



January 2012

In Touch

Message from the Headteacher

WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL: A LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Carer

Although Christmas is now just a distant memory I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the dozens of thank you letters, cards and telephone calls from appreciative recipients of our Christmas Hampers. The students were again very generous in their contributions this year and almost 90 hampers were created and distributed, mostly to elderly people in the communities which the school serves. The standard was amazing and many would not have been out of place in the smartest department stores which made judging the winners a very difficult job indeed. A prize was awarded to the winning tutor group in each year and a trophy to the best in school. The 'best in school' trophy this year was awarded to 9TP with their stunning 'three kings' design.

At the end of term we enjoyed performances of our pantomime, Cinderella, which played to packed audiences on three evenings and a matinee performance for our very appreciative primary school pupils. We also enjoyed the annual Christmas Concert where over a hundred students beautifully entertained us by playing instruments or singing, ensuring that everyone left feeling that Christmas had truly arrived.

In the first week of this term we held our annual Presentation Evening of A level certificates and prizes for the students who left us in Y13 last Summer, many of whom are now studying at universities across the country. We were very pleased to welcome the Right Honourable John Healey MP as our guest speaker. It was lovely to catch up with our past students and to hear how they are adjusting to their university studies – a truly enjoyable evening.

Preparations are currently underway for our annual Gym, Dance and Movement evenings when we and our learning community of primary schools work together on a shared theme which this year is, of course, the Olympics. Always a very popular event I would advise that you buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Yours sincerely

P Ward
Headteacher

Welcome from Wath Watch!

Welcome to our January edition of 'In Touch'. We've got lots of news this month on the many activities we have been doing in school this half-term. From house football to castle competitions, we have been very busy in and around school since we've been back as you can see from our packed newsletter.

Happy reading!

The Student Journalists

School house football

So far this year the Year 9 boys have been braving the cold to represent their Houses and there have already been a few exciting games.

Every Tuesday at lunch time, teams have been gathering to play on the Astro turf to battle it out. The games are only 15 minutes long, so it is always a frantic struggle to score. The teams all have excellent players and are well-balanced, so there have been few big wins.

All houses need volunteers to compete, so get involved - especially if you are in Sparta!

Sam Wilmot, Adam Troake, Callum Jackson, Ashley Marshall 9AQ



Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter is a place where you can learn to knit, crochet or sew. You don't have to know how to do these things because Mrs Haw will teach you to. If you already know how to knit then this is a place to develop your skills and accomplish more.

Mrs Owen and Miss Golding are there to give a helping hand. If you're wondering where it is, go to G22. It is only on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes. You can also eat your lunch there.

You can make many different things such as a knitted scarf, Kindle or iPad cases, bookmarks or coasters.

So far we have made a knitted scarf and a bookmark.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy knitting and nattering!

By Lauren Hudson and Elisha Padgett
Student Journalists

Year Seven Castle Competition

Last term the History department ran a competition for Y7 for the students to create a model or plan of a castle and selected castle-makers will be crowned king or queen for their tremendous efforts.

The History Department was blown away by the incredible models they received and they commented that they were so pleased at the quality and quantity of the entries. They can be seen in the main reception where they are being kept at the moment if you would like to look.

However, the winners have been announced and the top three have been revealed... Will Scalon came first with his amazing creation. Ben Robertson came second with his detailed craftwork and Ruth Bradbury got the bronze medal with her fantastic castle.

Any entries will have to be collected or the History department will dispose of them.

Hannah White
Student Journalist

Review corner

Mission Impossible 4

This week's review is on the 4th movie of Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol. Here is the plot for those who have not seen it.

In this instalment, top agent Hanaway is assassinated whilst he is recovering classified information from Russia. Meanwhile, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) has been rescued from Moscow and has now got to help his team to get back the information from the assassin.

However, their plans are foiled when the Kremlin gets blown up whilst looking for the information.



Dylan says that " The movie was great, it was full of action and always kept me on the edge of my seat."

Owen says that "Best movie ever! Can't wait for the sequel!

Dylan rates this movie 5/5



Owen rates this movie 4/5



By Dylan Harries and Owen Harrison
Student Journalists

Wath Wins Big!

On Wednesday 9th November Wath's netball team faced Wales in a league game friendly. This match took place at Wales High School, Sheffield.



The sky was getting dark and the players were getting cold. The positions were as follows: Goal Attack- Megan Helliwell, Goal Shooter- Holly Boardman (me), Goal Defence- Emily Hartley, Goal Keeper- Natasha Stead, Wing Attack- Alicia Hartley, Wing Defence- Rebecca Ryder and Bethany Barnett, Centre- Amy Sharp.

In the first quarter Wales had the ball as the whistle blew for the match to begin. Wath quickly had possession of the ball. Very swiftly, Megan Helliwell had the ball, aiming for the back of the hoop. She shoots... She scores! 1 - 0 to Wath! We quickly put another three balls in the hoop to make it 4 - 0 to Wath at quarter time.

Megan and I swapped places and so did Bethany and Rebecca. We then waited for this quarter to kick off. We were now shooting in the opposite direction. This time we had possession of the ball when the whistle blew for the 2nd quarter to begin. Our strategy worked well. The ball went from Amy (C) to Alicia (WD) to Megan (GS) to me (GA). I then hoped for the best. Their Goal Keeper was too close to me so she had to stand by my side while I took the shot. I could either have a free pass or have a shot. I decided to shoot and made the running total 5 - 0 to Wath. Their turn to have the centre pass. However, Bethany Barnett quickly jumped in front of the player she was marking and received the ball. Excellent marking skills there from Bethany! Wath then was able to move down the court with the greatest of ease and have another ball placed in the hoop. We briskly put another 3 balls in the ring to make it 9 - 0 to Wath at half time.

I then moved to Wing Attack, Megan stayed at Goal Attack, Emily moved to Goal Shooter, Amy stayed as Centre, Rebecca swapped with Bethany to Wing Defence, Alicia moved to Goal Defence and Natasha stayed as Goal Keeper. Wales also had a few alterations in their team. We swapped ends again and Wales' Centre had the ball when the whistle blew for the 3rd quarter to begin. Unluckily for us we had a few mistakes and Wales' Goal Shooter made to score 9 - 1 to Wath. I'm sure they still had hope. Emily Hartley put 4 balls into the hoop to make the score 13 - 1 to Wath. Wales scored again, quite quickly to make the score 13 - 2. By the time the whistle had blown for the end of this quarter Megan had put another 2 balls in the hoop, to make the total 15 - 2 to Wath.

The sky was even darker and the players were warmed up! I went back to Goal Shooter, Emily moved to Goal Keeper, Alicia moved back to Wing Attack, Bethany moved back to Wing Defence and Rebecca played as Goal Defence. Wath got another 3 balls into the hoop. From out of nowhere Wales' team had possession of the ball and made the running total 18 - 3. We were gutted but we knew we had a massive lead on them and knew that we were going to win. Megan scored another 2 baskets to make the total 20 - 3. I was talking to Natasha while the game was going on and I said "wouldn't it be funny if we scored the 21st goal in the last minute?" The ball came my way and I knew what to do. I positioned myself underneath the hoop and waited to get into a space to get the ball off Megan. When I'd got the ball I aimed the ball into the hoop and I threw it. The whistle blew for the end of the game and the ball landed in the net! The total was 21 - 3 to Wath!

Overall it was a great game, commiserations to Wales, congratulations to Wath that was one of the best games that I have ever played.

Written by Holly Boardman





November

Nine of our male members of staff have again grown moustaches in aid of Movember, a charity that raises money & awareness for men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer & other cancers that affect men. We are very proud to say that they managed to beat the £1000 mark raising a fantastic £1146 in total! Well done mo-bros!



Well done to all those students involved in the production and we hope to see more people involved next year!



Activities for the holidays

Rotherham MBC are organising lots of fun activities and events over the February half-term holiday. Activities include things like: Junior Rangers, Art Break, Crafty Book Crew and a Mega Active Multi-Sport camp.



For more information, visit:

<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/>

[info/100009/leisure_and_culture/1875/fun_newsletter](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/100009/leisure_and_culture/1875/fun_newsletter)

We are in the process of applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to support a new project which will look at how the school has changed since it was first established.

Our school was rebuilt six years ago so, in September 2012, our new Y7 students will be the first year group who have never been taught in the old buildings. This is a landmark in the history of the school and we want our students to work with the local community to look at how the school buildings and school life have changed. If we are successful in our bid, we will be holding a launch event that we'll ask local people to come along to and tell us about their school days and, hopefully, bring along some memorabilia too! Students will also be going out of school to interview anyone else who would like to be involved. We hope to hold an exhibition of our findings at the end of the 2012-2013 school year and we would really like to publish a book too.

Student Success Story

Ross, one of our Y11 Construction students has been on a 2-day-a-week placement with Lovells construction, at their site on Denman Road. Our Work Related Manager has recently learnt that Lovells are so impressed with Ross, they are going to run an article about him in their Spring Newsletter highlighting the positivity that has come from him being involved with them. We are hoping to secure Ross an apprenticeship with Lovells which would be an excellent outcome for both Ross and the school. This proves once again that vocational placements really do make a difference to some of our hard to reach students.

If you'd like to get involved with this project, please contact Siobhan Owen, Community Team Leader on 01709 879029 or by email at wacssowen@rgfl.org

Christmas Hampers

Our Y11 School Council students organised our Christmas hamper campaign again this year. Every tutor group in school entered our competition to create the best hamper. The 75 hampers were delivered, with the help of PC White, our school liaison police officer, to elderly people and those in need in our area. Designs ranged from the Three Kings and sleighs to gingerbread houses and the more traditional wicker baskets.

School Pantomime

This year's pantomime, Cinderella, was a sell-out again with three nights of super performances as well as matinee showings for the local Primary schools. It was a great way to end the winter term, with many students involved: so many that we had enough for two casts!

Teachers, students and members of the community were all there to show their support and had a thoroughly entertaining evening.



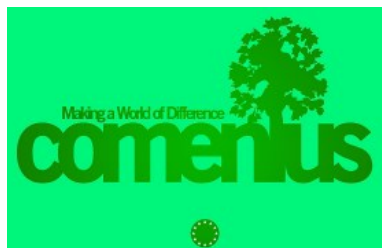


Eco Schools Status

We are working in partnership with Dearne Valley Eco-Vision to apply for Bronze Eco-Schools status. We already have an Eco-Team, we offer paper and battery recycling, we have an allotment area, our Comenius team has been working on an international eco project with schools in Germany and Spain and we're developing an eco-improvement plan. We hope to have gained our award before the Easter holidays!



We now have paper recycling boxes in every classroom and staff room!



Y13 Presentation Evening

Our first week back after Christmas saw former sixth form students returning for the Year 13 (Upper Sixth) Presentation Evening. The evening celebrated the achievements of students who have now left school and moved on to bright and successful futures. Special guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Rotherham, the Rt Hon John Healey MP, and our Chair of Governors Mrs Irene Hartley (pictured here with our Head Boy and Head Girl and Headteacher, Mrs Ward).



UK Youth Parliament Elections

Our students are currently voting in the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) Elections. There are eight candidates for the Rotherham area.

The UKYP enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, it provides opportunities for 11-18 year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. The UK Youth Parliament has over 600 representatives all aged 11-18. In the past two years one million young people have voted in UK Youth Parliament elections. Each year thousands of young people help decide the UK Youth Parliament's campaign priorities which currently include reducing the cost of bus travel for young people, improving political education and abolishing university tuition fees.

Language Classes

Our language classes for adults started again in September. We're running 30-week tutor-taught classes in Beginners' and Intermediate French and Spanish. We also started another 10-week computer-based course last week. We now offer 32 languages from Arabic to Icelandic, Spanish to Welsh on our computer-based courses. Please call Language College for more information about enrolling on 01709 879029 or email wacssowen@rgfl.org

Educational Visits Abroad

Our foreign study visits are in full swing again this year! Foreign visits and work experience abroad are an important part of language learning as well as an opportunity to learn about new cultures and meet new people. This year, students have already enjoyed a visit to Paris, skiing in France and a trip to the battlefields of France & Belgium. Other visits on the way include Sixth Form work experience in Germany, France & Spain, a visit to Murcia, Spain and the water sports trip to Spain!

Foreign Language Assistants



We've welcomed six new Foreign Language Assistants (FLAs) to Wath this year. Aurore and Pauline (both French), Anna (German), Dominik (Austrian), Sonia (Spanish) and Mary Tere (Mexican) are doing a wonderful job of giving us an insight into their own countries and cultures as well as helping our students to perfect their language skills and do well in exams. As the only specialist Language College in Rotherham, we arrange for FLAs to come to many Rotherham Secondary schools from October to May every year, a process which begins again in February!

Coming up...Movement Evening!

Our annual evening of gymnastics and dance will be taking place this year on the 7th, 8th and 9th of February. Our local Primary schools will be performing alongside Wath Comprehensive students from all year groups in what promises to be a spectacular display with an Olympic theme! For more information, please contact the PE department on 01709 760222.

Squash the litterbugs!



As of late, the school grounds have attracted a lot of birds. While it is normal to have sparrows and starlings

and common household birds flying around, the majority of these birds are seagulls!

The primary reason is the litterbugs that continue to invade the grounds with their disgusting habits of dropping their leftovers in our ground, despite the warnings.

Now this plea from one of the members of the school journalism club is encouraging you to bin your litter properly in the bins. Don't spit your chewing gum out on the floor and don't bite off more than you can chew. If we put our mind to it, we can squash the litterbugs and rid the school of this menacing scourge that has not yet been destroyed.

We have bins for a reason, so use them!

**By Jack Waller,
Student Journalist**

Notices

Book Café, which runs on Thursday lunchtimes in F25 for Year Seven and Eight, is starting to prepare for the Rotherham Book Awards. If you fancy getting your nose stuck in a good book, then come along to join in our planning and preparations.



Dates For your Diary

Movement Evening: 7th-9th February

Y11 Parents' Evening: 21st February

Y10 Parents' Evening: 28th February

Y9 Next Two Years' Evening: 13th March, 7pm



Castle Wordsearch

Following on from the Year Seven castle competition, can you find all of these castle terms in the wordsearch below?

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

BAILEY	ENGLAND	MOTTE
BARBICAN	FORT	NORMANS
CASTLE	FRANCE	SAXONS
DUNGEON	HASTINGS	

Fascinating Facts

Chinese New Year is celebrated this month. This year is the Year of the Dragon: people born under this zodiac sign are said to be strong, intellectual and decisive.

Comedy Corner!

What do you get when you cross a dinosaur with fireworks?

DINOMITE!