



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

July 2008

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching and as always at this time we take the opportunity to reflect on the past year and develop our plans for the next.

This edition of IN TOUCH is a very full one, which demonstrates the vast range of activities, and events that we have enjoyed over the last few weeks. The Year 11 'prom' at Carlton Park Hotel was a stunning occasion, all students had gone to a great deal of trouble and their efforts were well rewarded: they looked wonderful. There were no two dresses alike and the range of styles and colours was fantastic. The boys looked equally well groomed and interestingly every tie was immaculately positioned.

The Year 13 Leavers Ball had a new venue this year, Brooklands Hotel, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. It is hard to believe that these sophisticated young men and women had been sitting in the hall in school uniform only a few days earlier. I'm sure the memories of this lovely evening will be very special indeed.

The school production of 'Grease' last week entertained packed audiences who couldn't resist singing along to some very familiar songs. The hard work that has gone into the show from all concerned was richly rewarded and appreciated by the enthusiastic audiences on all three nights.

As we look forward to the Summer break we must also say goodbye to staff who are leaving to take up promoted posts elsewhere and they take with them our very best wishes for the future.

In addition, the four staff who will retire at the end of term have all been with us for quite some time. Our very best wishes for a healthy, happy and well earned retirement go to:

Mr Pete Darby, Head of Year 7 and teacher of Geography who joined the school in January 1976 (32 years).

Mr Ian Goodman, Head of General Studies and Leader of History who joined us in September 1977 (31 years).

Mrs Shelagh Wing, Enterprise Co-ordinator and teacher of Art who joined us in September 1986 (22 years).

Mrs Carol Foster, Learning Support Assistant who joined us in September 1996 (12 years).

I am sure you would join us in thanking them for their hard work and commitment in supporting the education of your children over so many years, they will be greatly missed.

Could I finally take the opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and to wish you a happy and relaxing Summer holiday.

P Ward
Headteacher



LIFESTYLE PROJECT

Lifestyle is a project that is run by South Yorkshire Police for pupils of school age. It aims to engage pupils in Crime Prevention Initiatives on issues that they feel are of particular importance to them. The pupils are encouraged to form a group of no more than six and to nominate an adult leader of their choice to help them develop and deliver their work to the local community. Entrants have to evidence their work in a portfolio, which is then entered into a competition and the winning group can win £500 each in Meadowhall vouchers. The runners up win £250 and £150 respectively.

The pupils have been helped by PC White to enter the competition and you may well have heard about them in the local press such as The Barnsley Chronicle newspaper or on Radio Dearne FM. Year 8 pupils Paige Fitzpatrick, Joy Lord, Chelsea Carty, Shona Hayes-Mackenzie and Amy Keeton are campaigning to have CCTV cameras positioned in Holly Bush Park in Brampton to prevent vandalism and anti social behaviour. Other pupils in Year 8, Jake Lee, Sam Bagshaw, Sean Martin and Alex Gosling, took part in a mobile phone Crime Prevention Programme at Wath Library with PCSO Wright of Wath Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

PC White commented "Wath has had a fabulous response to Lifestyle this year and some groups are working especially hard for their community'.

Best of luck to all the entrants and lets hope Wath has some winning entries!!!!!!!



HEALTHY LIFE EVENT

On Tuesday the 1st July 17, year 9 students visited the School of Nursing and Midwifery and took part in a Healthy Life Event. This visit was to promote healthy living and to give the students a flavour of what they will be studying as part of their Health and Social Care course.

There were a number of workshops and activities on offer. Firstly, they observed a Road Safety presentation. This featured a number of facts about driving and particularly the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

Next they attended a Police presentation. It was nice to see a friendly face, as it was being lead by PC White, our school's own bobby! The main feature of this presentation outlined the potential dangers of the Internet. It was very useful as it taught the girls exactly what to do and who to contact if they ever had any problems with strangers on the net. There were lots of questions to be answered during this presentation and Kayleigh Atkinson, Chantelle Atkinson, Jessica Leak and Abbie Lynch did Wath proud by contributing on a number of occasions.

The most active part of the morning involved a fitness workshop. To begin with the girls watched a video about the importance of healthy eating. They were split into two groups. One group took part in a mini circuit training activity and the other, a skipping competition. Jessica Leak managed to win this and received a winner's goody bag.

Other workshops/displays included information on topics such as stress, fire safety, breast-feeding and the students were free to wander and collect information/leaflets. The information collected may be of use as part of their coursework next year.

No Healthy Life Event would be complete without a hike back to school! We walked back from Golden Smithies Lane at a brisk pace and in glorious sunshine! Both students and staff had a very useful morning.

Miss Child and Mrs Jefferies

CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL

Following this visit I have just received a letter thanking us for supporting the event. On a really lovely, positive note it also states...

" I would particularly like to thank the children for their exemplary behaviour, they are a credit to your school".

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Miss P Child

STEINWAY PIANO

As you are aware from previous issues of 'In Touch' with the help of Friends of Wath we are continuing to look at ways of raising money to restore our 70 year old Steinway piano. The much loved piano arrived at Wath in 1953, 14 years after it was made. Since then it has played a vital role in both musical and drama productions as well as supporting students in assemblies and lessons.



The restoration is expected to cost between £8 000 and £12 000 which will enable future generations to enjoy it for a further 70 years. To replace it would cost £30 000. Already the project has received funding from Wombwell Rotary Club, the Druids Sheffield Friendly Society and Friends of Wath as well as the school.

Details of all fund raising will be given out later in the year. If anyone wants to contribute to this project they should send their donation, in a sealed envelope marked Restoration Fund to Wath Comprehensive School, Wath-on-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 7NW.

Château Beaumont Visit June 2008

On the 16th June 2008, 40 year 7 students went on a visit to Château Beaumont, Normandy in France. The Château staff organised all the activities for us, all the places we visited and we had our own guide to show us round called Katie.



The activities we did were exciting, fun and some were even scary! We did Zip-Wire, Fencing, Nightline, Initiative Games, Climbing and some Team Games. There were lots of funny moments from the activities but my personal favourite was the nightline because we had to be blind folded and nobody knew what was going to happen. In the activity we had to hold on to a rope and see wherever it led us. Whilst we were doing this, the teachers (Mrs Da Costa & Miss Gordon) were going around wetting everybody: it was quite funny actually.

We visited two Markets, an Animal Refuge, Chocolate factory, a Cheese Farm and Fougères Castle. The funniest place we went to was the goats' farm because whatever you had the goats were trying to eat and some of them even looked cute doing it!

The best part of the visit was the evening entertainment as there were some good events and some funny moments. On one evening there was Blind Date and from Wath Comp, Connor McConnell, Zack Day and myself (Michaela Grisdale) took part in it and even though we didn't win we enjoyed it quite a lot!

There were other events such as French Quiz, Disco and The Talent Show. The Talent Show was the most entertaining with lots of talent on offer: dancing, singing, guitar players, comedian and some weird but good unidentified talents!



All in all the visit was enjoyable and we had a lot of fun and would certainly go again.

Unfortunately this was Miss Gordon's last trip as a Wath Comprehensive School teacher as she has been successful in getting another job at a different school. She will be sadly missed by a lot of teachers and students and we wish her the best in her new job.

By Michaela Grisdale

France!

The French trip was absolutely fantastic!

We went to a small shopping centre (we all called it a mini Meadowhall!). Also we went to a chocolate factory with a small shop. I didn't know what to buy it was all so YUM!

The animal refuge was also great! There were all sorts of animals there including a giant cheetah that apparently ate anything!

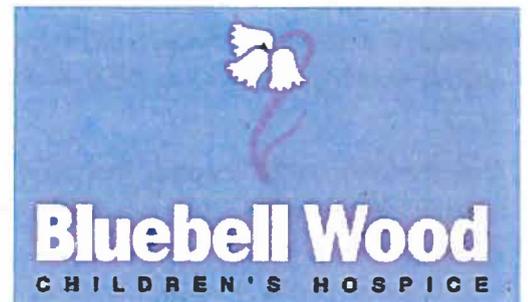
The evening entertainments were also fantastic. There was a blind date, French night (I didn't dare try any snails or frogs' legs, ugh!) and a talent show with a small disco!



There were activities to do where we were staying too! The nightline was an activity where we were blindfolded going in a line through the woods. We only knew we were going in the right direction by following a rope! So overall it was FANTASTIC, I'm so glad I went!

Madison Brown

FUNDRAISING EVENT



Once again students at Wath have been fundraising by organising a tombola, selling books, selling soft toys, baking and selling cakes and buns as well as organising a staff raffle. All of this is to raise funds for The Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice which offers palliative care services for young people and their families. At the time of going to press they have raised over £100 with more money expected.



Well done to everyone who supported this—a tremendous effort.

Prospective Cambridge Students?!...

On Thursday 3rd July a small group of Sixth Form students travelled all the way to Churchill College Cambridge. After setting off at half past seven in the morning Ms Shaw was absolutely desperate for a coffee and so we stopped at the services half way! However, she was rather disappointed as it wasn't a 'Costa Coffee!'



We arrived at Churchill College at half past ten and, although slightly late, we entered a large lecture theatre where we received talks on the application process as well as inside information from the current students.

A tour of the College followed; we were told that it is the only College in Cambridge where you were allowed to walk on the grass, which, for them, was quite a luxury!

Following the tour was a range of subject talks that we could attend; some of us went to Maths, some to Economics and some to Law. Lucy and I however, went to 'Modern and Medieval Languages.' In these talks we were told in detail

about the course and the optional modules that can be taken as part of the course. After, we were given the chance to ask questions - many of these were on the Interview and admissions' process!

It was soon time for lunch in the Dining Hall of Churchill College. There was a variety of people wishing to attend Cambridge to study a wide range of subjects from Physics to Philosophy and Land Economy to Languages.

Once we had finished our lunch there were some optional talks. Nevertheless, we all decided to have a look at the map we had and tried our best to navigate our way into the town centre. Half of us ended up in the town centre and the other half (including me) ended up (more or less) walking out of Cambridge. Luckily a local guided us in the right direction and we did eventually get chance to have a look around the town.

After a lovely, warm, sunny (and very long) day, we gathered on the grass in the shade of the trees before getting back on the minibus! And, as customary, on the way home, we stopped for another coffee!

Charlotte Cowen

12WE

SCHOOL UNIFORM

BOYS

Maroon blazer with school badge

White long sleeved shirt (to be worn tucked into trousers)

School tie

Black trousers (not cords, denim or linen)

Navy blue v-necked long sleeved pullover (**with no emblem or logo**) optional

Grey or black socks

Sensible black shoes (not trainers)

White apron for Technology (optional)

GIRLS

Maroon blazer with school badge

School tie

Black skirts/trousers (standard school style, not cropped trousers, denim or linen)

White long sleeved shirt (to be worn tucked in to trousers/skirts)

Navy blue v-necked long sleeved pullover (**with no emblem or logo**) optional

Sensible black shoes, which must be low heeled (not trainers).

White apron for Technology (optional)

JEWELLERY

No jewellery, except a watch, to be worn in school; In the interests of safety. Only one pair of **small sleeper or stud earrings** may be worn (one in each ear)

No jewellery at all may be worn in PE lessons.

PE KIT

PE Kit for both boys and girls is outlined below.

BOYS

Indoor Work.

Black shorts, a white t-shirt (school emblem), black socks, trainers, (towel and trunks required in Y10).

Outdoor Work

Football or rugby boots, black football socks, black shorts, Reversible School Rugby top.

GIRLS

Plain navy blue shorts (either sport or cycling shorts may be worn but no stripes/logos allowed), pale blue polo shirt (with collar). Training shoes and white or navy blue ankle socks. A swimming costume will be required in Y10.

Optional Items

Plain navy or pale blue tracksuit and Football boots.

TRAINERS

Students are not allowed to wear training shoes apart from in PE lessons.

Transforming Rotherham Learning Conference

On Monday 7th July, 7 of our student journalists were asked to attend an important conference being held by Rotherham LA on how they intend to build schools for the future.

Whilst they were there, the journalists sat and listened to the keynote speaker on visions for the improvement of school buildings around Rotherham. They were then asked to work alongside a camera crew and report on the day's events. This included interviewing the keynote speaker and some of the delegates about their day's experiences.

The Diva Creative representative who coordinated the day for the journalists said that they were well prepared for the day and she was really impressed with their presence and attitude. The filming that the journalists took part in will be produced onto a DVD of the conference and distributed across the authority.

Well done to: Samuel Hyde, Joseph Hyde, Thomas Powell, Kayleigh Annetts, Shona Hayes-Mackenzie, Natalie Edwards and Fern Duffield.



Comments from George Foster



We had a stupendous day and the event was a great success. It was a great opportunity for young people to share their thoughts and opinions about how they want future schools to look like. It was time for the "professionals" to listen to young people who are the real experts about school life since they experience it. Throughout the day we attended workshops which looked at the different aspects of school and discussed the issues we face.



Students listening to the Conference Speaker

Students preparing their interviews



Plenty of camera action

Visit to Army Careers Exhibition – June 18th 2008

Mr Baggaley and Miss Hyde along with 30 very excited Y9 pupils visited the annual Army Careers Exhibition at Marne Barracks, Catterick, on June the 18th. This is the first time the school has attended this exhibition and we hope it will not be the last.

To give some idea how big the event was, it covered the size of 10 football pitches and took over a week to set up all the marquees and stands.

One day did not give enough time for pupils (and staff!) to get around all the activities on offer. Represented on the day were:

Royal Logistical and Support
Army Medical Services
Royal Military Police
Royal Signals and Intelligence
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Royal Artillery
Household Cavalry

In addition pupils could have a go at Laser Quest, Aerial Ropeways, Shooting, Mountain biking, various sports as well as looking inside various army vehicles including some very large tanks!

The afternoon was given over to an Arena event. This included:

A magnificent display by the army motorcycle display team
The army parachute display team
Infantry displays

A fantastic day was had by all and hopefully we will be able to take more pupils from Year 9 next year.

Mr Baggaley

'WIND IN THE WILLOWS'—UPDATE

Image removed due to
licensing restrictions

As was mentioned in last months In Touch magazine 'The Wind in the Willows' will be the school production next year. Mr McHale thanks all the students who have already auditioned for parts in the play and would like to take this chance to remind students that more auditions will be held during the first two weeks back after summer. These auditions will give year 10 who have been out on work experience a chance but are open to anyone who wants to be involved.

If you are interested in being involved with 'Wind in the Willows' you need to look out for the times that auditions will be held and come along to the Drama rooms and read a short extract from the play.

APPLYING FOR SIXTH FORM NEXT YEAR

This year, the school has been involved in a pilot project for online applications for entry into the Sixth Form. It has been hailed as a success and the online application process will roll out nationally during the next academic year. This means that any student applying for courses in our Sixth Form or any other college or provider, will have to do this online. The process is quite simple and our Y11 students next year will be taken through the steps involved.

You can find out further information and look at school/college prospectuses online by logging on to the following websites: www.futures4me.co.uk and www.applyrotherham.co.uk. You can also find our Sixth Form Prospectus online on the school website.

WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
A LANGUAGE COLLEGE

is offering

"FIRST STEP"

**NETWORK LANGUAGE LEARNING COURSES SUPPORTED BY
The LEARNING and SKILLS COUNCIL**

ARABIC	GERMAN	KOREAN	SWAHILI
BULGARIAN	GREEK	POLISH	SWEDISH
CHINESE	HEBREW	PORTUGUESE	TURKISH
DANISH	HUNGARIAN	PUNJABI	UKRANIAN
DUTCH	ITALIAN	RUSSIAN	URDU
FRENCH	JAPANESE	SPANISH	WELSH

**Beginners, 10 week courses - £15 - start on
THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2008**

From 3:30 to 5:00 pm

**at Wath Comprehensive School
Sandygate Wath on Dearne S637NW**

The **unique way** in which these courses are presented allows
learners to work at their own pace.

New words are **rehearsed carefully** and
learners develop their confidence before moving on.

Self - assessment quizzes put
learners in complete control of their progression

- Food - Colours - Phrases - Body -
Numbers - Time - Shopping - Countries -

Language Learning is monitored by the Network Manager programme, and veri-
fied by the Tutor.



Leading learning and skills

ALL ENQUIRIES TO: WATH LANGUAGE COLLEGE





**WATH COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL
A LANGUAGE COLLEGE**

**Invites you to join
one of the**

Community Language Classes
to be held in the new school building
on Sandygate Wath upon Dearne

ENROLMENT EVENING

will be held on

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER
11TH 2008
from
5pm to 7pm**

**COURSES WILL BEGIN ON
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER
18TH 2008**

**SUBJECT TO STUDENT
TAKE-UP**

BEGINNERS' COURSES MAY BE
AVAILABLE IN

**FRENCH
SPANISH
PORTUGUESE
GERMAN
RUSSIAN
ITALIAN**

**COURSES WILL
BEGIN ON**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH
2008**

6:00PM TO 7:30PM

**COURSES WILL LAST FOR 30
WEEKS AND WILL COST**

£75.00

[CONCESSIONS £50.00]

**MONEY TO BE PAID ON
ENROLMENT EVENING**



**SUBJECT TO
STUDENT TAKE-UP
IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE TO OFFER**

**World Class Mathematics Tests
Wednesday 2nd July 2008
at Wath
Comprehensive School**

INTERMEDIATE COURSES
[must have already done at least one
year in the chosen language]

IN

**FRENCH
SPANISH
PORTUGUESE
GERMAN
RUSSIAN
ITALIAN**

COURSES WILL BEGIN ON

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18th 2008

7:30PM TO 9:00PM

**COURSES WILL LAST FOR 30 WEEKS
AND WILL COST**

£75.00

[CONCESSIONS £50.00]

**MONEY TO BE PAID ON
ENROLMENT EVENING**

ALL COURSES CAN ONLY OPERATE

SUBJECT TO STUDENT TAKE-UP

33 Year 5 and Year 6 students from Brampton Ellis, Wath Church of England, Wath Victoria, Wath Central and Wentworth Junior Schools took part in the World Class Maths Tests held in F16 on Wednesday, 2nd July. Unfortunately West Melton had to withdraw their entrants a matter of days before the event. All the students had been nominated by their teachers as showing good skills and ability in Mathematics.

Judging by the overwhelming views of those who took part, the experience was both very interesting and enjoyable. The event ran smoothly and it was a very impressive sight to see so many of our next year 7 students so engaged in Maths. For a few of the students who took part their first experience of Wath Comprehensive was a 2 hour Maths test and to the surprise of some, they enjoyed it!

Results will be published by the end of term and three grades of certificate are awarded: Pass, Merit and Distinction. Results from the computer part of the test suggest that there are many close to the merit already.

T. Squire

Outdoor Education this year and what's coming next year (2007 to 2008 and beyond!)

This year has been very eventful in more ways than one! Up to the end of November 2007 we had lots of B-TEC year 13 and GCSE climbing trips to the Foundry Climbing Centre in Sheffield, Millersdale Bridge abseiling, crag visits to Raven Tor and outdoor climbing at Yarncliff quarry. All producing some great results for those students who took part.



The bouldering wall



Top roping routes



The new bouldering wall

We also started a new year 10 B-TEC level 2 P.E. course that began with some orienteering at the old Earth centre, Rother Valley and Clumber Park. This course is working well and has been enjoyable to work on and I look forward to next year's groups coming through. A successful 3-day A level mountain walking expedition took place in late September 2007. Congratulations to all those who completed that one, 65km walking and two nights camping in three days taking in some stunning scenery in the "Dark Peak".



Sunset over Win Hill



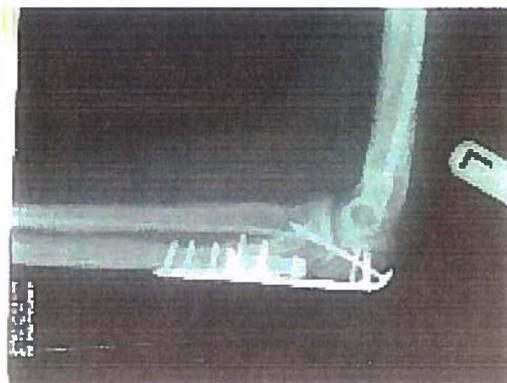
Kinder Scout 2000ft



Mam tor ridge

Our year 12 A level PE students also completed their 1 day mountain walking assessment taking in the 'gritstone edges', starting at the northern end of Stanage and walking 20km to Baslow village!

The end of November saw me take a tumble at the wall and break my forearm and elbow leading to 11 screws, two titanium plates and a few months off to recover. Don't try this at home kids!!!!



Easter saw the resumption of various programmes including year 10 and 12 B- TEC courses including mountain biking around the Derwent Valley and Wakeboarding at Rother Valley.



Some students have taken their climbing to another level by attending some Tuesday after school sessions at a whole variety of venues. Other courses this summer have involved year 10 students doing GCSE orienteering and the current year 12 getting ready for their expedition in September 08.



Orienteering at Clumber

2008—2009

We are developing the mountain biking options for all levels involving specific skills' coaching and riding sessions at Sherwood Pines new mountain bike trials and tracks. The Tuesday night climbing sessions will continue to achieve new heights! I hope. We are also introducing a new nationally recognized climbing wall achievement award scheme that students can access as part of their PE and B-TEC courses. These are brand new and we are in at the ground level that is very exciting as many of our students do well on their climbing courses. So as we close on 2007/08 we look forward to our results over the summer and have high hopes for next term. Enjoy your summer.

Mr J Ashmore



Mbwala: African Concert at Magna



On Friday 27th July, a group of year 8 singers and dancers performed at Magna in the African Mbwala Concert with 450 other pupils from 17 different schools across Rotherham.

They also had the chance to show their talents to the school and performed in their Year 8 assembly. Well done! You were fantastic!!

Rotherham Children's Book Award 2008

On Monday 30th June Reading Club went to Magna to give a presentation on their chosen book, from this year's Rotherham Children's Book Award shortlist, *At the House of the Magician* by Mary Hooper. We had the chance to meet Mary Hooper, as well as the authors from some of the other short listed novels, and, most importantly (especially for Lewis Gray) last year's winner, Michael Morpurgo. Each author gave a short speech and then gave us the chance to get our books signed. Lewis had Michael sign 7 of his!



We had spent months preparing, reading and rehearsing for the big day, even staying behind after school on several occasions; it was all worth it in the end though.



We made our own props and created a wonderful table display for the Market Hall which was one of the best there, but still couldn't beat the giant pig made by one of the Primary Schools to celebrate the novel *The Pig That Saved The Day*. We had a lot of fun preparing for the day but it wasn't all fun and games. Ben Barkworth had to learn how to juggle, Milena Szulc had to walk like a queen and Matthew Wilson had to sing like Madness! Okay, so maybe it was all fun and games.

Almost all of the schools in Rotherham participated this year but with only 6 schools (including us) being brave enough to go up on the big stage and entertain the crowd of over 800 people, including the Mayor of Rotherham - nerve-wracking! The winning book this year was *Titanic 2020* by Colin Bateman, an excellent read and a much deserved winner - we voted for that one! If you'd like to read this novel you should speak to Miss Benn or Miss Marshall in the English department.



We're now looking for new enthusiastic members so if you're interested in music, drama, art or simply love reading, then look out for notices next year for your chance to participate in The Rotherham Children's Book Award 2009.

By Reading Club

Suki Lee, Lewis Gray, Aaron Shelton, Ben Barkworth, Matthew Wilson, Robert Davies, Chloe Hopkin Ben Wilson, Emma Yerrell, Milena Szulc.

NEWS OF FORMER STUDENT



Beijing Bound!

Wath will be represented at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing in the shape of former student Chris Fallis. Chris will be flying out to China at the end of July for a month as part of the BBC team covering the Olympic Games.

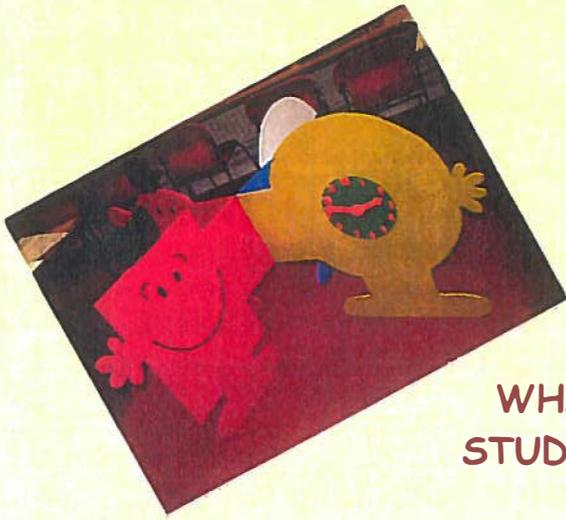
Chris works in the BBC Sports Library and part of his job will be to log and catalogue the events as they happen so that the producers have instant access to replays and highlights. Every race, jump, throw, gymnastics routine etc will be recorded to form an archive of the event so that medal winning performances from the next Kelly Holmes and Steve Redgrave can be kept and accessed easily.

Chris has already been involved in researching material for the opening credits and introductory programmes. He has had his injections to protect him from various diseases, and has been given his anti-bird flu tablets, but he doesn't expect to be sharing his accommodation with infected chickens!

This is the second Olympics Chris will have been involved with, having helped cover the Athens Olympics in 2004. He has also worked on Wimbledon, the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, the Open Golf and Match of the Day.

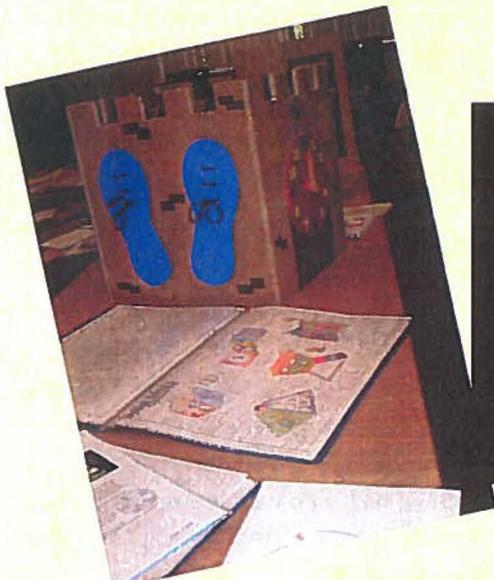
So, if you see his name in the closing credits, you will know that Wath Comprehensive has contributed a small part to a world event.

Technology Open Evening Photographs



WHAT TALENTED
STUDENTS WE HAVE
AT WATH

CONGRATULATIONS
TO YOU ALL





NATASHA OATES NEWS



Natasha continues to train very hard with her swimming and on Saturday 12th July 2008 she took part in the 3rd British Learning Disability Swimming Championships which took place at Pond's Forge, Sheffield. She was scheduled to take part in the following events:

- 50m back stroke
- 100m breast stroke
- 50m breast stroke
- 50 m freestyle

This is a very challenging schedule for an adult but is one that Natasha, aged 12 years, takes in her stride.

This year Natasha will be swimming as an elite athlete, against other competitors of various ages and against the National Great Britain Squad.



This is a tremendous achievement Natasha and we look forward to reporting, in the September issue of 'In Touch' the results from this competition.

Y11 WIGS WEEKENDS

WIGS (Wath Improving Grades) is part of the Assertive Mentoring Scheme for Y11. It involves a variety of activities throughout the year aimed at improving attainment. Student effort is monitored weekly and students have the chance to gain additional qualifications. There are rewards for good performance, and a number of trips out - one of which is a residential weekend in Derbyshire.

Previously we had run sessions for Y11 boys and girls on the same weekend in different Youth Hostels (Eyam and Edale). Concentration on these weekends is definitely better on a single sex programme in a "Mobile free" zone. This time we segmented the sessions by time rather than distance with a girls' weekend being followed by a boys' weekend and both being in Edale, Derbyshire.

The girls' weekend was freezing! The number of girls who complained about the cold was 0. A definite highlight was the flying shoe of Miss Benn, whilst the girls also remembered the disappointment when it was discovered that Mr Powell hadn't locked himself out!

In their programme the girls all prepared an individual revision timetable with Miss Benn or Miss Hakopian, had a learning seminar to improve their revision skills, and took a giant "Leap of Faith" from the top of a huge totem pole.

The lads' weekend survived the disappointment of a slow getaway to prove a real success. They also benefited from much warmer weather. Videos of Mr Brennin and the spectacular jump of Mr Boyd are even now occupying space on You Tube! Again with the help of Mr Taylor and Mr Hopkin as well as the aforementioned duo, a revision timetable was produced. Richard Ryder produced an animated CD of the dramatic outdoor activities (including blind folded totem pole leaps) and a learning seminar was successfully negotiated.

Wath Comprehensive Y7 Football Tournament

27th June 2008

When it was announced the previous day that Mr Wesson's Y7 PE group would be independently organising a football tournament for the other two Y7 PE groups, jubilant cheers filled the changing room. Practising the same day in the Sports Hall, the group was divided into three: Referees, Team Captains, and Team Organisers. The roles were explained in depth, and the following day, the tournament started in earnest.

A table was set up for the organisational team, with the other two groups organized into teams by the colour-coded team captains. The bright colours filled the white and dreary sky as teams marched off to the immense football pitches. The bell was rung, shattering the relative quiet of the sports field. The teams set off, balls rolling and flying through the air, shouting in anger and shrill, loud whistles echoed through the air. Disagreements sparked, fouls were debated, and (minor) injuries were sustained all around. The organisers' table became a place of business and a frenzy of shouted scores, great goals and fantastic (for the opposing team) missed shots.

For some time, the results' table was a chaotic mix of players' names, making it look more like a signed piece of cardboard than a table but Mr Taylor restored order. Like lions on a gazelle, the football players pounced on the ball, making many people wonder if there was any chance of the ball still being round. However, at the end of the day (or 50 minute lesson), the teams triumphed, making the day a worthwhile endeavour. Many thanks to the organizational team, which included...

Jack Baxter, organisational assistant
Rhys Buckfield, timer
Jordan Crosby, general organiser
Jordan Dungworth, photographer
Macaulay Fitzpatrick, organisational assistant
Ben Fleetwood, scoring
Kyle Howarth, general organiser
Zak Kingsland, bell ringer
Lewis Weatherstone, player replacement
Dominic Webb, match report writer



As the scores for the teams after six rounds were added up, there was an atmosphere of tension as players anxiously waited for their final rounds. Eventually, after eight action-packed rounds, the winning team were led by Orrin McIntyre.



Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Student Journalists, English Club and Reading Club Meet Author Alan Gibbons.

On Wednesday 2nd July 2008 the Student Journalists, English Club and Reading Club visited Wath library to meet the author Alan Gibbons.

This was a great afternoon for both teachers and students. We learnt about the environment he grew up in and what inspired him to write books and poems.

Before he became a writer he was a teacher and he wrote stories for the Year 2 pupils he taught. People told him that these stories were good so he decided to publish them and after his teaching career he became a popular author with a great imagination.

Everybody had a great afternoon listening to Alan and we had many questions answered about what it takes to become a published writer. You could tell we all enjoyed the day from the look on everyone's faces. The time flew by and we enjoyed hearing some hilarious tales from Alan's childhood in Crewe.

He read some of his poems from everyday life based on real things such as his love for Manchester Utd. We found this really interesting and had a great time. We laughed a lot and we thought he was a very bubbly and interesting man.

He has won a lot of awards and has a great talent. He has written many books for children and teens and I have listed some below. One of his most famous novels for young people is 'In the Shadow of the Minotaur' which won the Blue Peter Award for 'Best Novel'.

"Rise of the Blood Moon"

"Blood Pressure"

"Caught in the Crossfire"

"Julie and Me... Michael Owen Makes Three"

"The Demon Assassin"

He is currently writing a series of horror stories for teens but other themes of his novels include racism, domestic violence and bullying. If you're looking for a summer read, an Alan Gibbons book would be a good choice!

Written By Natalie Edwards Student Journalist club.

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS' BALL

Sixth months of planning and hard work all came to fruition on the evening of Friday July 4th as our current Y13 held their Leavers' Ball at the Brooklands Hotel at Dodworth in Barnsley. Anyone else wanting stretched limousines for the evening would have found them in short supply as it seemed that nearly all the available stock in Barnsley was used to transport our Y13 to the hotel!

Inside the hotel, the Head Boy, Simon Tingle, and Head Girl, Laura Davies, had been exceptionally busy all day, decorating the tables with blue and gold balloons and ribbons to create a very impressive ambience.

There were well over two hundred guests in attendance and this helped to create a very friendly and convivial atmosphere. There was a three course meal, after which were presentations to the Headteacher, Heads of Sixth Form and Senior Students and this was followed by a disco which ended in the small hours of the morning. A good job that was a Saturday! It was a lovely evening and one that staff and students will remember for a very long time.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The Learning Mentor Team will be running their fantastic Summer School this year, week commencing the 18th August. The Summer School is an excellent opportunity for selected new Y6/Y7 transition students who are transferring from a Primary school out of our local area to learn and make new friends in a fun environment. The students involved will be given a challenge on their arrival to summer school. In previous years this has been to plan and perform a show, the results being the fabulous 'Hubbly Bubbly Circus' and also the very popular 'A Musical Extravaganza' which parents of all the students involved were invited to watch. The students will attend the Summer School over a week period and take part in planning and organising a showcase performance. Using our learning bank, they will work on improving both their numeracy and literacy skills. The students will also look at the different ways that they can learn and develop their own learning styles that will help them in every subject they study. Watch this space for an update on all their fantastic efforts.

Running along side our Summer School will be Sherlock Bones, a programme that involves a Crime Scene Investigation. This will run for a weeklong period and again is aimed at successful transition from Primary to Secondary School.

And last but by no means least, during the week there will also be a chance for selected children and their parents, to attend Raucous Robots. This is a programme run over a week period aimed at students, and their parents who will be transferring to Wath Comprehensive this summer and is an excellent opportunity for parents to work with their child by coming together to build various mechanisms, using motors, batteries and gears to create moving robots.

All the above programmes are specially designed for the invited students to aid transition into secondary school and focus on any issues around transition whilst providing an exciting learning environment.



TryLine



During the past 10 weeks, a group of year 8 students from Wath have been attending the Tryline Centre, which is a study support facility, on a Thursday evening. The centre is based at Clifton Lane Sports Ground and is home to the Rotherham Titans. The facility is one of many across the country and is part of the government's Playing for Success initiative.



In total, the students have completed 20 hours of additional study. During this time students have completed tasks such as interviewing one of the players, building a rocket and a DVD ground tour project. The idea behind the scheme was to help students further develop their ICT, Literacy and Numeracy skills.

I feel the students have benefited enormously from this and plans are already in motion for next year's cohort.

Congratulations to the following for completing the course.

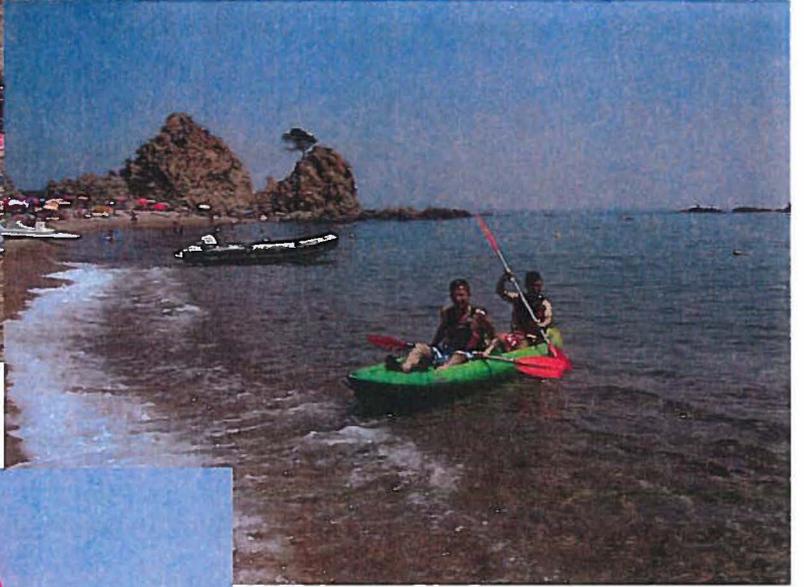
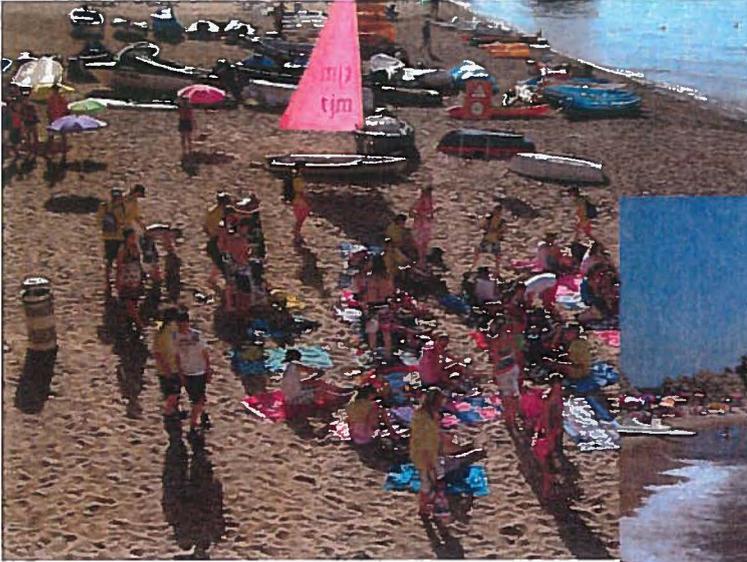
- Jake Lee
- Nathan Weatherstone
- Nathan Mountain
- Zoe Marshall
- Callum Gill
- Joshua Birley
- Lucy Bailey
- Sam North
- Shauna Denham
- Jack Beard
- Levi Clarke



Mr Shaw

Watersports Trip June 2008

Watersports Trip June 2008





From Page to Stage

Three months ago, all we had was a set of scripts and the raw energy and enthusiasm to do a show. Now after an enormous amount of hard work we have performed two amazing shows in front of cheering audiences.

There are almost too many highlights to mention. All the stars on stage sang and danced brilliant routines, and there are special thanks to Rachel Fuller for her superb choreography.



As we look forward to the last night, excitement is building and we know it is going to be amazing, it has to be the most summertastic school show ever!

We would like to thank the following people for their help...

Mr Bilby: For being a wizard technician.

Miss Hole: For being an excellent Band Leader.

Miss Roach, Miss Mellor and Rachel Fuller: For being choreographers extraordinaire!

Miss Hakopian and Thomas Paskell: For and all the super singing.



Mrs Porter, Miss Gracey, Mr Berriman and Mr Demetriou: For helping bring 'Greased Lightning' to life.

Mr Mcgrath: For images that have whisked audiences back to the 50's.

Mr McHale and his stage crew: For bringing on beds and cars.

And finally thanks to an amazing Cast, Dancers and Chorus who really have made sure 'Grease' is the word.



The Expressive Arts Department

REVIEW DAYS

The school held three very successful Review Days during the course of this year, with the final one, earlier this term, being very well supported by parents/carers. The aim of the Review Days is to provide the opportunity for parents and students to formally meet with the Personal Tutor, discuss progress through the preceding half term and then set targets for the future.

The feedback provided by Tutors is closely linked to the school's assessment procedure. This provides students, parents and subject teachers with information on attendance, punctuality, motivation and assessment results from each half-term. This regular feedback is invaluable in keeping students fully informed of the level/grade at which they are working, what they need to do to improve and provide staff with the information necessary to accurately use intervention strategies to help raise attainment.

The dates of the three Review Days for next academic year are:

Review Day 1 Monday 10th November 2008

Review Day 2 Wednesday 7th January 2009

Review Day 3 Friday 24th April 2009

Letters will be arriving home with students towards the end of the first half term of next academic year to invite parents/carers to visit the school and meet with Personal Tutors for the first Review Day. The attendance of students is compulsory. We will be in a position to feedback on progress through the first half term of the year. We hope you will be able to join us.

Mr J Taylor
Assistant Headteacher

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY VISIT

When we arrived at Sheffield University we were allocated into groups. We were able to work with someone from Wath and then we were put together with students from other schools. Emily Weatherstone and I worked in Group C1 with two students from Saint Pius.

Whilst we were in these groups we had to do a number of tasks which included: building a car, building a robot and making buoys. The first challenge of our day was probably the hardest—making buoys. As there were lots of electronics involved we let Matthew, from Saint Pius take charge of that. We then pulled out ideas together.

After a short break we went on to build an electronic car. Emily and I concentrated on the structure while Matthew again concentrated on the electronics. This went well although we didn't get the best time.

We went to the lecture theatre for our lunch before we took part in our final challenge. This was the most fun as we built a Robot which had to climb up a steep slope. We were very pleased as we won this challenge and our Robot did look the best.

At the end of the day we went back to the Lecture Theatre for the Presentations to the winners. Each challenge had a winner then there was a prize for the overall winner. We unexpectedly won overall and received a trophy. This also means that we have a place in the Finals which will take place in November.

We would like to thank Mr Avill and Mrs Bown for giving up their time to take us to this competition.

Hayla Stanworth

Friends of Wath Comprehensive School

The Friends of Wath Comprehensive School is a Registered Charity which is affiliated to The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations. The objectives of this group are:

- ◆ To advance the education of pupils in the school
- ◆ To develop effective relationships between the staff, parents/carers and others associated with the school
- ◆ To engage in activities or provide facilities or equipment which supports the school and advances the education of pupils.

Throughout 2007/08 they have worked tirelessly to raise money and to provide activities which have included running a race night, organising discos, numbers club etc. . Staff and students have been able to apply for funding for a variety of purposes which include:

- * £65 to the Science Department for the purchase of a shredder
- * £30 for the Knit and Natter Group to purchases threads, wool etc
- * £500 to provide prizes for students at the annual Prize Winners' Evening.
- * £153 to the History Department for the purchase of a DVD player and some DVDs
- * £400 to provide rewards for students who achieve Platinum Prizes.

Although this is an impressive list, they would like to do so much more so that the students at Wath do benefit from a wealth of activities and experiences that enhance their learning whilst at Wath. They are looking to recruit new members who will be willing to bring new ideas

Do you have an hour or two to spare each term?

Do you have any ideas on how we can raise more funds?

Do you have lots of energy and enthusiasm?

If so, the first meeting next term will be on Thursday 4th September 2008 at 7 p.m.

Please come along and meet in reception where light refreshments will be provided. Your help and support is most welcome.

Year 8 Rounders Team

The Team

Emily Weatherstone

Lucy Sowerby

Jessica Degney

Naomi Roache

Samantha Hope

Grace Wakefield

Hayley Stanworth

Holly Coldron

Rhian Evans

Betty Ding

Stevie-Lee Hoyle

Abigail Bembridge



Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College took part in a Rounders Tournament on Thursday 19th June 2008. We were very fortunate to win all of our games with great scores. We had some great batting from everyone in the team. Special mention should be given to Stevie-Lee Hoyle and Grace Wakefield who both scored several rounders each.

When we were fielding, Lucy Sowerby, the backstop, made an excellent catch to get one of the players out and Abigail Bembridge had several great catches to record. This has meant that we have now reached the final.

Emily Weatherstone

Good Luck

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