



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As you can see from the many and varied articles, students continue to have the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of activities in school and beyond. These are in addition to the additional classes, clinics and support groups aimed at ensuring that students maximise their academic potential.

It is, however, important that we maintain school's every day routines and protocols and also expectations with regard to standards of uniform and behaviour.

I am concerned however that some students do not place as much importance on attendance and punctuality as they should, and this can have a negative impact on their standard of effort and most particularly attainment. The school uniform expectations are known to all students, please work with us to ensure that your child leaves for school each morning in full uniform and with the necessary equipment to take part in the day's lessons. The time taken to address these matters for even one student in a class takes away learning time from every other student in that group and is quite simply an unnecessary waste of time.

Road safety is of particular concern to us all. As you are aware the school is sited on a very busy main road, Sandygate, where our principle entrances are on an almost equally busy side road, Festival Road. We have adopted the practice of not allowing vehicles in or out of the main gates after 2.35 pm until most students have cleared the site at 2.55 pm.

We are also trying to gain the Council's support in putting double yellow lines in front of the school to ease the congestion parked cars are causing at the beginning and end of the day. We would also like to see additional pelican crossings provided near the top entrance on Sandygate and on Festival Road near the entrance to the games field. We would welcome any support you could give in writing individually to the Council about this. We do not want any other students to be involved in traffic accidents.

November 2007

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Could I ask all parents to talk to your children about crossing the road safely by following the protocols I am sure they learned when quite small. In particular, on these busy roads, they must concentrate, check that it is safe to cross and not attempt to cross between parked cars or buses. Where there is a crossing it should be used.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Pat Ward
Headteacher

SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL SITE

The safety of all our pupils is of utmost importance to us and we have specific crossing areas where vehicles and pedestrians meet. Can you please remind your son/daughter that they should use these crossings when either entering or leaving the school site.

If you bring your son/daughter to school or pick them up at the end of the day, can you please arrange to meet them away from the school gates and not on the premises. We do close the school gates at the end of the school day until the majority of students have left the site to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of our students. Parking immediately outside of the premises, on the pavement, causes both an obstruction to pedestrians and motorists. Often pedestrians have to walk in the road because of vehicles parking on the pavements which obviously is a concern.

SCIENCE COURSES IN YEAR 10 AND YEAR 11

September 2006 saw the introduction of the new Science Curriculum. The Faculty of Science opted to introduce Science A to year 10. Many students now



have a good GCSE grade already in Science and have now embarked on their year 11 courses. In Year 11 students have been placed on two separate courses which give them their second GCSE. September 2007 saw the introduction of Additional Science for

four groups and Additional Applied for five groups. In the photograph Holly Rands brushes away sand from her cast of a footprint, part of the Additional Applied Course on Forensic Science.

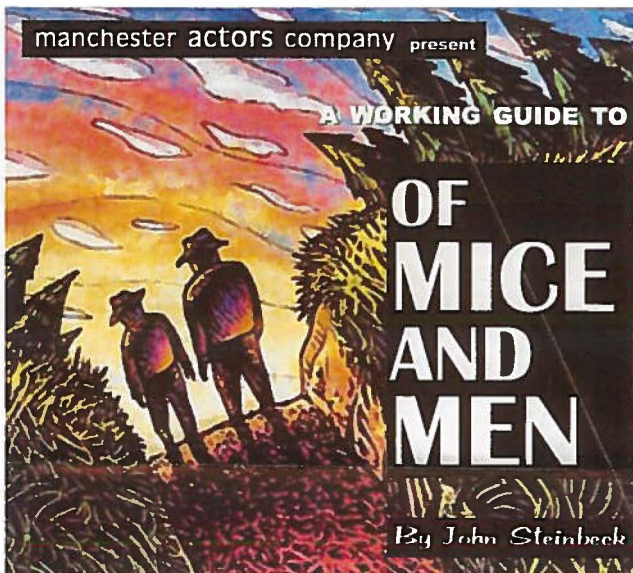
ENGLISH ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	STUDENTS	STAFF
Monday	Homework and spelling club	Lunchtime	All years	Mrs Exton
	Year 11	After school	GCSE B+ students	Ms Fenton
Wednesday	Reading club	Lunchtime	All years, mainly KS3 students	Miss Benn
	Student Journalist Project	Lunchtime	All years	Miss Hardeman and Ms Fenton
Thursday	Film Club	Lunchtime	Years 10 to 13	Mr Lack
	Mock Trial	Lunchtime	Years 11–13	Ms Fenton
Friday	Mock Trial	Lunchtime	Years 11–13	Ms Fenton

Of Mice and Men

The performance of the play 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck, by the Manchester Theatre Group went down a treat. The theatre group performed the play version in front of 120 pupils on Monday 8th October.

The play as a whole was a success. However the most outstanding aspects of the performance were that the accents were well maintained and the actor who played Curly's wife and the narrator especially kept her accent maintained. Also the play was entertaining as the characters were portrayed with high quality performances. The play was quite emotional as I saw members of the audience welling up at certain parts of the performance, such as Lennie was upset when he had killed Curly's wife and also when George had to shoot Lennie.



With the Y11 audience revising the play this will help them a lot because of the mental image it gave. The actors did a question and answer session after they had performed the play. This I thought was a very good idea as it gave the audience a chance to ask them about things they didn't understand or just for general knowledge.

The one disappointing aspect of the play was that it had missed too much out from the story, like some of the characters think that Slim is pretty important in the book and there should be a part for him in the play. Also, the part when Lennie had the hallucination about his Aunt Clara and the bunny in the book it says that the voice was Lennie's and the actress did not speak like Lennie.

Overall I think that the play was a great success as it was entertaining and very well played. I would recommend the school to pay for this acting company to come again and perform it to the next Y11, as it would be a big help for revision purposes.

Article written by Jake Ingman - Miss Marshall's Y11 English Class

Chosen from a selection and edited by the Student Journalist Project.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Sally Bembridge, Shona Hayes-Mackenzie, Natalie Edwards and Charlotte Bailey.

We will once again be having a visit from the Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair will be available in the Library during normal opening times for you to browse and buy books, posters, stationary, pens pencils etc. It will arrive on Thursday 29th November and leave on Thursday 6th December. All pupils, parents, carers and staff are welcome to choose items which can be reserved and paid for before the 6th December. We are able to benefit from commission on everything sold. This is taken in the form of books which are then added to the Library stock for everyone to enjoy. Please come along and support the event.

AIM HIGHER SUMMER SCHOOL by Michael Thornton



From the 8th to the 14th of July, I attended a summer school at Hull University with around a hundred other students, 3 of whom were from this school. The aim of the summer school was to give an insight into university life and the courses the university has to offer. This particular school was residential so we stayed in a hall of residence, which in my opinion was better than travelling to university every day as it also gives you an opportunity to get to know the other students better.

During the week we were given sample lectures in subjects such as Computer Science, Film Studies, Criminology, Psychology, Law (including a mock trial) and Medical Studies. These lectures were especially interesting as the week had a theme of *Murder Mystery*, thus making them interesting to a wider audience who may not have thought about a career in a particular area. As well as lectures, we were split into groups and had to work for around 2 hours a day on a presentation to be performed at the end of the week. Each group had a different theme to work on. Mine was crime, disasters and the media. Everybody enjoyed the performances at the end of the week and personally I felt that my confidence had improved by me having to perform in front of a large audience.



Alongside the academic activities, there was plenty of fun. We had a murder mystery dinner, which allowed everyone to get all dressed up for a three-course meal, while one unfortunate person was murdered. Other activities included, ice-skating, a trip to the theatre and a disco in the university nightclub. We also had a karaoke and quiz night, which was fancy dress and really fun.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the summer school and would recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to go. It is well worthwhile and you make a lot of friends there.



AIMHIGHER **Aim for a College Education Days**

Approximately 70 Wath Comprehensive School pupils enjoyed two A.C.E. days organised by Sheffield Hallam University .



On their arrival they were welcomed by the student crew and introduced to the various activities they would be participating in throughout the day.

After the introductory ice-breaker activities and the guided tour of the campus, the pupils were able to take part in a number of team building exercises and sample a typical lecture.

The afternoon activities were delivered by the student crew and informed the pupils about finance, applying to university and student life.

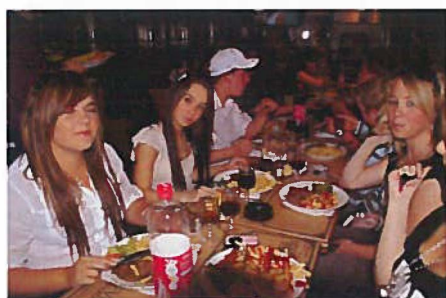


PARIS VISIT REPORT BY JENNIFER WADDINGTON YEAR 11



When we went to Paris we travelled by train to London then the underground and on to the Euro Star. After that we used the Metro, which is the French underground. At about 7 o'clock we arrived at the hostel, which was called Fiap Jean Monnet. We checked in and

went to our rooms then we went for some tea. The next morning we went to a classroom in the hostel to talk about what we had planned for the week and what activities we had to do. On Monday afternoon we set off to the train station to go to Notre Dame. After we went on a boat ride on the Seine to see the wonderful sights of Paris. We all then went back to the hostel to get ready for the restaurant and a visit to the Eiffel Tower. We all got the chance to go to the top but some chose not to.



The second day we went to the Stade de France, which was really interesting because it was close to the rugby championship. After that we went to the Sacre Coeur which was extraordinary because the view was wonderful, we could see all of Paris. On the way back to the train we went down to the Moulin Rouge and saw the windmill from the film.

On the third day we went to the Saint Chappelle, which was very moving because the stained glass windows tell the story of the whole Bible. We then went shopping down a boulevard to meet up at the gardens for dinner. It was really fun having time to shop. On the last day we went to the Louvre then down the Champs Elysees to shop and down to the Arc de Triomphe where we all met up. We went up the Arc de Triomphe then we had a choice to go shopping or go back to the hostel to pack and get changed for the restaurant and the bus tour round Paris. Once we arrived back at the hostel after the bus tour we had a disco. It was great.



The next morning we woke up early to get the train home and we arrived back in Doncaster at 4.30 p.m. It was an amazing trip. If I had a chance to go again I would; it's worth the money.

INTRODUCING ZOE MARTIN YEAR 7

Zoe has been taking part in Karate for the last 3 years and is presently a green belt, training to get her blue belt in the near future. She recently went to Ireland to take part in the Irish Open Championships where she achieved a 2nd and 3rd place, a tremendous achievement. She also recently came 1st at a meeting at Herringthorpe Stadium in Rotherham and three weeks ago she again came 1st when she travelled to Newcastle to take part in a competition. Here she is with 2 of the trophies she has won.



In February 2008 she is due to go back and compete again in Ireland and we would like to wish her every success. Zoe Morton is a name we are sure to be hearing a lot more of in the future.

FRIENDS OF WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2007 we saw Barbara Lord finally step down as Chairman. She had been a member for 22 years, remaining on the Committee after her daughters, Catherine and Helen had left in 1992 and 1994 respectively. In that time she has been actively involved in a variety of events including; discos, ceilidhs, quizzes, summer fairs, table-top sales, fashion shows to name but a few. All of these events have helped raise funds to support the school in many ways and students both past and present have a lot to thank Barbara for.

However, with half of her family in Newcastle and the other half in London she now wants to spend her time travelling to see them more. At present she has two grand children with another on the way so who can blame her for deciding to let the reins go to someone else. She has always given 100% support to the school and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of dedicated service.

Election of Officials for 2007—08

Chairman	Marion Lintern
Secretary	Ann Cousins
Treasurer	Claire Paskell

Date of next meeting: 9th January 2008

New members are always welcome so please come along and support this group of parents both past and present — the meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. in the Young Persons' Centre.

BUDDING YOUNG CHEFS

Enthusiastic Chefs Bethany Kirk, George Bailey, Charlie Ludlam and Leon Kitchen from Year 9 and Amy Houghton, Lauren Steele and Vincent Carr from Year 11 put their culinary skills to the test when taking part in a competition organised by Mrs Morley and Dearne Valley College.

Each student was asked to design a healthy two course meal for two people with a budget of only £5. The students set to work arranging their menus and food orders and then eagerly awaited the Judges' decisions. Two of our students beat fierce competition from other local schools and were short listed to compete in the next round. Here Lauren Steele and Vincent Carr describe their feelings at being selected.

Lauren Steele—When I entered the competition I didn't expect to get through. When I found I had I was really very happy but when I got to the competition my emotions changed and I was really nervous. After about half an hour of cooking I just wanted to go home because nothing was how I wanted it. All my recipes had changed and I thought I had failed. By the end of the night things were going better and everyone enjoyed what I had made. It was a success with a better recipe.

Vincent Carr— The atmosphere was tense. We were all nervous and we were scared. We'd come too far and to lose at this point would have been heartbreaking and soul crushing.

I was very nervous, butterflies attacked my stomach and my brain was working overtime, I didn't want to lose and I didn't want any of my competitors to lose either, but it was either them or me. The intense atmosphere challenged us all and when we got into the kitchen we were all nervous. After 20 minutes we were all calm and confident as we were on schedule and we were all cooking up a success. In the last 10 minutes, it was a blur. I was dashing all over the kitchen trying to meet the deadline. Both my dishes were complete; I had to now serve my dishes. I was very anxious, scared and worried about the judges and what they thought of my dish.

The 20 minute wait in the kitchen while I cleaned my work area was unbearable, emotions were running wild in all of us. There would only be one winner or so I thought. The decision was made and the Judges announced that Oliver Burkinshaw had won. He was shocked and so were the rest of us. We received a certificate for reaching the Regional Finals and were presented with a set of Chef's knives, courtesy of Russum's of Rotherham.

The Rotary Chairman said we were all winners and congratulated us for getting so far. I was happy and sad at the same time. It was a fun experience and I hope to take part in the next annual competition. Well done Oliver!

Study Visit to Spain—October 2007

From the 22nd to the 26th of October this year, a group of 4 staff and 35 students ranging from Y9 to Y13 spent a week in Santander, a city in the north of Spain. The aim of the visit was primarily to encourage students to use their Spanish knowledge, but also to gain a greater understanding of Spanish culture and lifestyle.



Put to the test in the Salsa lesson!

However it was the visit to a wild animal park and the two hour salsa and flamenco dancing lesson that made the biggest impression! They even had chance to practise their new found dancing skills in Santander's main plaza with a group of friendly Spanish people!

The group stayed in a hotel in the village of Comillas, about an hour away from the city itself, where there were plenty of opportunities to go shopping or to cafes and talk with the locals. During the week there were many excursions: they had a tour of the local caves, visited the picturesque village of Santillana de la Mar, and even went to a cheese factory!



Miss Prada shows off her dancing skills...in the city's main square!



In all, it was a very enjoyable visit which comes highly recommended for next year!

The students would like to thank Miss Prada, Miss Gordon, Miss Ackerley and Mr Berriman for arranging the visit, and for a great week!

Written by Laura Davies

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION NOVEMBER 2007

COURTING SUCCESS!



Congratulations to the 2007-8 Bar Mock Trial Team on their magnificent winning performance in the Nottingham Heat of the competition. The team now go on to compete against fifteen other schools from across the country in the National Final to be held in Liverpool Crown Court next March.

The Bar Mock Trial Competition gives young people a taste of the legal profession, without them having to break the law first! It involves a team of students using carefully constructed witness statements to prepare the prosecution and defence of two specially written criminal cases. Students take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, court staff and jurors and compete against other schools in a live format, with one team

prosecuting and the other defending. Participating schools are divided into two leagues with the winners of each league competing against each other in the final round on the day. The winners of the Regional final then go on to compete in the national final.

Our team were worthy winners of League Two knocking out the winners of the previous three years - Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School. We had a nerve-wracking wait after round three, because both teams had won two rounds, but Wath had a clear victory on points. This meant we were through to the final round!

In a hard fought case in Court A, in front of four circuit judges, Abbey College provided commendable opposition but thanks to superb questioning and fabulous speeches from our barristers, excellent performances from our witnesses and efficient work from our usher, we were victorious!



The organiser from Citizenship Foundation commended us on our performance. The students worked very hard and thoroughly deserve their success. Well done to all concerned. The team would like to thank the Language College for their support and Mr McCluskey from St Mary's Chambers in Nottingham for his invaluable advice and for giving up his time to support our team on the day.

Queen v Morton

Prosecution Team

Court Clerk: Hannah Higgins

Barrister: Josh Woodbridge

Barrister: Josh Heenan

Witness: Lucy-Anne Carney

Witness: Thomas Hill

Queen v Potter

Prosecution Team

Court Clerk: Leanne White

Barrister: Simon Tingle

Barrister: Emily Booth

Witness Alistair Reynolds

Witness: Leigh-Ann Homer

Defence Team

Usher: Hannah Higgins

Barrister: Josh Heenan

Barrister: Josh Woodbridge

Defendant: Lucy-Ann Carney

Witness: Thomas Hill

Helpers: Lucy McGowan

Lyndsey Kellock

Sally Bembridge received a certificate for successfully competing in the **Court Reporter Competition**.

Defence Team

Usher: Ashley Mallet

Barrister: Joe Bowns

Barrister Jayde Adams

Defendant: Alex Doyle

Witness: Nisha Gill

Staff Involved in coaching the team:

Ms Fenton, Mrs Shurdhi and Ms Stroud

Staff Support on the day:

Mr Lack and Mr Bemrose



Congratulations

Supported by



CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2007

Friday 23rd November was, as you will know, Children in Need Day and the school was a hive of activity as students took part in a range of activities to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. Food and drink was sold at break and lunchtime in the social areas, some danced their way through lunchtime, others dressed up and went round classrooms asking for spare pennies. Seven enterprising Y13 students, Matthew Taylor, Michael Dainty, Conor Smyth, Craig Hardcastle, Joseph Bowns, Thomas Wood and Jonathan Blight decided to ask for sponsorship to run around the lakes at Manvers. This they were going to do wearing just a nappy and a dummy each. Friday afternoon approached and the group of lads were interviewed by Radio Sheffield (this was broadcast at 5.30 that evening) and then they prepared for the big run - three times around the lakes. A good crowd of Sixth Formers, their Heads of Year and proud parents were all there to cheer them on and all seven completed their

task with ease. We are extremely proud to say that they managed to raise over £1100 - a magnificent total I'm sure you will agree. Congratulations to the runners and all those of you who willingly gave up your time (and money) to support such a worthwhile cause.



Runners with their Heads of Year, Mr R Naylor and Mrs J Shaw

Other activities took place throughout the day. Here are some students who collected donations.



 **BBC Children in Need**

Dates for your Diary

Week beginning 3rd December 2007	Assessment week 2
Thursday 6th December 2007	AS Drama Presentation Evening
Thursday 13th December 2007	Christmas Concert at 7 p.m.
Tuesday 18th December 2007	Presentation Evening
Friday 21st December 2007	Last day of school term
Monday 7th January 2008	Return to school
Tuesday 8th January 2008	New Sixth Evening at 7 p.m.
Monday 14th January 2008	Review Day 2

Yorkshire Forward-Shaping the Agenda

In February we organized for a group of Y11/12 students to attend the Shaping the Agenda Regional Conference in Bradford, where they were able to take part in discussions about the views of young people in the region. These discussions took place on a number of topics which included Politics, Policing, Transport etc., At the end of this Conference two of the girls were then asked to write a 1000 word report to be published nationally.

On Monday 10th December Hayley Edge and Hannah Higgins are travelling to London, with Miss S Wing, for the national launch of the pamphlet, followed by a tour of the House of Commons.

Review Day 1 - Friday 9 November

The School was busy all day with the buzz of conversation as Tutors met with their students to discuss progress made over the first half term. Punctuality, attendance, motivation, behaviour and rewards were all on the agenda for discussion as well as the level of attainment reached in each subject. At the end of the discussion Tutors agreed between one and three written targets with each student - the aim being that students would strive to attain these before the next Review Day.

There was a very high level of attendance by parents/carers across all year groups. Thank you for your interest. We believe that for all year groups it is very useful for the student when a parent/carer can attend, where this is possible, so that the support and targets provided by the Tutor can be later stressed by parents in the home as well as in the school situation.

We look forward to welcoming even more of you at Review Day 2 - to be held on Monday 14 January 2008. A letter from the Headteacher, inviting you to attend, will be sent home later this term.

J Taylor

Assistant Headteacher

WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS COUNCIL

Recently at Wath Comprehensive School a Sports' Council has been set up as the student voice for Physical Education and for those students who participate in extra curricular activities. This council has 6 members who are Jonny Hays, David Swallow, Jody Heathcote, Josh Heenan, Emily Sowerby and Josh Bartle.

The first thing that the sports' councillors have organised is a shop in PE selling hooded tops for those students who participate in activities outside of lesson time. These will be sold at a cost of £18. These personalised tops can be worn in any training sessions and when participating in extra curricular sport. They will not be allowed to be worn in KS3/4 PE lessons.

The main aim of the Sports' Council at the moment is to try and raise money so that the school can buy new kits for various sports' teams, such as the Wath Rugby first XV and Netball teams. Therefore as well as these hooded tops that can be ordered, there will be various other fund raising events in which the money raised will be put back into your PE teams in some way.

The Biology Field trip or Reasons to Continue to do Y13 Biology...

On the 22nd of October, twenty-nine Y13 students, Mrs Elston and Mr Avill trudged the weary path to Malham Tarn Field Centre for part of their Biology coursework. We set off with great hope and the promise of a short journey, but the bus drivers had other ideas! A stop to ask the way (he didn't have a map!) meant we were a "little" late to arrive.

Not deterred by this, Mrs Elston immediately had us working. This ranged from wading in a peat bog, catching small invertebrates in a fresh water stream and trapping small mammals in the woodland - two of which were 'asleep'... Persevering through icy winter conditions, fuelled by plenty of hot chocolate and cake, we worked from 9am till 9pm.

The Field Centre staff were very welcoming and enthusiastic, especially our teacher, Gill, who was extremely helpful throughout our stay. On day three the real work commenced! Deciding on the investigation we wanted to do for our coursework, we planned and planned (and planned some more) until the method was well embedded!

Luckily we all finished our plans (before midnight) and our implementation went well. All in all we had a really good week in Malham and made lots of new friends from another school staying at the Field Centre - a Scottish clan from Glasgow.

Most importantly we completed our A2 Biology coursework, thanks to the help we received from Gill, Mrs Elston and Mr Avill. This is an exciting prospect for future Y13 students to look forward to ...

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