



Autumn 2011

# In Touch

WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL: A LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Carer

We have enjoyed a very busy and extremely positive start to the new school year.

Our GCSE examination results this Summer exceeded our already high expectations and were our best ever. Just over 55% of students achieved five A\*-C grades including English and Maths, 89% of students gained five or more A\*-C, 96% of students achieved at least five A\*-G grades and 100% of students achieved at least one A\*-G grade. We are awaiting the results from the examination boards of remarks so these results could yet increase.

We had further cause for celebration post-16 where we achieved a pass rate of 99% with 48% of passes at Grades A\*-B at A level. We are very pleased that all students have been accepted on their chosen courses at universities across the country.

It is not therefore surprising that we have enrolled over 220 students into Year 12 from last years Y11 at Wath and also from many other schools across the borough and beyond. Our sixth form team Mr Naylor, Mrs Shaw and Mr John have been extremely busy processing applications, interviewing prospective students and matching their course preferences.

Across our school community we continue to focus on raising academic standards and attainment and remain committed to our aim to ensure that all our students receive a high quality educational experience and leave us **able, active and qualified.**

The 300 students who have just joined us in Year 7 appear to be settling in quickly and are successfully finding their way round our very large school. In order to take the maximum benefit from the extensive opportunities available here we are encouraging them to get involved in the many activities offered through the extra-curricular life of the school.

We also welcomed several new members of staff at the beginning of term and offer them our very best wishes in their career at Wath.

As parents/carers you have an enormous part to play in your child's success. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

**P Ward**  
**Headteacher**

## Welcome - Bienvenue - Willkommen - Bienvenidos!

Autumn every year can be a bit strange for people sometimes, as it is in the middle between Summer and Winter. This can be strange as the weather can sometimes be warm and sometimes be cold. Furthermore, it can also be annoying with all the leaves falling down from trees and landing in your hair! However, there are some things that are good about Autumn like the fact that Halloween is just around the corner, or that it is easier to get conkers so you can harden them and play the game conkers.

Autumn is also good because it means that the sky gets darker earlier and the sun comes out later so you have an excuse to have an extra hour in bed at the weekends! The word autumn comes from the word *autompne* which is an old French word. Autumn is also known as the season of harvest because it is the time of year when the plants and crops are ready to be collected from the fields.

This half term, the student journalist team have been busy writing lots of articles for you about events happening in and around school.

### **The Student Journalist Team**

## CINDERELLA

This year's pantomime is going to be Cinderella. The pantomime auditions were a great success and with so many students wanting to get involved there will be two casts. One cast will perform on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of December and the other cast will perform on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes open for when tickets become available some time after half term.



Rehearsals are well underway and it is promising to be another fantastic show. Be sure to come along. You never know you may be able to recognise some staff in the performance.....

Further notices and pictures of the rehearsals and performances will follow.

One of the members of the cast, Abbie Sanderson, is particularly thrilled to be part of the show. "In the new panto Cinderella I have a part of an auctioneer, it's only a little speaking part but I am glad to be in it."

Charles Perrault originally wrote one of the most famous novels: Cinderella, which was brought into a movie on February the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1950. We hope you all enjoy our interpretation of this magical story!

## Halloween Poem

Children dressed as witches and skeletons,  
Ghosts and vampires too.  
Trick or treating from door to door,  
Wanting sweets from you.  
The sun goes down, the werewolf howls,  
The sky turns black and grey,  
Children running from street to street,  
Pumpkin buckets full of treats,  
Chocolate, lollies, sweet after sweet,  
Halloween is here to stay!

Knocking at your door, it's Frankenstein,  
Ghosts floating on the path,  
Cars and broomsticks racing around,  
See those zombies laugh!

The sun goes down, the werewolf howls,  
The sky turns black and grey,  
Children running from street to street,  
Pumpkin buckets full of treats,  
Chocolate, lollies, sweet after sweet,  
Halloween is here to stay!

Come back home to stuff your face,  
On chocolate goodies, sweets and lollipops.  
Then here comes the headless horseman,  
And then your head he chops!

The sun goes down, the werewolf howls,  
The sky turns black and grey,  
Children running from street to street,  
Pumpkin buckets full of treats,  
Chocolate, lollies, sweet after sweet,  
Halloween is here to stay!

Jack Waller, Student Journalist



## ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

We in the Attendance Office want to make you, the students, aware of the latest competition to reach the corridors of our great school. It is a competition between each tutor group in each year.

Each tutor group will have its overall attendance measured every 2 weeks and graphs showing the results and will be displayed outside the Attendance Office. At the end of each half term the Tutor Group with the best Attendance will receive a trophy presented at your Year Assembly. Winners' photographs will also be displayed in the following editions of 'In Touch' magazine.

The competition is between Tutor Groups so encourage your mates to come to school AND WIN !!!

## **Wath's Netball Success!**

Have you heard about our school's successful netball teams? Every Friday after school (and some Tuesdays), Miss Sheldon and Mrs Thompson run a netball club for all years. Although at the start of term, year sevens were still getting to grips with the rules, many matches have proved that the technique training has enhanced progress.

At the first training session that year sevens attended, the older years helped the new pupils with footwork and tactics. Enthusiastic as could be, they took in all the advice given and picked up rules quickly. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. Towards the end of the session, the year groups were split and practised with students of their own ability.

All students are focused to do their best as they know they might be in for a chance to play against rival schools such as Rawmarsh Comprehensive, Swinton Community School and St. Pius. Knowing the success rate of other years' netball teams, they all feel the pressure to perform the best of their ability.



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September they were ready. After only a few practises, Miss Sheldon and Mrs Thompson felt that the teams were ready to compete against Rawmarsh Comprehensive. Many were nervous at the prospect of all the pressure of meeting an enemy school. All the year got to showcase their skills while competing in 4 friendly matches (each year played 4 matches).

The year seven team consisted of many separate mini teams that swapped players on and off so everyone could have a go at playing at least one match out of the four. Beating down like a drum, the freak warm weather made us all feel stuffy and sweaty and gave many people headaches. Conversely, they played through the pain and eventually lead our school to victory.

The majority of the matches (three out of four) were won by Wath Comprehensive, resulting in a score of 6-5 to the year sevens. Furthermore the other years' netball teams brought victory and led our school to fame. The year eights won against the Rawmarsh team 11-9 and were proud of their success. In addition, the year nines beat the opposing team by ten points with an immense score of 14! The year tens carried on the winning streak by succeeding to batter the other comprehensive 24-6. Last but not least, the year elevens made us proud by winning 24-7 leaving in an overall result of Wath: 79 and Rawmarsh: 21. For their first match, everyone was really proud of their achievements and were eager to play again, leaving with colossal grins on their faces!

The following week, St. Bernard's were to play us at our home ground. We were all ready and excited. However, years eight, nine and ten were told that unfortunately, they couldn't play due to the opposition only being able to bring two teams. After last week's success, everyone felt the pressure to do well. But... we triumphed again; the year sevens won 10-0 (after playing on the indoor court) and the year elevens won 24-2: an outstanding win! This boost gave all years more confidence in their game.

If you feel you can add something special to your year netball team, speak to Miss Sheldon or Mrs Thompson and you could help your team to achieve their best. All years are to carry on playing other schools every Wednesday.

**Written by Hannah White, Student Journalist.**

## **Science Activities**

We have lots of exciting clubs and activities running in Science this year. Year 7 Science Club takes place every Monday from 2:45 - 3:30 in F41. See Miss Barnes for further details.



There is also the Year 8 and 9 Crest Award every Monday. See Mr Smith for further details.

In addition, Year 11 Revision sessions for the November exams are taking place every Monday until the module exams, which are on Tuesday 15th November. Keep your eyes open for Y10 Core Science, Y11 Additional Science and BTEC catch up sessions coming soon.....

## **Enterprise Club**

Enterprise club started on 14<sup>th</sup> September. It is run by Miss Little on a Wednesday lunchtime. In Enterprise Club, we create different businesses, such as selling pop and having a bake sale.

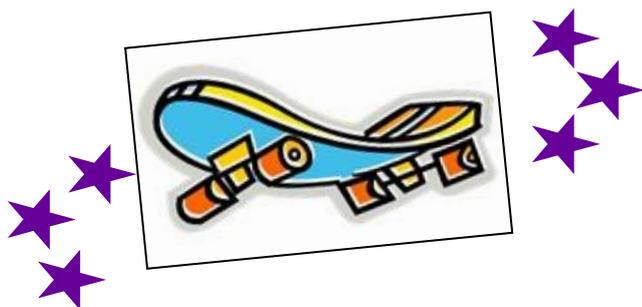


On 20<sup>th</sup> September we planned what we were going to do for Enterprise Week. We decided to have a fizzy pop stall. When we discussed what sort of soda stream syrup to buy we decided what we felt are the most popular flavours. We will be selling it at 30p per cup on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November.

There will also be lots of other stalls for you during Enterprise Week so come along to check them out!

**Written by Amber Millington, Year 7 Student Journalist**

## Design and Build a Skateboard



Have a go at designing and customising a skateboard which you get to take away with you at the end of the day!

**Book your place now** with Miss Owen in the Language College Office (next to G7).  
**Date:** Monday 24th October 2011 (in the Half Term Holidays)  
**Time:** 10am to 2.30pm (bring a packed lunch)  
**Where:** Wath Comprehensive School  
**How Much:**

**Free** to students on the **Go For It! Scheme** (to check if you can do this activity for free, see Miss Owen in Language College).

**ONLY £10** to all other students (this includes your skateboard which you get to take home with you!)

If you want to do this activity, you need to collect a form from Miss Owen in the Language College Office (next to G7) **as soon as possible!!**

## GIRLS BADMINTON CLUB

Starting on Thursday 3rd November in the Sports hall.

Lunchtime (12.30-1.00pm) - Y7 and Y8 girls. Please see Mrs Pickering if you need an early lunch pass.

After school (2.45 - 3.45pm) - All years.

You will need your PE kit and a merit will be awarded for every session you attend!

If you have any questions, see Mrs Pickering or Mrs Lines.

## Dates For your Diary



**Friday 21st October:** School closes for half term.

**Tuesday 1st November:** New Sixth Evening, 7pm.

**Thursday 10th November:** 'Celebration of Music and Dance' music concert.

**Thursday 17th November:** Y11 Presentation Evening, 7pm.

## New ICT Suite in School

G28 used to be a D&T classroom but it has been redesigned as an ICT suite with new computers and high quality, modern equipment.

### **The Technical Stuff**

These new computers are Stone towers with Windows Vista Basic interface (Windows XP Professional being transformed) and they are powered by the new intel core i3 processors. The Disc drive is a DVD re-writeable with modern flat screen monitors.

We hope you get a chance to use the new ICT suite.



**By Sam Harris, Year 9 Student Journalist**

## *Fascinating Facts*

The traditions of Halloween are a mixture of Celtic, Catholic and ancient Roman traditions. The holiday is thought to date to the Iron Age, which was around 800-600 B.C.



## *Comedy Corner!*

Two monkeys get in a bath.  
One says "Ooo, Ooo Ah, ah!  
The other one says "Put some cold in then!!"





# Language College Review

## European Day of Languages

We celebrated European Day of Languages on 30th September this year with quizzes, competitions and a European themed lunch in Le Rendezvous!

### Tutor Group Quiz

We had a winning tutor group from each year who won House Points for their respective Houses and also an overall winning tutor group who will be awarded a tutor group prize!

This Year's Winners Were:

7RK (Sparta) with a score of 13/15

8CW (Athens) with a score of 12/15

9PM (Athens) with a score of 12/15

10WM (Carthage) with a score of 13/15

11LT (Sparta / Rome) with a score of 11/15

12FM (Carthage) with a score of 12/15

13PK (Athens) with a score of 12/15

### Overall Winner

7RK

### Y7 Euro House Quiz

Two Y7 students from each tutor group represented their House in our European-themed quiz. The prize was House Points which were awarded as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Carthage

2<sup>nd</sup> Thebes

3<sup>rd</sup> Rome

Joint 4<sup>th</sup> Athens & Troy

5<sup>th</sup> Sparta

### Super Staff Challenge

We asked members of staff to try speaking a foreign language. The most voted for staff were...

Mr C Shaw (Psychology)

Miss Page (Sociology)

Mrs Laite (Library)

Mr McHale (Drama)

Mr Bray (SSW)

Mrs Cartwright (Art)

Miss Walters (RS)

Mr Parkinson (Maths)

Miss Davis (English)

Mr Billups (Maths)

**The winner was...**

**Mrs Cunningham (PE, PSHCEE & ICT)!**

## Holiday Activities

In the Spring/Summer Wath Comprehensive School Language College joined forces with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Extended Services Team to provide a range of activities for our students to participate in.

The activities consisted of:

Nail Art and Manicures

Customising Clothing

Skateboard Design

Skatepark

Graffiti Workshop (3 days)

Paintballing

Cupcake making and Decorating

Bike Maintenance

The activities were free of charge to students on the Go For It! Scheme and were heavily subsidised for other students. This year we hope to offer many more activities, and we are offering Skateboard Design again during the Half Term Holidays. This activity will take place on Monday 24th October from 10am to 2.30pm and the students will be able to take their skateboards home with them. To book a place on the activity or check eligibility for the scheme, students should come and see Miss Owen in the Language College Office (next to G7).

