

CONNEXIONS

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Reaching for the stars



Welcome to your new edition of Connexions, the magazine that keeps you in touch with the news and achievements of students at Wath Comprehensive School. You can read about fund-raising, study trips at home and abroad, sporting achievements and more, all inside your magazine - Connexions



The new face of Wath



BUDDING LAWYERS PROVE THEIR CASE

14 Y9 students, coached by Ms Fenton and Mrs Shurdhi, pitted their wits and their legal arguments in a mock trial competition held recently at Barnsley Magistrates Court.

The 14, Josh Woodbridge, Alex Brook, Katie Wmnnell, Laura Marshall, Nicola Houghton, Simon Tingle, Leanne White, Rachael Hamer-Norman, Emily Booth, Lucy-Ann Gaunt, Hannah Higgins, Laura Davis and Tom Hill, were required to present the cases for the defence and the prosecution of a woman accused of fly tipping. The students constructed their cases with the help of their teachers and presented them on the day when they were marked by judges according to, amongst other things, their delivery and the strength of their arguments. The group ended up in a strong second place on the day. Their performance was good enough to earn them a place in the regional final as the best runners-up.

The regional final takes place in Sheffield, at the Magistrates Court, in June. The group, then, has to present a new case; this time the prosecution case only, in a trial based on a racially aggravated assault which took place between an Englishman and a Scotsman at a football match.

At the time of writing, the group is busy rehearsing their case and we wish them well for their day in court. And congratulations on your excellent achievement so far!

SENIOR STUDENTS 2004-2005

We offer our congratulations to the following senior students for their promotion to the following important positions:

Head Boy	Matthew Wilson	Head Girl	Claire Hall
Deputies	Liam Dooley Gareth Jones Chris Race Joe Woffinden	Deputies	Laura Corns Rachel Hill Kate Hodson Helen White

We also offer our thanks to the senior students for the academic year 2003-2004 and thank them very much for their hard work and unstinting service to the school.

REFUGEE WEEK AND HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

During the week beginning 26 January, Wath commemorated 'Refugee Week' by holding a series of events which included a collection for the 'Rwanda Fund,' a balloon race during which balloons containing messages about the Holocaust Memorial Day were released and visits to 'Beth Shalom'.

On the 27 January, the school observed Holocaust Memorial Day. In the tutor group session in the morning, candles were lit as an act of remembrance, a short passage written by Mrs Whiting was read out and a minute's silence held in memory of the Holocaust victims of World War 2. The candles were then placed in the LSC at a specially created memorial table.

THE STARS ARE THE LIMIT



The largest rocket ever launched from the UK mainland went on show at the school in October, as part of the nationwide European Science and Technology Week. 'Starchaser 4' stands

43 feet high and stood magnificently on the bottom school field, creating an eye-catching display. It's not every day that you walk or drive along Festival Road and see a huge white gleaming

rocket towering over you! Classes took it in turns to visit the rocket and listened to a talk about its history and development. For most of us, this was the first time that we had seen a real live rocket

and it was very impressive. 43 feet is very high when you are standing next to it!

Ultimately, the group behind the rocket is hoping to win the prize offered by the X-

Prize Foundation which goes to a team who, privately, launches a spaceship which is able to carry three people 62.5 miles high.

WATH'S OWN EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

(and we still didn't win!)

Cliff Richard, Lulu, the Brotherhood of Man, Katrina and the Waves (who?) were no competition for the acts on stage in October at Wath's very own and highly individual Eurovision Song Contest. Staff in costume and fancy dress sang for charity and to win the expensive and highly coveted trophy (Ok, a certificate). The jury was made up of students and Miss Williamson was on hand to act as adjudicator and to ensure fair play. The United Kingdom was represented by the geriatric Sclub 70, (staff from T Block who are, of course, veritable senior citizens!) and who performed complete with walking sticks and zimmer frames gyrating to the SClub7 hit 'SClub Beat.' Students had a hilarious time watching science staff perform 'YMCA', PE staff perform as Abba, Mrs Minshull represent Italy, Mrs Jefferies and Miss Hudson represent Denmark and Mrs Harrison, who sang live, represent France. Representing Russia were Y11 students Jody Angel and Nick Moss who mimed to Tatu and stole the show. As you will have read earlier, the event raised a total of 250, which was divided between the British Heart Foundation and the Bluebell Wood Appeal.

Many thanks to Miss Williamson for organizing the event, to the brave participants and the audience who raised so much money.

A GIRL FOR GREGORY

Every teenager knows the pain of love and Gregory, played by 'Dinos Styris in the school production of "Gregory's Girl," certainly knows how painful that is. 'Dinos played the part of the day-dreaming, love-torn footballer to perfection. In fact, the evening was highly entertaining with all the parts played by a well-rehearsed cast, ably supported by a technical team. Thanks to all of the cast, the team behind the actors and to Miss Hudson, the director, who successfully directed her first school play.

RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARITY

This year, students have raised a fantastic sum of money, all of which will be given or already has been given to various charities. The money was raised through a variety of means.

- Rwanda Appeal - £402
- Save the Children - £731.1 6p raised through a sponsored swim and selling items from the Christmas catalogue
- Cancer Research - £73 raised as a result of giving to charity in lieu of Christmas cards
- Eurovision Song Contest - £250 £125 to the Bluebell Wood appeal £125 to the British Heart Foundation
- Macmillan Coffee Morning - £244.1 ip raised by staff during one morning break
- Spellathon - £860 raised for the British Heart Foundation
- British Heart Foundation - £1000
- Y7 Blue Peter Appeal - £98 raised for clean water in Africa
- Comic Relief - £156.98 raised by collecting odd change
- Bluebell Wood - £196



The school House system continues to operate in its own classical style using the names chosen by our predecessors some 80 years ago. It was certainly by coincidence rather than foresight that our 1920's staff chose the present day Hollywood blockbusters of Rome (Gladiator) Troy and Sparta (Troy) Carthage (Channel 4 documentaries and film to follow) with Athens and Thebes (to be scripted?). Thus our House system attracts an ageless interest that will not fade or weary.

Indeed the energies of the youthful House staff have spurred a pupil interest in the system (currently run for Y7-Y10) with more pupils taking part in activities than in the recent years. House badges have been re introduced in each of the House colours showing the original motifs as designed by the 1930's art teacher, the late William "Bill" Leadley. In September 2003, all pupils were offered a lapel badge, which became collectable for many. Each Y7 pupil will be offered such on entry to school, with limited spare badges available at the school shop.

The PE Dept continues to be the backbone of our system regarding sports activities. Each year group have one half day per year to take part in an activity with major events such as swimming gala and sports day bringing the whole House together for combined team effort. The summer of 2003 saw Troy win sports day for the first time in many years. Other results through the year were: -

Y7 events held on 0 1/10/03.

Boys' football

- 1 Athens
- 2 Troy and Rome
- 4 Carthage
- 5 Thebes
- 6 Sparta.

Girls' netball

- 1 Rome
- 2 Athens and Carthage
- 4 Troy
- 5 Thebes
- 6 Sparta.

Y8 events held on 24/03/04.

Boys' football

- 1 Rome
- 2 Athens
- 3 Sparta
- 4 Troy
- 5 Carthage
- 6 Thebes.

Girls' Hockey

- 1 Athens
- 2 Troy
- 3 Rome
- 4 Carthage and Thebes
- 6 Sparta.

Y9 events held on 25/11/03.

Boys' football

- 1 Rome
- 2 Thebes
- 3 Athens
- 4 Sparta

- 5 Troy
- 6 Carthage.

Girls' basketball

- 1 Sparta
- 2 Athens
- 3 Rome
- 4 Troy
- 5 Thebes
- 6 Carthage.

Y10 events held on 20/05/04.

Boys' softball

- 1 Troy
- 2 Sparta
- 3 Carthage;
- 4 Athens
- 5 Rome and Thebes.

Girls' rounders

- 1 Troy
- 2 Sparta
- 3 Thebes
- 4 Rome and Athens
- 6 Carthage.

On 29/01/04

pupils flowed down to Wath Baths in Moor Road to take the plunge in the annual swimming gala. As usual, this event went with a splash and generated a fountain of interest. Sparta, last year's joint winners with Carthage, diluted their rivals into 2nd place. The rest of the shower included Thebes 3rd, Athens

and Rome in 4th with Troy 6th.

The spirit of the House system has truly been stronger this year with pupils supporting their House and comrades in taking part and giving their best whatever their abilities in the event. Though chanting for the House and each other is traditional at the swimming gala, this was also noticeable in the sports halls and games field where a genuine, caring spirit of well being and gamesmanship was found.

The overall Games cup, for the most successful sporting House throughout the year of 2003/4 was therefore won by ATHENS with Rome a close 2nd and Troy in 3rd. These were followed by Sparta, Thebes and Carthage.

Off the sports field other activities included the Euro Quiz, which was held on October 16th 2003 and was developed by House staff to celebrate European week. Each House team was made up from members of years Y7 to Y10. Special mention to Simon Tingle (Carthage) and



AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS

The Music department presented their annual Christmas Concert on the 11 December 2003. This year, the concert contained an international flavour as the school was also hosting a Comenius conference.

The school hall was packed out with parents, carers, staff and friends of Wath, and also included teachers and students from our partner schools in France, Italy and Hungary. A warm welcome was extended to all the guests and this was even delivered in four different languages! Many thanks to the school choir, the school band, the stage band and all instrumentalists for their magnificent contributions which made a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks also to Mrs Hole, Mr Higgins and Mr Bilby, without whom the evening would not have gone with such a swing!



House Results 2003-4

Adam Hunton (Thebes) who scored maximum marks in the Y9 round. The overall winners were Thebes with Rome in 2nd and Carthage 3rd. These were followed by Athens Troy and Sparta.

December 1st 2003 saw a battle of wits and brainpower in HG8 where the House Chess competition was organised by Y13 members of Mrs Elston's Chess club (Craig Scott, Claire Allott and Rebecca Hale). Chosen members represented their House under timed conditions resulting in Joe Allison emerging as the junior Y7/8 Champion and Paul Scott (Y9) as School champion. As both boys were in Athens it was no surprise to see their House take 1st place with Carthage 2nd; Rome and Sparta 3rd; Thebes 5th and Troy 6th.

The month of November was constructive and artistic for all our pupils who began to enter the spirit of Christmas in the Xmas card competition. The Art Department organised this festive event with homework set to complete the work and

some class time given over to help and advise the children. Hundreds of cards were produced, each gaining a point for the House, with many showing exceptional quality and talent. This gave the judges a very difficult time in deciding the winners who were: -

Y7

- 1 Kimberley Brotherton (Th)
- 2 Charlotte Cutts (A)
- 3 Lauren Fairman (Sp)

Y8

- 1 Laura Hoyle (A)
- 2 Nick Woodcock (A)
- 3 Rebecca Bembridge (A)

Y9

- 1 Robin McFeeley (Sp)
- 2 Matthew Sykes (Ca)
- 3 Lauren Fretwell (Ro)

Y10

- 1 Nicola Smith (Ro)
- 2 Scott Lesi (A)
- 3 Natasha Ryan (Sp)

Overall results were

- 1 Athens
- 2 Sparta
- 3 Thebes
- 4 Carthage
- 5 Troy and Rome

Almost all the cards were displayed in the vestibule in the period before and after

the Christmas vacation. Well done to all who participated.

Throughout the year, Mrs Leatherbarrow has organised a weekly global quiz where pupils have given written answers in order to win a prize and gain a point for the house. This has been voluntary with many pupils taking part.

Final results were: -

- 1 Athens
- 2 Thebes
- 3 Carthage
- 4 Rome
- 5 Sparta
- 6 Troy.

With such non sporting events taken into account, the Deeks Trophy (named after Miss Deeks who was a leading and well respected House mistress in the first few decades of our system) is won in 2003-4 by Athens followed by Thebes, Carthage, Rome, Sparta and Troy.

Thus our House system continues to thrive and bring out some of the best spirit of pupils once engaged within their House activity. In the

year of the 60th anniversary of D Day such character is compared to pupils of that time. The gardening cup was not the favourite past time then (as we would not expect it to be today) and was soon

dropped as an activity after WW2. Indeed only Carthage claimed to have dug up the most potatoes claiming that the girls from Beckenham had helped the other Houses. Mr. Longley

BECKENHAM

I hope that Wathonians, past and present, will forgive this "gate-crashing." We are evacuees from the Beckenham district, eight miles from London. Your school adopted us at the beginning of the Autumn Term so that we could keep up our studies, which the flying bombs had done their best to interrupt. The Higher and School Certificate exams, were finished—in the surface shelters—just before we left. We have settled into the rhythm of school life here, though half of our original party of 90 has returned home. In September, we took part in your School Sports, as a girls' House, competing with the girls in your Houses. We had no sports at our girls' county school, so our position of fifth out of six was not as bad as it sounds.

We have found your home district very different from ours. Our residential area, twenty minutes from London by electric train, is the home of many clerical workers, men with brief cases, neatly furled umbrellas and folded newspapers, women typists and secretaries

who, every morning, crowd the platform of our small and battered station which has not grown or become modernised to keep pace with the swift development of building estates. It is amazing that the ironfoot bridge still remains over the line, for the platform is pitted and half the main building has disappeared. I remember when the sappers were clearing up the rubble—aftermath of a blitz raid. The peace of this northern district has obliterated that tense feeling we used to get when we heard a 'plane overhead waiting for the falter and cut out of the engine. The food and care that our hostesses, hardworking miners' wives, have lavished on us and the kindness that welcomed us will not be forgotten. Thank you.

WENDY JONES.

Our budding Henry Moores and Barbara Hepworths in Y 12 and 13 were lucky enough to have a real live sculptor in their Art classes last September, as Philip Cox showed students how to make life size models out of cardboard. The students watched as he explained and showed them how it was done and magically, ordinary cardboard packaging was turned into life-sized models of human beings, standing, sitting and reclining. The students then produced their own models putting Philip Cox's skills and techniques into practice and the results were brilliant models. Many thanks to Philip and to Ceepac who kindly donated all the cardboard packaging. The models created can now be seen in the foyer of Ceepac headquarters.



LIFE SIZE SCULPTURES

KEEPING FIT IN A VISIT TO SPAIN



Last summer, twenty three students from Y9 and Y10, accompanied by three staff travelled to the Navarra region of Spain for an action packed ten days as part of a cultural exchange between Wath and the government of the Navarra region. Flying from Stansted, the travellers flew to Bilbao and from there, they journeyed by coach to Zudaire where they met up with their Spanish counterparts, and stayed for about half the time in the Albergue Juvenil, or Youth Hostel to the uninitiated. In Zudaire, the group went hiking in the Urederra Nature Reserve, caving in the Sierra Urbassa and also assisted the Park Rangers with their conservation work. One night was even spent in a shepherd's refuge after having climbed high into the mountains.

If all of this isn't exhausting enough, for the second part of the visit, the group travelled to Estella, again staying in a Youth Hostel - bigger and better equipped than the first one - and took part in mountain biking to the Monasterio de Irache, canoeing in the River Ege and hill climbing as a way of resting! Whilst in Estella, the local people were celebrating 'Medieval Week' and the by now very fit travellers were able to take part in the local entertainment. Each day, the students wrote in their diaries, recording the previous day's events in Spanish, and in addition, recorded their personal achievements - social and physical - in a separate booklet. Mrs Leatherbarrow, commenting on the visit, said that, "I would say that the hiking and the time spent in the Nature Reserve were especially enjoyable as the scenery was breathtaking and the views of the Griffon vultures slowly circling above us along the mountain edges were memorable. The night spent in the shepherd's refuge made our visit into one which was utterly unforgettable."



HAVE A NICE DAY

This was the phrase that Wath students had to become used to when they flew to America. The transatlantic divide was crossed in February when a group of seventeen students and three teachers travelled to Durango High School in Colorado, in the United States of America. Some of you will have heard of Durango High School before and you will be right - Miss Wood Paterson is a drama teacher there and the older readers amongst you will remember that Miss Wood Paterson taught drama here on an exchange year. The group travelled to continue the link with Durango High School, to work with the American students and to perform the play 'Cider with Rosie' to the general public. The American students tended to concentrate on the technical aspects of presenting a play, while the Wath students concentrated on interpreting the play. The Wath students also spent some time in school and found it quite different to what they were used to. The school day was much longer with only a lunch period to divide the day and they found the content of the lessons quite different. Over the period of the stay, firm friendships were made and overall the visit was an outstanding success. Miss Hudson commented, "It's been a really wonderful cultural experience for everybody involved in the visit." And they had quite a few 'nice days'!

AIMING FOR THE TOP

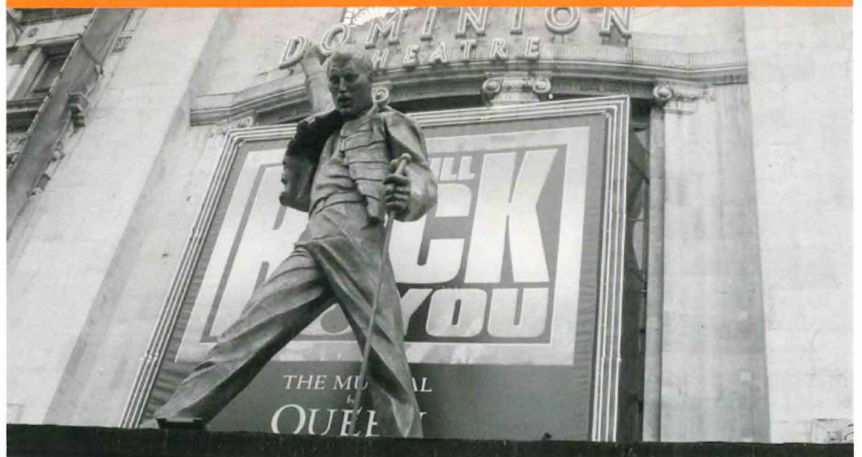
The zenith, the pinnacle, the dizzying heights! These are all the things we hope to achieve in our lives, and our Y9 students are no different. During the past year, a number of Y9 students have visited universities to show them that higher education is something that they can aspire to if they wish to. The universities have put on sample courses, exhibitions and demonstrations to inspire school students to work hard and apply for higher education. Our students enjoyed their visits and hopefully, in a few year's time, will be applying to gain a degree.

'WE WILL ROCK YOU' AND THE CURIOUS INCIDENT IN THE AFTERNOON WITH THE BOMB SQUAD

I will explain the headline later but first I will take you through the day.

At 7.30a.m, a time no self-respecting student ever sees, we began our journey to London to see the musical 'We Will Rock You.' As we arrived in the capital, we were surrounded by traffic, people and yet more traffic. We found our way to the Dominion Theatre for a matinee performance. Above the door, there was a huge gold statue of Freddie Mercury. We were impressed by this, and the excitement of it all began to bubble up. As the first note of the first song was played, we were drawn in to the show. The whole show was a great success, full of bright lights, amazing performances and loud well-known Queen songs.

As we left the theatre, the coach was full of buzzing students who could only talk of the show and how fantastic it all was. Only moments before we left, one of the students, Nick Moss, remembered that he had taken a bag into the theatre with him but hadn't brought it back out. As he went back into the theatre, security guards had surrounded his bag and to cut a long story short, they thought it was a bomb! Nick had to explain what he had done and told them that all there was inside his bag were some leftover sandwiches and a drink. Only Nick could have created this security alert! All in all, this was a most memorable day: a fantastic show and finishing with a curious incident with the bomb squad!
(Sarah Boyes Y11)



THAT NEW SCHOOL SUBJECT

A number of students in Y8 were lucky enough, for just a few weeks, to experience being taught Geography - there's nothing new in that I hear you say - but in French? Mrs Minshull was the teacher brave and lucky enough to deliver this new subject to the Y8 curriculum. The students enjoyed their new subject which was then quickly christened - yes, you've guessed it - 'Frography' by the classes involved!

VOTING WITH THEIR FEET AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT!



As part of Sheffield's annual Europe Week, twenty one students, accompanied by Mrs Whiting, Miss Williamson and Mrs Shaw travelled to the European Parliament as part of a visit organized by Linda McAvan, the area's MEP. The group flew to Brussels, met various MEPs and took the many opportunities presented to them to find out about how the European Parliament is organized and run. Mrs Whiting said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for the students involved to witness first hand a slightly different kind of democratic process to the one that takes place in the UK parliament." The group enjoyed its visit very much and came away enriched by the things they had learned. Matthew Parkes, Y12, who was one of the twenty one students, also has a rich experience of parliaments. He is one of the Rotherham representatives on the UK Youth Parliament.

BRILLANT COMENIUS VISIT TO SICILY



A small group of students, accompanied by staff, travelled to Sicily during May to take part in a Comenius conference. Whilst there, the group stayed with families, took part in excursions to the beach, to sightsee some Graeco-roman remains and of course, to spend days in school. Mrs Leatherbarrow complimented the group saying that they "set a fine example and were typical of the students at Wath."

We asked two of the visiting students to write about their visit and this is what they had to say:

'This was my first time staying with a family and I was very nervous at first but when I met my host family, they made me feel very welcome. I found out that they were quite similar to my own family.

The things I liked about staying with my host family were that they were good fun and they made me feel part of the family. They made sure that I ate well. The food there was delicious and I found that they ate a lot — a six-course meal was normal! I really enjoyed experiencing their day to day lives, although having to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning was difficult for me. I really liked their lifestyle, particularly ending the school day at 1 o'clock.

I think staying with another family is very important because you get to experience another culture first-hand and it helps to break down barriers and pre-conceived ideas about another culture. I really enjoyed my time in Sicily.' (Ben Gilliver Y8)

On the last full day in Sicily, we went to the school, Liceo Classico, to work on the Comenius project.

The Italians were producing an insert for their newspaper, 'La Sicilia,' and we were there to help them. It was quite difficult and frustrating because they were writing in Italian so I felt left out but also lucky that they were speaking English, which would have been very difficult for them as it was not their first language. However, they were really nice and they could see that I was struggling so they taught me some Italian.

After a lot of work, we finished the article that, as it turned out, was meant to be the leader article for the newspaper!

I really enjoyed my visit and it has made me eager to learn Italian. This is what Comenius is all about: gaining experience and learning about another culture.' (Phoebe Oliver Y10)



JUST LIKE BEING IN BRAZIL!

On Thursday 18th of March, we all took to the streets of Rio (also more familiarly known as the Main Hall) for a Samba School. The day was split between two Samba bands in the morning and afternoon, with students from Y7 to Y13 taking up a number of unfamiliar instruments, ranging from dustbin lids to frying pans! As well as the professional percussionist, Pete Birkby, there was also an appearance by a famous instrument - the triangle - which had been heard the week before on 'Stars in Their Eyes' and I was lucky enough to be playing it! In spite of having such famous instruments in the room, people were, at first, reluctant to have a go. But once they became more familiar with their instruments, the Samba was definitely in full swing and it was starting to sound as if we had just walked in to the Rio de Janeiro Samba Competition. The afternoon saw the two bands merge together into what could easily be described as a Brazilian street party and the parents who had come to watch, went away suitably impressed. (Claire Oates)

ART AT THE BALTIC

In November, a group of Y10-13 art students visited the now famous Baltic Art Gallery in Gateshead, accompanied by three members of staff. On the way, the group stopped to admire the Angel of the North, read about its construction and there was the opportunity to take photographs.

At the Baltic Art Gallery, the group saw various exhibits, experienced the fascinating video walls of the Wilson sisters and were able to browse through books which fused together art and poetry. It was a highly enjoyable day and Mr Naylor is still intrigued by the book he bought, 'Poems for my Shorthand Typist', which contains poems created using the signs and symbols of shorthand typing.

BETH SHALOM VISITS

In January, the whole of Y9 visited the Beth Shalom Holocaust Museum over a period of three days. The day itself is very moving and students could not help but be affected by the exhibitions, Peace Garden and the first hand experiences recounted by people caught up in the events immediately before and during the Second World War.

ATTENTION!

A group of Y10 students, accompanied by Mrs Morley and Mr Shaw, visited the army barracks at Strensall, just outside York and were put through their paces by the officers there. The group took part in a range of activities designed to test their strength, physical abilities, leadership and team building skills. The students found the day exhausting but also highly enjoyable. Just in case you were wondering, Mrs Morley and Mr Shaw scored 100% for their observation skills!



ENTENTE CORDIALE ALIVE AND WELL IN WATH

The Entente Cordiale is alive and well in Wath as students arrived last December from Lycee la Providence in Blois to spend time sampling English life in Wath. The French students spent time with their host families, sampled lessons in an English school, including preparing and cooking a Christmas dinner, and went on visits to Chatsworth House, the Mining Museum in Wakefield and a visit to York. The return visit to Blois took place this February. The students were able to spend time with their host families and of course sample French life and culture. The students also went to visit the chateaux Blois and Chambord, the old towns of Blois and Tours, and they also enjoyed a grand day out in Paris, visiting the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde. The exchanges continue to be very successful and are an excellent way of finding out about life in another country.

AN ENGLAND STAR!

Our congratulations go to Andrew Goodwin in Y11, who, having been selected to play U16 rugby for Yorkshire, was then, in February, picked to play for England.

Y11 PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday 13 May, all Y11 students were presented with their Records of Achievement. This year the event was organized slightly differently as the Hall is out of use as a result of the rebuilding. Y11 remained in their tutor groups with their tutors and members of Senior Staff went to each tutor group to present the Records of Achievement to each student individually. After the presentation, each tutor group had a small get-together with food and pop supplied by the school.



STRETCHING OUR ARMS AROUND THE WORLD -THIS TIME TO CANADA

One of our most recent developments is the setting up of an exchange with a school in Quebec, Canada. For several months, students in a Y10 French group have been corresponding with Canadian students via email. We have now formally developed this link further by setting up an exchange between the two schools. In order to prepare the groundwork for this enterprise, Mrs Harrison and Mr Grayel recently visited the school in Quebec, the Ecole Secondaire Monique Proulx. As well as making arrangements for the exchange, they were also able to sit in on lessons to see how the Canadians' second language -English - was being taught.

25 students from the Ecole Secondaire Monique Proulx will visit Wath for 12 days this November. They are incredibly enthusiastic about visiting England and are keen to learn more about English culture and to develop their English skills. During their stay in England, they will visit London, Sheffield, York, the Peak District and Whitby. The Canadian students will also attend some lessons in school with their partners as well as taking part in sports' activities and a food technology lesson. Both English and Canadian students will work together on a jointly agreed project.

Wath students will visit Canada in February 2005. An itinerary has been arranged which includes skiing, dog sledding, ice skating and ice fishing. The group will also visit Montreal, the Winter Carnival in Quebec and the Sugar Shack, where maple syrup is made.

We are very excited about this exchange and the opportunities it will bring to the students of Wath. We are looking for sponsorship to help support the cost of the exchange to make it reasonable for our students and their parents/carers. If any reader out there is in a position to help sponsor the visit, we would only be too pleased to hear from you. Please contact the school and ask to speak to Mr Grayel.



IMPROVISATION DAY

All the band players from Y7 to Y13 were involved in an Improvisation Day in March. Neither Mrs Hole, Mrs Barker nor Mrs Mellor told the band what to expect, although some of the older students knew full well what they were getting into! Pete Birkby took the day long session and EVERYONE was made to have a go, whether they liked it or not. Many of the younger students and even some of the older ones were scared when they realised what they had to do - play solo with only a chord scheme to follow and no written notes! This would daunt even the most accomplished musician. All the students had a go at improvising solo and everyone who took part enjoyed it. The highlight of the session was when two Y13 students, Jen Collinson on the tenor saxophone, and Matthew Williamis on the baritone saxophone, had a musical conversation with each other. It was highly amusing and everyone enjoyed it. After the skill learning session, we performed a concert after school for parents. We played the four songs that we had practised and recorded them as proof of what we had actually done. Pete Birkby gave us a fun-filled practical day and clearly achieved his aim of teaching us what improvisation is and how to do it. (Rachel Leasley Y13)

ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU CRACKERS!

'Zippy Enterprises' is the name of the Young Enterprise company set up by this year's Y12 team. The main aim of setting up the company is to learn how to organize and run a business. 'Zippy Enterprises' was created to manufacture Christmas crackers and then sell them to the public. Aaron Beardall, Matthew Reader and Rachel Tunnicliffe took on the roles of production managers, buyers and marketing experts and Andrew Thompson took on the role of Finance Director. The team were also helped and advised by Richard Merry from Y13 who managed the Young Enterprise group last year. The team was aided by a small group of Y9 girls who worked on the 'production line' in a highly organized and very expert fashion. The Y12 students in the company have sat the Young Enterprise exams, and in July they will go to the Yorkshire Show in Harrogate for three days where they will demonstrate how to make crackers. We wish them luck in their demonstrations.