



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

May 2008

As I write the examination 'season' is well and truly upon us, as we approach the final half term of the school year.

Year 9 were the first to start and they completed their SATs examinations in Maths, English and Science a couple of weeks ago. They coped very well as it is a very intense week for them with tests morning and afternoon every day. They can now focus on preparations for GCSE courses as some of the work starts this term.

Years 11 and 12 GCSE and AS examinations are now under way and Year 13's A2 will follow shortly and will continue until the end of June. A programme of classes and study/revision sessions will run throughout this period ensuring that all students have access to specialist support.

Many tutor groups have celebrated the significant time in their schooldays by going out for a meal with their form tutor, Head of Year Mr Bestford and Y11 Student Support Worker Mr Boyd. I think that Mr Bestford and Mr Boyd would now write quite a comprehensive guide to local restaurants!

Just before the first examinations Year 11 students had a final opportunity to meet together in a celebration assembly. This was a very special occasion where staff and students from each tutor group could share memories and highlights from the five years spent in school and all students received their final progress certificate. The presentations were interspersed with musical items from Ashley Sagar, Andrew Gillespie, Jake Moore and Elliot Ormandroyd. Elliot's hilarious rendition of Victoria Wood's 'Lets do it' had staff and students crying with laughter and will be remembered for many years to come. The occasion ended with a buffet and the opportunity for photographs to be taken and memory books to be signed.

Year 13 begin their study leave on Friday 23 May and they will also have an opportunity to celebrate their years together with a special assembly.

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Once the intense period of examinations is over students can look forward to their respective Y11 and post-16 proms, which are always very enjoyable occasions.

Finally, I would like to wish all students taking examinations the very best of luck and I would particularly like to thank all staff for the tremendous amount of time and hard work they have put in beyond the school day in support of our students. We are fortunate in having such a committed and dedicated team of staff, I'm sure that efforts are much appreciated by our students and their families.

P Ward
Headteacher

Can you pass your experience on to help our students ?

Many of our students in Year 11 follow the Additional Applied Course, which is a GCSE with a more vocational feel. Instead of the traditional Biology, Chemistry and Physics elements, it covers Food Science, Sports Science and Forensic Science. In addition students study Science in the workplace, jobs and careers that use Science and how people use Science safely. This includes hazards, risk assessments, first aid arrangements and fire precautions and can be applied to almost any job at all.

We are looking for speakers to tell our students about how some of these are used in work, so if you could spare an hour to pass on your experiences please give Mr Hogan a call.

'Free' GCSE marks from your work experience????

Before going on their work experience, all Year 10 students will have a form to fill in so they can put this in their Applied Science portfolio that most will be starting in September. We would be very grateful if you could support our students with this as it can give them a flying start to their GCSE and earn marks directly for the GCSE. Any job that uses chemicals, from shampoo and concrete to acids, or tools will be suitable. If you would like to help our students but are unsure or better still if you would like to talk to the students please ask me.

Biology Olympiad Results

Some Year 13 Biology 'A' level students were invited to participate in the National Biological Olympiad, a competition that selects students to represent the country in an international competition. Despite some online difficulties on the day of the examination (the fault being at the Institute of Biology website, not ours!) all students sat the exam and did their best in difficult circumstances. Two students performed exceptionally well and were placed in the list of prize-winners.

Bethany Harker received a Silver medal, which will be presented at The institute of Biology in London

Thomas Wood received a Commended certificate.

Well done to these students and to all the others who took part.

Thank you

Y11 Cookery Demonstration at Muskaans Restaurant

On Wednesday 30th April 2008 Mrs Morley's Year 11 Food Technology students enjoyed an evening of Indian cuisine at Muskaans Restaurant in Rotherham. The evening started with demonstrations by staff from the restaurant on how to cook a variety of Indian food. After this the opportunity was given for staff and students to prepare a selection of dishes which were later eaten by the group. This was a most enjoyable evening and was a real success. Everyone finished the evening by sitting down to eat a fabulous meal and there are already plans being made to visit again.

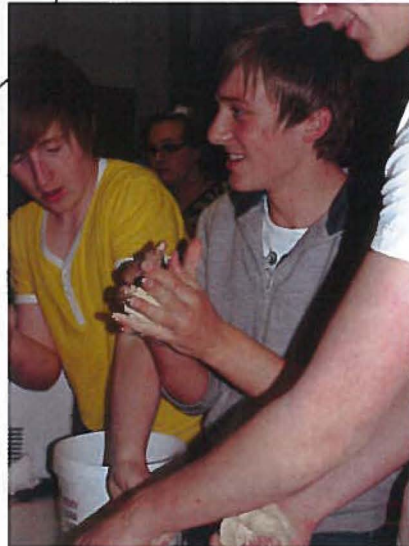
Here are some quotes from some of the students who took part.

It was a fabulous night and we all had fun. The teachers were very funny outside of school. It was interesting how food was made and I loved the whole experience

Lauren

I thought that the restaurant visit helped me a lot because I now know what it takes to run a restaurant. The meal was fantastic, especially Miss Ackerley attempting to put the naan bread in the clay oven, it was brilliant.

Vinnie



It was a really fabulous night. We all had a load of fun, even the teachers were funny—it was great.

Natalie

I really enjoyed seeing Mr Boyd and Mr Bestford cooking but nothing can beat Miss Ackerley dancing around the kitchen with a naan bread.

Beth and Adele



MINING MEMORIES

Year 8 History students had a few teachers extra last week in their class, when ex-miners from Wath and Cortonwood came into school to answer their questions. The Dearne Valley Memory Keeper Project is trying to record local experiences for future generations so that our heritage is preserved.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The five miners all worked in pits across the area served by our school today, including Wath Main, Manvers and Cortonwood. Students in 8CD and 8LD thought of some questions to ask them about their lives down the mines to tie in with their History project in Y8. Also in the class were two ladies whose families had sons or brothers working at the coal face who were able to explain the impact this had on their lives.

Students listened carefully to some of the stories of friendship and fear in the cramped conditions underground, as well as tales of sadness and sorrow for those who lost their lives in the industry. The former coal fields of the Dearne Valley once employed thousands of men, and form part of our local history. It is this important part of the lives of the community two generations ago that is the focus of the Memory Keeper Project.

The lessons were filmed as the miners talked about the past, with an eye on the future of the area. Their stories of improving health and safety, specialist machinery and tools and better working conditions are the legacy which our Y8 students will inherit when they start work in the new employment industries set up in the area after the pits all closed. The DVD of the lessons will be made available to other classes in Wath, and to other schools across the area as part of the KS3 local History strand. It is hoped that Wath will also produce some classroom materials to accompany the DVD so that other students from outside the former West Yorkshire Coalfields can share in our past.

Year 11 Vocational Students on the Hair and Beauty Course



Here we have some of our Vocational students who have all achieved their NVQ Level 1 in both Beauty and Hairdressing.

The Hairdressing students have attended Leslie Francis Training College, whilst the Beauty Students have attended Oakwood Beauty Academy.

They have all studied for these qualifications throughout KS4.

Most of the girls are continuing their studies post 16, some at Leslie Francis, and others at Dearne Valley College.

I would like to take this opportunity to say it has been a pleasure working with the girls and wish them all 'Good Luck' in their chosen careers.

Mrs J Ackerley

Year 11 Celebration Assembly

On Tuesday 13th May 2008 Year 11 students celebrated their years at Wath. After registration they all went to the hall for a presentation ceremony where each student received their progress file.



During this assembly they were also entertained by students from their year group performing a variety of musical items plus each tutor group recalled their many happy memories of their time at Wath.

Mrs P Ward, Headteacher, and Mr D Bestford, Head of Year 11, concluded the ceremony with final messages and to wish them every success with their final examinations. The students were then able to spend some time chatting with their friends, tutors and teachers as they enjoyed a buffet. It was then off to continue their revision.



YOUNG JOURNALIST PROJECT

The Young Journalist Project continues to flourish at Wath with two exciting developments. The first of these involves the team taking part, with some staff, in training for pod casting and this will take place from 3–5 p.m. on Monday 9th June 2008.

The second is the team's involvement in the reporting of a very important conference that is being held at Magna on Monday 7th July 2008. This conference, Building Schools for the Future, will be attended by most Rotherham Headteachers as well as Senior Local Education Authority officials plus other interested parties. Diva Creative will supply all the technical staff and do the filming with the Young Journalists being involved in the reporting and presenting.

This will therefore mean that the team will be involved in several half day sessions to plan, script and develop storyboarding. The staff from Diva Creative will be supplying the training which will take place on their premises in Sheffield. The Young Journalists will benefit from working in a professional media environment with access to all the associated technology.

The objective of all of this is that at the end of the Conference all delegates will receive a DVD featuring the Conference Report which will be presented by the Young Journalists from Wath. This is an excellent opportunity, both for the students and the school to be involved with such an influential audience.

We look forward to reporting on both developments in future issues of In Touch.



Year 11 - Hoping to be 'Belles of the Ball'!

On 30th April, students from year 11 attended a presentation by 'Stush' professional hairdressers.

Taking place in the hall, a team of three hairdressers, each accompanied with their own model, demonstrated various hairstyles that would be easy to do, yet impress fellow attendees to the Prom.

Using hair straighteners they demonstrated curling techniques, that when added by fantastic accessories such as flowers and Swarovski crystals for the hair, will ensure that the girls will look a million dollars on the night!



Year 11 students enthralled in the hairdressing presentation

Some of the girls had the opportunity to try on some prom dresses and had their hair styled by the hairdressers. One student said; "Great advice. I can't wait to try it at home!" Another said; "I have been given lots of inspiration and ideas for my hairstyle...Can't wait for the Prom!"

Budding Keyboardists give up their Breaktime!

Miss Hakopian has set up 'Keyboard Club' at break times for students to practise for their assessments and allow them to explore their creativity. This is proving to be a great success as attainment levels have already improved.

This club takes place Mondays to Thursdays at break time in F4.

Everyone is welcome!!

One student offering advice to another!



Some of the members of 'Keyboard Club'



is coming to Wath Comprehensive

Less than 10 weeks to go and rehearsals are well under way. We can report that you will be blown away by all the cast's performances!

The chorus singers have been giving up their Wednesday lunchtimes for rehearsals. This will extend to rehearsals after school, following the Spring Bank Holiday.

They have all been doing exceptionally well, keep up the good work!



Some of the cast learning the songs!



Danny and Sandy at a heated moment in the musical!

The T'Birds with Danny, Sandy and Patty!



'Grease' chorus singers rehearsing!



Wath - A Healthy School?

We now have a small team of staff working towards completing the audit criteria to enable Wath Comprehensive School to achieve 'National Healthy School Status' by summer 2009.

Within the criteria, there are 4 core themes to consider:

Personal, Social and Health Education



Healthy Eating



Physical Activity



Emotional Health and Wellbeing



Pupils will be informed of the process being undertaken and asked for their views towards the end of the summer term during a PSHCE Education lesson. If you have any comments regarding Wath - A Healthy School, please email me at wacslwilson@rqfl.org.

Keep posted for regular updates on our progress.

Miss Wilson (Healthy Schools Co-ordinator)

Build a Bridge Project

On the 7th of May 2008, three Lance Corporals from the Royal Logistics Corps travelled from Catterick Garrison to Wath to work with students who study engineering, electronics and other students who are part of the Army Cadets Force.



The activities lasted four lessons. The first activity was to build a bridge. It wasn't simple we only had 20 minutes planning and 2 lessons to build our final design. The students had a limited supply of equipment to build the bridge that had to span over a 500mm gap. The bridge had to be strong enough to hold the weights that were put onto it. The winning bridge finally held 9 stone, which was one of the army men standing on the bridge!

The second task was to build a tank out of plastic tubes. We were supplied with the tubes and a simple picture was also given as instructions. The students had a limited amount of time to build the tank and the fastest team won. The winning team successfully built their tank in 12 minutes.



Overall the morning went very well and students gained a lot from the team work activities. The students found it very interesting and had a lot of questions answered about army life and jobs in the army.

Natalie Vickers.



Biology Challenge News

This year Wath Biology Department has been fortunate to be involved in the national pilot examination called the Biology Challenge set up by the Institute of Biology. Miss Teather's Year 10 class, who are studying GCSE Triple Science, were invited to take part. This involved an initial examination to test their general Biological knowledge; those that passed this progressed to a second more difficult examination. Marks were submitted to the IOB along with those of 4000 other students from around the country. The following students have been placed highly enough to merit special mention. They will be receiving certificates to recognise their considerable achievement.

Silver medal: Zara Smith

Bronze medal: Bethany Derby and Abigail Kelly

Highly commended: James King

Commended: Rebecca Brown and Sam Stratford.

Congratulations to the above students and to all who took part - well done!

A full list of prize-winners can be seen at
<http://www.biology-olympiad.org.uk/resources/Biology+Challenge+Pilot+Medal+Winners.doc>

It is nice to see Wath Comprehensive listed amongst all the other schools!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
23rd May 2008	Last day of half term
2nd June 2008	Return to School
2nd to 6th June 2008	Year 7 Wetlands visits
13th June 2008	Additional INSET day
16th to 20th June 2008	y7 visit to France
23rd to 29th June 2008	Watersports visit
30th June to 11 July 2008	Y10 Work Experience
2nd July 2008	New year 7 induction
9th /10th/11th July 2008	School production of Grease
18th July 2008	Last day of term

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