



# IN TOUCH



## Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

As we near the end of a long and busy Autumn term, students and staff are very much looking forward to a well deserved Christmas holiday.

Year 11 students will be particularly relieved as they have just completed their preliminary GCSE examinations but will not know the results until after the Christmas holiday.

On the whole Year 11 are to be congratulated on their positive attitude and sensible behaviour during the examinations. For a very small minority there are, however, lessons to be learned before the Summer examinations. It is vital that students arrive on time, have pre-checked their allocated seat and bring the necessary equipment for each examination. This will ensure a prompt and smooth start for all and therefore maximise success.

Although we seem to be busy all the time, the end of the Autumn term always brings an extra flurry of activity. Last week we enjoyed a tremendous Christmas Concert when many of our talented singers and musicians entertained a packed and very appreciative audience. A special thanks to Mrs Hole and Miss Hakopian for organising the event and to Mr Naylor and Mr Staton for their annual 'double act' as masters of ceremony. The jokes, I am sure, are getting cornier!...

This week saw our annual Presentation Evening where we presented certificates and prizes to the students who sat GCSE, AS and A2 examinations last Summer. Our guest speaker this year was Mr Stephen Smith a local solicitor and author who certainly lived up to his reputation as a very amusing and entertaining speaker. It was a lovely occasion and staff and students took advantage of the opportunity to catch up with each other at the buffet afterwards. Thank you to Miss Ackerley for organising such a delightful evening.

On Tuesday, hundreds of students enjoyed a beautifully prepared Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Having dined so well I'm sure many students and staff would have liked to indulge in the traditional post-Christmas lunch nap but it was lessons as usual!

December 2007

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We started a new tradition last year asking every tutor group to create a Christmas Hamper to be distributed to local senior citizens and the response was fantastic. This year it was even better. With the incentive of a prize for the best presented hamper in each year group and a special prize for the best in the school, staff and students as ever, rose to the challenge: the results are fantastic. Some of the hampers would not be out of place in the top department stores. All that now remains is the judging and the distribution of the hampers before the end of term. There will be a report on this in the next edition of 'In Touch'.

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

**P Ward**  
Headteacher

## Fashion Show!

As part of the Comenius Project on teenage culture we are organising a Fashion Show, which will focus on teenage Fashions today. A selection of Wath staff will be supporting us including Mr Mirrlees. They will be wearing the teenage Fashion from their day. Please come and support us. It will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets will be sold in the library at break and G25 at dinner for £1.

By Jessica Wood, Megan Rees, Hannah Cater and Maria Fairbank-Azcarate

## SUCCESS OF FORMER STUDENT- Christopher Watkin

When Christopher Watkin left the Sixth Form he went to Jesus College, Cambridge where he went on to get a 1st Class Honours Degree, followed by a MPhil in Modern and Medieval Languages.

This year we are pleased to announce that he completed his PhD in 20th Century French Philosophy and is now a Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene College Cambridge. This is a tremendous achievement and we wish him all the very best in the coming years.

## UNIVERSITY ENTRY 2008

During this term, our Y13 students have been busy completing their university applications forms, writing personal statements and making final decisions about which university and which course. Those students who have applied to Oxford or Cambridge and those applying for Medicine have an early completion and submission date and I am delighted to report that four students have had Oxbridge interviews: Charlotte Green for Medicine at Cambridge New Hall, Bethany Harker for Natural Sciences at Cambridge Newnham, Simon Tingle for Double Maitrise (Law) at Cambridge Christ's College and Sophia Tovey at Cambridge Pembroke for English. They have been put through their paces and will find out in January whether they have been successful or not. In addition, Tom Batty, Joseph Bowns and Hannah Higgins have all made Medicine applications, and interviews and offers are rolling in. Of the remaining 110 students who have applied for a University place, interviews and offers are arriving on a daily basis and some students have some fantastic offers. We wish all of our students continuing success, especially in their exams this January and, of course, next summer, so that they can on to make the most of the next phase of their lives.

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## Millie Hooper, Year 7 student, Representing Great Britain

We would like to congratulate Millie Hooper who represented Great Britain in the Inline Hockey Under 10's Championships which took place in Detroit, USA during July 2007. Many different countries were represented, including USA and Canada, and she was selected as the only girl in the team. This in itself was a tremendous achievement but then she was given the honour of being chosen as the Assistant Captain.

On this occasion she collected a silver medal but she is hoping to go one better next year and, with her team, is going for Gold. In 2008 the Championships are going to be held in Philadelphia, USA and she is busy training for this event.

We look forward to following her progress throughout 2008. Well done Millie and good luck in the coming year.

## SPORTS FIXTURES JANUARY 2008

### Girls

Date	Who's Playing	Where
9th	U14 & U16 indoor hockey	St Bernards
16th	Y9 netball tournament	Wickersley
16th	U14 & U16 indoor hockey	Wath
17th	Y7 seven a-side football tournament	Wickersley
23rd	Y8 netball tournament	Wickersley
23rd	U14 & U16 indoor hockey	Rawmarsh
24th	U14 & U 16 six a-side football	Wingfield
30th	Netball	Clifton
30th	U14 indoor hockey tournament	Clifton
31st	U14 seven a-side football tournament	Dinnington

### Boys

Date	Who's Playing	Where
6th	Y7 & 8 rugby	Kings
12th	Y9, 10 & 11 rugby	Kings
19th	Y7, 8, 9, 10,11 & 1st XI rugby	Hall Cross
26th	Y7, 8, 9 & 10 rugby	Mirfield



# LANGUAGE COLLEGE

## ADULT EDUCATION LANGUAGE CLASSES

Do you know that the Language College opens its doors to the community every Thursday evening during term time?

As a Specialist Language College we offer adult education courses in beginners and intermediate French and Spanish. These courses have been running for a good number of years and prove extremely popular.

The courses are now well underway for this year. They run from mid September right through the school year usually ending in June or early July.

## FIRST STEP LANGUAGE LEARNING

The Language College also offers "First Step" Language Learning courses each Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. There are 25 different languages to choose from including Korean, Swedish, Japanese, Swahili, and Turkish.

These are network language learning courses [supported by the Learning Skills Council] which allow learners to work at their own pace with a tutor for guidance.

Past students have said:

"The course has been more enjoyable than I first thought it would be and I will be looking forward to the next one".

"The course has given me much more confidence".

"The tutor was very helpful at answering any queries I had".

"I didn't just enjoy the language learning - I also brushed up on my computer skills".

"I liked being able to work at my own pace without the pressure of having to keep up with the rest of the class".

The next "FIRST STEP" courses begin on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME

All enquiries to Wath Language College

Tel: 01709 879029

Why not give one of these courses a go  
and meet new people taking their first  
step to learn another language

# WATH IN THE NEWS by Ashley Mallett



Last week, Wath Comprehensive School took its first steps into the world of journalism and the local community. With so many positive things happening in school and the wonderful community spirit of the school, we felt it just wasn't fair to keep it all to ourselves, and so we felt we had to share it with the rest of Rotherham!

On Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, four sixth form students (myself included) took a morning out of our busy Friday schedules to visit the Dinnington Print Office, and we took with us previously written stories about our school to be featured on a full-page spread of a local newspaper. The stories chosen were:

- Wath's Legal Eagles- A tribute to the victorious Bar Mock Trial Team, who have qualified for the National BAR Mock Trial Finals in Liverpool.
- School Governors Receive Awards
- The Somme visit

We had a fantastic time and we had the chance to work with the sub-editor of the Worksop Guardian. On the visit we had the opportunity to edit our own articles and we used professional newspaper building software to format them. We also worked heavily in conjunction with Emma, the editor of the 'Hot Press' magazine, who has also agreed to feature Wath and our Student Journalist Project in the next issue.

If anyone is interested in joining our editorial group everyone is welcome. We hold meetings every Monday lunch time in F23, with Miss Hardeman.

Students who contributed to the day were: Ashley Mallett, Sally Bembridge, Ashleigh Cairns and Lucy Bell.

## Further Success for Zoe Morton—Year 7 Student

On Sunday 2nd December 2007 Zoe took part in the International Black Belt for Schools Championships which were held at Hardwick Leisure Centre. Here is Zoe holding her trophy for coming second in her event. Well done Zoe we look forward to hearing about your progress in 2008.



Teams involved in Saturday morning matches photographs courtesy of Mr P Darby



# GOVERNORS AT WATH - LONG SERVICE AWARDS

## Governors at Wath Comprehensive School

The Governors are an integral part of our school, committing their own time to tackling school issues in order to enhance school life for both staff and students. They take an active role in all decision-making, school's finance, appointing new teachers and upkeep of the building, all for free. The Governors also support presentation nights, speech nights and all school productions.

Many members of the school's Governing Body have served for well over twenty years including Chair of Governors, Irene Hartley, who shared with us her best moment, which seemed to be a running theme from all of the Governors, the building of the new school. Head teacher, Mrs Ward, felt the longest serving members deserved to be honoured for their long-standing contributions to the school. She held a presentation evening, celebrating and rewarding the Governors' achievements. These included Irene Hartley, Christine Bennington and Vice Chairperson Mike Blackburn who have all served over twenty years.



Sid Bailey, Christine Bennington,  
Graham Marsden, Shelagh Wing,  
Mike Blackburn and Irene Hartley  
with their awards

Throughout the years, the role of the governors has altered, as Sid Bailey, who particularly enjoys working with the different departments in school said, 'The job is now more hands on and certainly less political, which

means we have an increased say in important issues'.

Also significant are the contributions of Reverend Tim Leach who has served on the Governing Body for ten years. He originally took up the position when his daughter started at Wath, as he wanted a more dominant role in her education. Mrs Ward also awarded him for his work with the school. Unfortunately this will be his last year as a Governor as he is retiring from both this post and his position as vicar, but we wish him well in whatever he goes on to do.

The changes the school has seen over the last twenty years are evidence of the aforementioned dedication of these long standing Governors. Both staff and students greatly appreciate the work they carry out in school and it is time their assistance is recognised, as many do not realise the extent of their help.



By Ashleigh Cairns and Lucy Bell

# LE RENDEZVOUS

The National Healthy Schools Programme is an exciting long-term initiative which is making a significant difference to the health and achievement of children and young people. The National Healthy Schools Programme supports the links between health, behaviour and achievement; it is about creating healthy and happy children and young people, who do better in learning and in life.

At Wath we recognise the importance of offering choices of food for our students and we are well served by the staff in Le Rendezvous, headed by Karen Wood.

The first serving starts at 7.40 a.m. to 8.25 a.m. with the breakfast club where the following items are available:

Bacon Sandwich	Cereal and Milk
Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit
Fruit juices	Tea and Coffee
Water	Soup

The staff then start preparing for the rush at break, 10.25 to 10.40 where the options available are:

Crumpets	Cheese Roll
Toasted Teacakes	Iced Fingers
Pizza	Water
Fruit juices	

As soon as break is over the staff are then busy getting ready for the lunchtime rush, which operates from 12.20 to 1.00 p.m. At this time there is a variety of options which students can choose from.

## From the Chefs selection bar:

Beans on Toast  
Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings  
Soup and Roll  
Continental choice  
Home baking

## From Filling Station:

### Hot Sandwiches:

-Roast pork and stuffing  
-Roast Beef  
-Bacon and Cheese Bagel.  
-Chicken Fillet

## Pasta Bar/Deli Bar:

Choice of three pasta dishes in sauce

Sandwiches

Salad boxes

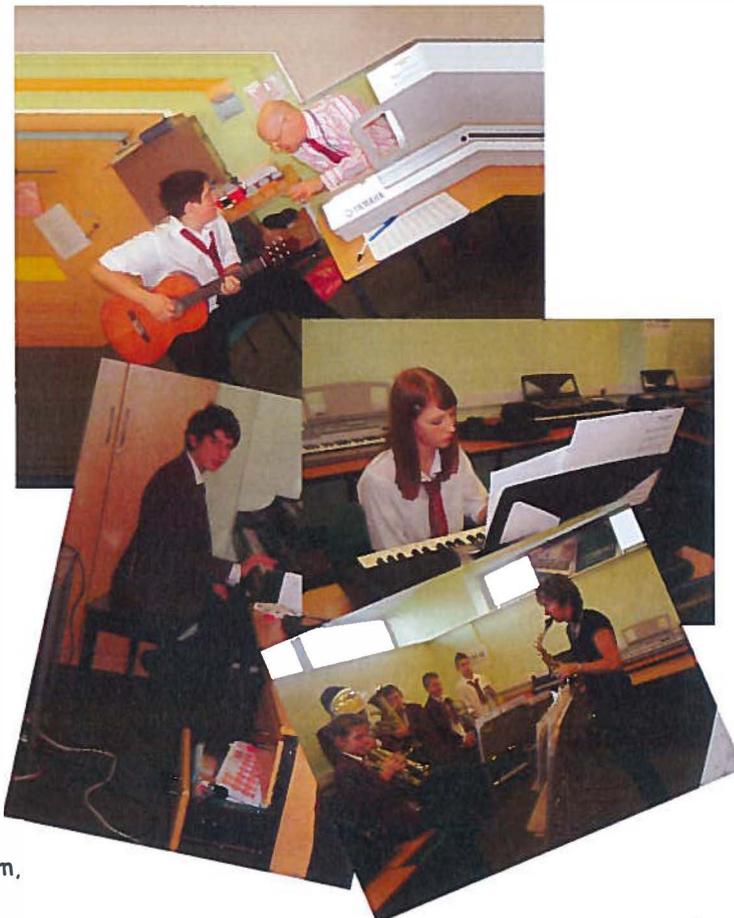
Fruit

Some of our students prefer to bring their own lunches for which we make available several lunch rooms, which are supervised by lunchtime supervisors .



# MUSIC IMPROVISATION

Throughout the year, many of our students have a chance to participate in workshops designed for beginners to improve on their improvisation skills in music. This has been possible through the Gifted and Talented Scheme for Widening Participation.



This scheme has enabled the Music Department to bring in two specialists, Peter Birkby and Julia Ingham, to work with small groups of students to enable them to develop their different musical skills.

George Bailey rehearsing on his tuba



These photographs show the students taking full advantage of the music workshop which took place on Friday 30th November 2007.

# Christmas Card Competition

The Art Department would like to announce the winners of the 2007 House Christmas Competition.

## Year 7 Winners

Position	Name	House	Points gained
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Shay Murray	Rome	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Maddison Brown	Athens	8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Mia Wallis	Athens	6
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Libby Hancock	Carthage	4

## Year 7 Finalists

Name	House	Points gained
Liam Hawsworth	Sparta	2
Alexander Williams	Troy	2
Emily Moule	Thebes	2
Elliot Taylor	Thebes	2
Nathan Randerson	Troy	2
Sophie Duggan	Troy	2
Shaun Stone-Riley	Sparta	2
Daniel Bell	Athens	2
Joseph Buttigieg	Athens	2
Zak Kingsland	Thebes	2
Bethany Dyson	Athens	2
Charlotte Hobson	Thebes	2

## Year 8 Winners

Position	Name	House	Points gained
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Georgia Sanders	Athens	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Lucy Bailey	Sparta	8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Nicholas Grainger	Sparta	6
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Jessica Vickers	Athens	4

## Year 8 Finalists

Name	House	Points gained
Grace Wakefield	Rome	2
Oliver Ng	Rome	2
Stevielee Hoyle	Rome	2
Casey Moule	Thebes	2
Alya Hadden	Rome	2
Callum Scatchard	Rome	2
Sidonie Page	Sparta	2
Alice Leach	Carthage	2
Joe Sykes	Troy	2
Ellie Westmoreland	Rome	2
Ashleigh Exley	Thebes	2
Amy White	Thebes	2

## Year 9 Winners

Position	Name	House	Points gained
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Alice Woodcock	Troy	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Jessica Higgins	Thebes	8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Katrina Pugh	Athens	6
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Holly Caine	Troy	4

## Year 9 Finalists

Name	House	Points gained
Jessica Hardy	Sparta	2
Laura Parish	Carthage	2
Matthew Ellis	Rome	2
Jade Newell	Rome	2
Maria Fairbank-Azcarate	Troy	2
Louisa Stimpson	Sparta	2
Emma Levin	Sparta	2
Edward Caulfield	Athens	2
Sascha Kazemi	Sparta	2
Beth Thompson	Troy	2
Grace Wallis	Carthage	2

All other entries earned a point each for their house with totals as follows:

Athens	112
Troy	110
Thebes	100
Carthage	109
Rome	101
Sparta	88

Which means that the overall house positions are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Athens</b>	<b>154</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Troy	136
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rome	127
4 <sup>th</sup>	Thebes	122
5 <sup>th</sup>	Carthage	119
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sparta	116

Well done to everyone who took part, the cards are now on display in the Hall and it looks very festive. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

**Art Department**

## LOOKING BEYOND OUR SHORES

The Language College has once again been recognised for its international collaboration work at the YHLGA gala dinner in Leeds last week. The Riesa English Language Pilot project was organised and supported by the Rotherham Chief Executive's Office but devised and delivered by Mr Bemrose at school.

Riesa is Rotherham's Partner Town in what used to be East Germany, near the major city of Dresden. A business delegation came to Rotherham last year and asked about an English Language learning experience at the Language College in February. They came back at half-term, and Rotherham provided the experience, while Mr Bemrose provided the Language. As part of the deal, our Y12 students were able to complete a work placement in Riesa last summer - see In Touch issue September 2007.



**Mr Bemrose receiving the Award  
on behalf of the School**

This collaboration between the two towns and the Language College was just what was required for the award entry. The judges were convinced that in "Looking Beyond Our Shores" the Language College was trying to develop successful partnerships for the benefit of everyone. Rotherham was awarded the third place certificate by Claire Frisby of BBC's Look North Breakfast programme. Mr Bemrose was pleased with the result. "It's the first year we've linked up with Riesa, so I think we've done very well," he said. "There will be a second course next February, and we hope to build on the contacts in the future."

# Year 9 and 10 History Trip To The Imperial War Museum In Manchester

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On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December Year 9 and 10 students visited the Imperial War Museum in Salford, accompanied by Mr Kolaric, Mrs Champlin, Mrs Eyre, Mr Staton, Miss Cooney and Miss Whitehead who all did a fantastic job of keeping us in line. We encountered many different types of displays which had various smells (nasty ones that smelt like sweaty feet and mustard powder) and hands on activities and others for the senses. There were many interesting and factual exhibits.

The order was from the start of World War One through World War Two and the Cold War, right through to the present day. They were presented in a timeline of events. As we arrived, a 3D slide show began, showing us war from the perspective of children. The other 3D shows were on the role of women and military weapons and machinery.

The exhibits were very informative and were presented clearly. There were vast amounts of memorabilia from the wars. An interesting piece was a Mickey Mouse edition gas mask for children. There were also uniforms that nurses and pilots used to wear.

A World War Two truck hung from the ceiling as well as a Triumph motorbike and a variety of cars. A fire engine used in the war was also on display. There were also weapons such as hand guns, rifles, hand grenades, bayonets and unexploded bombs, as well as a metal air raid shelter. There was also a large amount of propaganda, either persuading men or women to help the war effort or to join the Army, Navy or RAF.

Another interesting exhibition was the rationing display. This is because there were various rationing books and records. The other exhibitions included the role of women, air raid shelters, the blitz, blackouts and evacuation. There was also an extensive display on animals in war.

All in all, it was a great factual and learning experience and is definitely a trip to recommend!

**Maria Fairbank-Azcarate 9TR**

## Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT
Monday 7th January 2008	Return to school
Tuesday 8th January 2008	New Sixth Evening at 7 p.m.
Wednesday 9th January 2008	Friends of Wath meeting—7.30 p.m. in The Young Persons Centre
Monday 14th January 2008	Review Day 2
Week beginning 28th January 2008	Assessment Week 3
Thursday 31st January 2007	Y9 Preliminary Science Standard Assessment Test
Friday 1st February 2007	Y9 Preliminary English Standard Assessment Test
Monday 4th February 2008	A level Biology coursework day
Week beginning 4th February 2008	Y10 Enterprise Week
5th/6th/7th February 2008	Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings
Friday 8th February 2008	Last day of half term
Monday 18th February 2008	Return to school
Tuesday 19th February 2008	Y7 Student/parent/carer consultation evening—3 p.m.
Wednesday 20th February 2008	Friends of Wath meeting—7.30 p.m. in The Young Persons Centre



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