



October 2012

# In Touch

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have enjoyed a very busy and extremely positive start to the school year. Our GCSE results this Summer were our best ever and exceeded our already high expectations.

The key results were:

5 A*-C grades with English and Maths	65%
5 A*-C grades	94%
5 A*-C grades	100%
1 A*-C grade	100%

These results show very pleasing improvement on the record results achieved last year and very importantly are well above national average. We had further cause for celebration at post-16 where our Year 13 students achieved a pass rate of 98% and we are very pleased that the majority of the students are now on their chosen courses at universities across the country.

It is not, therefore, surprising that we have enrolled over 220 students into the Sixth Form from Wath and many other schools across the borough and beyond. Our Sixth Form team, Mr Naylor, Ms Shaw and Mr John, have been extremely busy processing applications and interviewing prospective students.

Across our school community, we continue to focus on raising academic standards and attainment and we 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 joined us in Year 7 appear to be settling in quickly and are successfully finding their way around our very large school. In order to gain the maximum benefit from the extensive opportunities available, we are encouraging them to get involved in the many opportunities 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 for a successful and enjoyable teaching career at Wath.

As parents/carers you have a huge 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**

## Welcome back!

Already, the first half term is almost over! As usual, it has been a very busy time with trips, House events and sporting activities on top of the daily lessons. We extend a warm welcome all the new Y7s joining us from around the area and hope that you have had a fantastic start to the year. We are also extending an invitation to any students interested in writing or possible a future career in journalism to join us as Student Journalists, reporting on things happening around school and having your work published!

Hope to see you in the edition soon!

The Student Journalist Team



## London 2012 Olympic Games

As you all should know, this summer London was host to the greatest sporting event of all time: the Olympic Games. Whether or not you were constant supporters of the vast number of countries participating, you will have noticed results decorating media sources everywhere. The Olympic Games it's fair to say dominated not only the internet, but the news, newspapers and television channels constantly.

For those who don't know, Great Britain scored 3rd on the number of gold medals won and 4th in score of total medals won. Dominating first place with a total of 106 medals was the United States followed by the Republic of China scoring 88. Just in front of Great Britain on total medals was the Russian Federation scoring 82 beating Britain's 65 medals despite a massive 29 of ours been gold!

Of course the Olympics played host to Britain's finest athletes alongside that of the rest of the world, and I am pleased to say local heroes were made within the emotional 2 weeks. Gold medallists from Yorkshire included; Jessica Ennis, Ed Clancy, Andrew Triggs-Hodge, Alistair Brownlee and finally, Nicola Adams. Its not hard to notice that Yorkshire really carried team GB's efforts on the medal standings so we all have good reason to be proud.

Its undeniable reflecting on the games that they were truly exceptional both prior the games with the breath taking opening ceremony, and at the end of the games with the magnificent closing ceremony where London of course handed the torch to Rio, the holders for 2016. I am pleased to say that it wasn't only the opening and closing ceremony that were spectacular to witness, as the action that unfolded in the 2 weeks of sport entertained millions of viewers worldwide with some of the best competition in the world battling out for the few medals up for grabs. The worlds greatest athletes going head to head is an experience to anyone who watched it, no matter what the sport!

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Sadly of course the good times had to come to an end as we saw Rio proudly carry the torch. Whether the games in 4 years can be compared to that which we witnessed in London this year is a question only to be answered in time but it's fair to say the bar has been raised since Beijing 4 years ago.

Hopefully, we will see some of our own pupils in the Great British teams that travels across the pond to Brazil in 4 years time to compete at the Games and we can only wish them the very best of luck.

**Written by Thomas Powell**

**Student Journalist Coordinator**

## Year Seven

Starting a new school is always scary, but now that our new Year Seven have settled in, here are some of their first impressions of Wath:

"I think it is a great school and it has also got very good after-school clubs. I have made lots of new friends."

Aimee Hilton

"I really like Science experiments. I also like Drama, because sometimes you play cool games."

Adam Bradbury



"I think that Wath Comp. is awesome because there are lots of sports opportunities."

Oliver Cunningham

"The thing I like most about school is the school dinners as they are really nice. In Science you get to do a lot more activities, which is good."

Ava Scott



"The best thing about Wath Comp is the sports, because you get merits and it's fun."

Lauren Coffey

"My favourite lesson is Drama because we are always moving around."

Kian Elsworth

"The best thing in Year Seven is cooking, because you get to make everything."

Shelby Beard

## Somme Trip 2012

The Somme trip of 2012 was by anyone's standards, an amazing experience. The trip saw a variety of students from Y10, Y11 and Y13 embark on the 13 hour coach journey down to Dover, across the channel and then up from France into Belgium.

So after the first day of travelling, and settling in at Yohan's Hostel in Belgium, Monday came to a quiet close but not without our very first visit of a cemetery. Here we did what the trip was intended for of course, and paid our respects to those who lost their lives fighting in World War One. In this particular cemetery we looked at the grave of a two time Victorian Cross winner. This is the highest award for bravery within the military. The gentleman is known to have saved over 20 lives to earn his first medal. Then however, he voluntarily went back into the army to continue helping people and saved another 16 lives before he died on the field of battle. This act of bravery granted his second Victorian Cross.

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It was a really heart warming experience to remember those who fought in the war throughout our week in Belgium and this was our first stop of many.

As Tuesday came, so did a very busy day visiting memorials, cemeteries, battlefields and museums. Although all parts of the trip are worth mentioning, a stand out one in my opinion on this day was seeing the hole left by a British mine attack. 100 years later and you could still see the massive crater left by Britain's who had dug tunnels to get under the Germans and planted thousands of pounds of explosives to help them advance. It is said that on the day of the attack, the explosion was that big you could hear it in London! Sadly, the attack wasn't as successful as intended and the explosion was 15 seconds late. However, troops on the battlefield ready for the ambush were ordered to charge despite the diversion not occurring. Those soldiers, simply following orders were sent to their death as when they made the advance the mine finally exploded causing heavy friendly fire. We paid our respects and continued our journey.

After several stops that day we finally arrived back at the hostel to relax and have some free time. It was here when the rush for the showers really kicked in as everyone was desperate. Hot water lasting for a mere 10 minutes it was first come, first served. On to the food and each day it didn't disappoint. Contrary to popular belief a lot of people found the food very enjoyable and with 3 courses who wouldn't? Chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, ice cream, soup and so much more!

Wednesday came and we saw once again so many things across Belgium and this time across France too as we looked at the battle of the Somme itself. Again, it was extremely emotional for everyone as we visited the battlegrounds and the memorials. On this day we visited Tynecot cemetery. This had over 70 thousand names inscribed on the back wall, showing soldiers who were lost on the battlefield. The cemetery was huge and the grief could be felt echoing from person to person.

Seeing every grave not only in Tynecot, but everywhere is a just a simple reminder that for every life lost there was a different story. Many parents, siblings, friends and colleagues left grieving not just all those years ago but still to this day. Another part of Wednesday that stood out to me personally was visiting the battlefield where Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler had both fought. Standing on the same ground as the then future leaders of Germany and England. Wednesday closed out and with it my personal chances of emerging victorious from the Pool competition.

Before we knew it, Thursday was among us and it was the day before departure. Today, however was slightly different as we visited Bruges to have some free time and go shopping for presents. Bruges was truly a good reflection on Belgium as a whole, as it was an amazing city. Chocolate in every direction followed by restaurants and the constant cyclists flying by (literally after Craig Drew accidentally knocked one off her bike). With everyone fully stocked up on sweets, chocolate and various other unhealthy treats, we were back on the road to visit the Flanders Fields Museum. Here we got to walk around and look at many different preserved artefacts from the war and read all about the many different points of view people had whether it be a chef, nurse or soldier. The museum was huge and really emotional to hear some of the individual stories of people who had died.

Night time came and after our lovely chicken and chips meal and a final cemetery stop we were heading for the Menin Gate memorial. This is performed every night at 8pm in Belgium in the gates of where the soldiers would walk when sectioning off into different lanes for battle. It is all about remembering every life lost and is heart warming to anyone within 100 feet of the ceremony. Music was played as silence echoed around the concrete walls with over a thousand people shoulder to shoulder paying respects. A great and emotional roller coaster ending to the final day. When we got back we saw the conclusion to the pool tournament finale after our showers and meals. Despite Miss Champlin and Scott's valiant attempts they were squashed out in the semi finals, and we saw Craig Drew and Aaron Shelton triumph overall.

Finally, we arrive at the last day of the trip. Once again, up and out by 8:30am to visit our last 2 places before heading home. First we visited Vimy Ridge. This is the battlefield where over 3500 Canadians lost their lives fighting for the British. A huge statue stands as a memorial for the soldiers and is truly magnificent to see and stand on (pictures will be in a folder as previously mentioned). After this, we visited some trenches that were used during the war and got a tour of another battlefield. Surrounded by fields unexplored due to fear of unexploded bombs was an experience to say the least, all be it a scary one.

That's it, the journey within Belgium was over as we headed home. Back to Calais to cross the channel via Ferry once again and from Dover back to Wath. An emotional roller coaster throughout the week but an experience I personally will never forget and I'm sure many others feel the same. Driver Dave is another character that can't be forgot as he made the trip even more enjoyable with his constant humour and his self made announcement noise of "Bing Bong, Driver Dave". A huge thanks to all teachers involved. If you get the chance during your time in school it is something I strongly recommend you look into.

Thomas Powell  
Y13 Student Journalist Coordinator

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## Year 8 House Football

In house football, tutor groups compete against each other to win house points. The winning team is currently 8FL, who have won every match so far. It has been difficult, but it is fun, as we now have something to do at lunch times.

My favourite thing about playing house football is the chance to be active and let off steam at lunch time with my friends.

We are very excited to play our last match next week in what is tipped to be an excellent game.

Well done to all students who have been involved in house football this term; we look forward to seeing how other year groups do in the future! Make sure that you do your house proud and turn up to create a team.

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## Dates for your Diary:

**Y13 Drama Performance**—Thursday  
25th October

**Music Concert**—Thursday 15th  
November

**Y13 Review Morning**—Tuesday 20th  
November

**Former Y11 Presentation Evening**—Thursday 22nd November



## Wordsearch

Can you find ten words in our Autumn wordsearch?

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

activities  
Autumn  
battlefield  
beginning

football  
Halloween  
leaves  
October

Olympics  
September

## *Fascinating Facts*

Lochnagar is the largest crater ever made by man in war, made with 60,000lbs of explosives. It is still unfilled to this day and is located on what was the Somme battlefield.

## *Comedy Corner!*

*Why couldn't the vampire get to sleep?*

*Because of his coffin!*