Electrabel Nuclear Power Plant. Stephen Williams, Y12 wrote in his account of the visit: 'Well, what can you say about a visit that had it all: culture, education and fun. The culture came in the form of the wonderful city of Brussels which impressed many of us for different reasons. The second city of Antwerp received just as much admiration. The education came in many different guises, be it learning about how a nuclear power plant was run to finding out about the ancient coinage of the surrounding area to sampling a small amount of beer at the brewery. Overall, how could I sum up the trip? Well, apart from the search we had leaving the UK, it was a trip that offered something for everyone - great hospitality, great food and a great time.'

COMENIUS VISIT TO SICILY AS MOUNT ETNA ERUPTS!

As part of the school's commitment to developing international links and funded by the British Council, two members of staff and two students, Harry Gregory and Tara Dudill, both in Y9, travelled to Acireale on the island of Sicily, to meet up with other schools and students from our partnership schools and to take part in an international conference. Whilst in Sicily, the group stayed with Italian families and also learned some Italian into the bargain.

The conference was a great success but the most outstanding thing that all of the group will never forget is, that whilst there, Mount Etna erupted, sending lava and ash across the whole area and disrupting all communication across the island.

On the afternoon of March 21st the Firewalk Theatre Company visited the school to put on a production of a Spanish play, 'Velada Espanola'. Students from Wath were also joined by students from other schools in the area. The play involved singing and dancing and the students were able to join in. Comments from students were 'I really enjoyed the Velada Espanola.

It was entertaining and I was able to dance along' and 'I liked the play because I heard some of my favourite English songs in Spanish. I could also dance to all of the music.



VELADA ESPANOLA A SPANISH THEATRE COMPANY VISITS WATH

PLAYING THE RIGHT TUNE!

We offer our congratulations to the following students for their music exam successes. Well done everyone!

LEA Exams:

Tara Dooley	Grade 2	Clarinet	Distinction
Stephen Walker	Grade 2	Flute	Distinction

ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music)

Cordelia Wild	Grade 5	Clarinet	Merit
	Grade 5	Piano	Merit
Sara Boyes	Grade 3	Clarinet	
Fiona Brett	Grade 5	Flute	Merit
	Grade 3	Theory	Merit
Rachel Leasley	Grade 5	Clarinet	Merit
Jennifer Collinson	Grade 5	Saxophone	Distinction
Matthew Williams	Grade 5	Alto Saxophone	Merit
Clare Oates	Grade 5	Clarinet	
	Grade 2	Tenor Saxophone	Distinction
Sam Tansley	Grade 5	Saxophone	Merit
Rebecca Hall	Grade 5	Tenor Saxophone	Merit
Rebecca Hearne	Grade 3	Guitar	Merit
Bethany Murray	Grade 2	Theory	
Harry Gregory	Grade 5	Guitar	Merit

POETRY WINNERS

As part of World Book Day, Macmillan Children's Books asked schools to let their students take part in a competition to write poems based on the theme of Celebration. Ms Fenton's Y8 English class took up the challenge and Deanna Wilson's poem, entitled 'The Day Celebration' was the overall competition winner. Six other entries from the class were declared runners-up. The poems were published in a book called 'Bonkers for Conkers' Our photograph shows the winning poets holding some of the books, with Deanna in the middle row on the right. Well done! Below is the competition winning poem.



The Day Celebration by Deanna Wilson

The dawn breaks
As the human eye looks on
The sun shines on Humankind
Lights up the beautiful sky
And smiles at the glistening sea
Where they meet together at the horizon.
People laugh, people cry
Let's celebrate life today before,
Dusk falls
Before the sun cascades down and
Darkness drops over the world.

SOMME BATTLEFIELDS VISIT

At the end of September, 43 students and 5 members of staff took part in what has become an annual study visit to the battlefields of the Somme. This visit enables students to see for themselves the horrors of the First World War. The first day was spent at Ypres and included visits to Sanctuary Wood, the scene of a bitter battle in 1916. This was followed by a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery, Essex Farm Cemetery and Passchendaele which is often said to be the site of the bloodiest battle in history. This very moving day was followed by a visit to the Somme and the battlefields of Pozieres and Thiepval, which has a 150 feet high memorial which commemorates the 73,000 men who died on the Somme and who have no known grave.

The following day saw a visit to the historic town of Bruges, with the opportunity to spend some time in the shops before returning to Ypres and attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The final day included a visit to the Vimy Memorial Park and the underground tunnels.

Alison Stone, as part of her diary of the visit, wrote: 'After experiencing the battlefields visit for the third time this year, I decided to take a different approach to the way I saw things. Instead of focusing entirely on the horror and pain that war brought, I decided to study the men who were shot at dawn and to try and comprehend what they must have experienced prior to their executions. On Thursday evening the coach stopped at what seemed to be yet another of the small white and peaceful cemeteries. At first it seemed to be another beautiful little cemetery in Belgium. It was only when the bus stopped and Mr Barlow played a video about soldiers executed at dawn for "crimes against their country", that I realised why we were there.

The sun, just setting, filled the cemetery with a great sense of peace. Here, in the tranquillity of the red brick cemetery, lay three soldiers who suffered the same fate as the men mentioned in the video. For me, this was the most moving part of the entire visit. It was at this point that I realised what a harsh waste of life it had been to execute three men. It was no consolation that all three men had later been given official pardons.'

The battlefields visit is a very moving experience and continues to be popular with Wath students.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

The Wath Y7 girls' hockey team trounced all of their opponents in all of their seven matches to become Rotherham Hockey Tournament winners on Saturday 22nd March. They scored an incredible 41 goals and only conceded one goal overall.

They beat:	Wath B	4-0
	Wales A	1-0
	Wales B	5-0
	Dinnington B	14-0
	Kimberworth A	4-1
	Clifton A	6-0
	Dinnington A	7-0

We offer our congratulations to the team. They have worked hard and deserve their success. Well done.

Y10 HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

You will have read the article about the Y7 girls' hockey champions and Y10 did not want to be outplayed.

They, too, won the Y10 Rotherham Hockey Tournament held at Wath on Tuesday 25th March. They beat Dinnington 2-1, lost to Wales 1-0, drew with Rawmarsh 1-1 and beat Kimberworth 1-0.

Congratulations and well done to all the girls who took part.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Perhaps it is of credit to our music department that in May, we were asked to take part in Wath's 'Sights and Sounds Festival' by giving an evening concert at the parish church. Certainly the students who took part did us proud. As it was a community concert, it was incredibly flattering to see the church packed out. Surely not everyone there was a proud parent? The evening was a delight and was hosted by both the Reverend Leech and our very own Mr Naylor and I am delighted to say that we managed to raise a huge £500 for church funds.

Probably the most pleasing thing about the concert was that it allowed not only the oldest but also the younger students to perform. We were entertained by both the advanced clarinets as they recited to us Mozart's 'Overture to the Magic Flute' and by the junior clarinets and flutes playing a jaunty version of 'When the Saints Go Marching In'. The band gave us various performances and it was enchanting to hear solo trombonist Johanna Hirst being accompanied by the band in her excellent rendition of 'Wind Beneath My Wings'. This concert also saw the last performance of the Stage Band and they ended the evening with an encore performance of 'Autumn Leaves' with voracious applause from the audience.

The choir gave in impressive performance of Lloyd Webber songs and there were beautiful performances by the guitar and violin groups. I must finish by saying thank you to all who attended and all who took part; to Cordelia Wild for designing the programme and to Mrs Hole for arranging the whole evening.

Jennifer Collinson Y12

