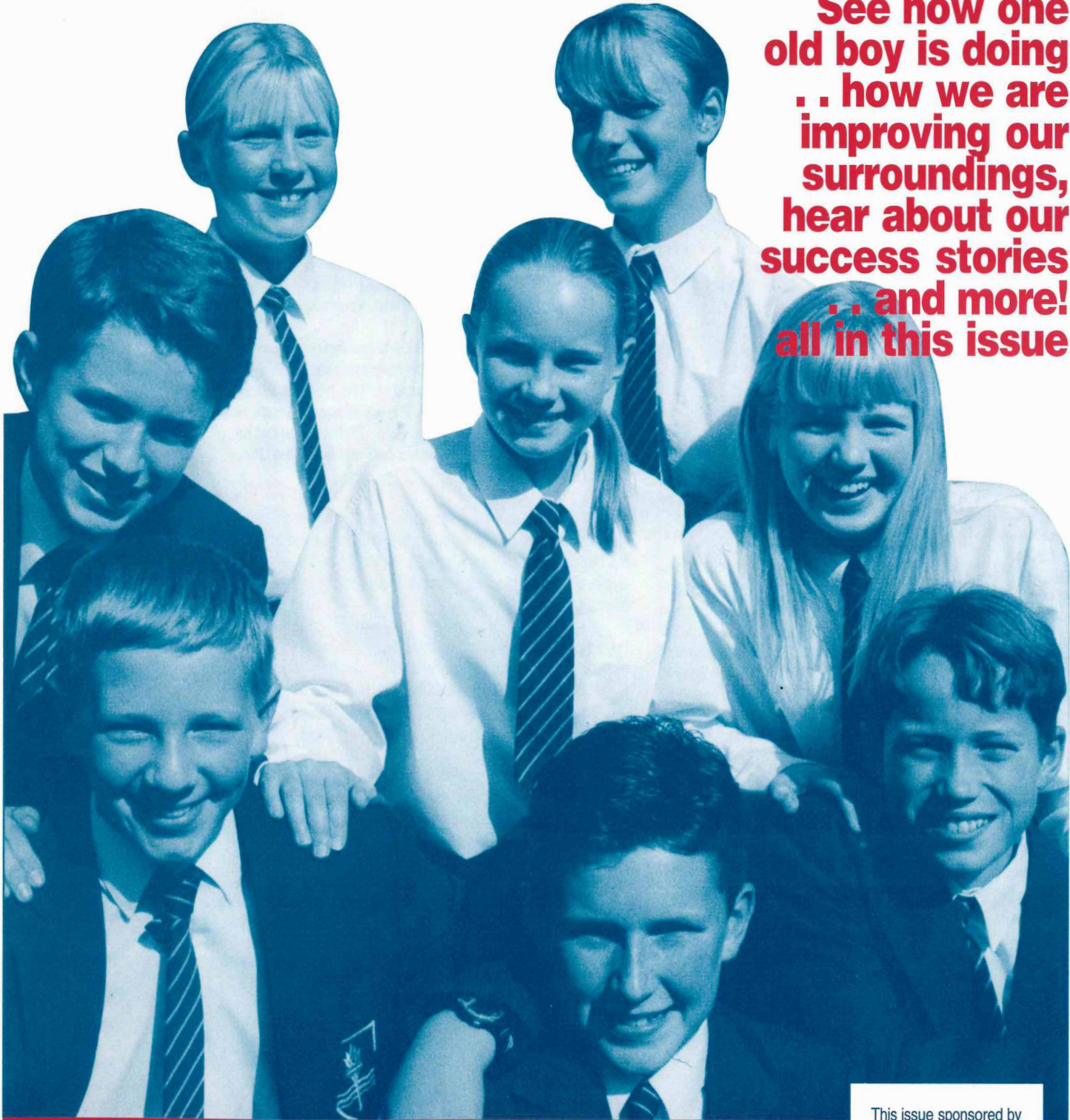


CONNEXIONS

1



See how one old boy is doing . . . how we are improving our surroundings, hear about our success stories . . . and more! all in this issue

Welcome to the first edition of **Connexions**, the News Magazine of Wath Comprehensive School, keeping in touch with students, parents and friends of the school. Featured inside are items on people, events, achievements and a focus on the environment.

We hope to produce two editions of **Connexions** each year in November and May.

This issue sponsored by



Yorkshire Bank

What Happens Next?

Diary Dates

June

3-7 June

"Active I.T." Year 7 - Year 9
Isle of Wight

20 June

School Sports Day
School Field

26 June

Inter-School Sports
Herringtonthorpe Leisure Centre
We are defending the
Winners' shield for the 6th
year running!

26 June 8.00pm

Annual Parents Meeting -
School Library

24 June - 12 July

'Project Trident' - work
experience for all Year 10
Sixth Form Work experience:
Barcelona

July

4 July 7.00pm

New Entrants'
parents evening

8-12 July

Science in Europe visit -Year 8

8-15 July

French adventure visit
14-16 July
France visit - Year 7

August

15 August

'A' level results published

22 August

GCSE results published

September

3 September

Autumn term begins for pupils



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Blasts from the Past!

Brief news of former Wathonians

Kerry Taylor is working for a satellite television company in Hong Kong

Angela Millington is teaching English at Cartagena in Spain

Catherine Atkinson is Assistant Personnel Officer at Sheffield Children's Hospital

Nicola Reader is teaching Music at Park Hall School in Birmingham

Michael West works for the Bank of London in South America

Carol Lowrie is working for Lloyds Bank in York

Byron Smith is a solicitor in York

Cheryl Turner is teaching at St George's school in Sleaford

Helen Turton is an accountant in Barnsley

Nigel Pepper is playing football for York City

Paul Heald plays in goal for Wimbledon

Julia Thompson is based in London, working for Eurostar

Mark Kirby and **Helen Kirby** are both teaching in Osaka, Japan

Shirley Corns (Nee Stevenson) is Head of Languages at Rockingham College

Chris Brothwell is Associate Sales Manager for Proctor and Gamble

Sarah Lowe is working for the Criminal Prosecution Service in Sheffield

Justin Sorby is working for Barclays Bank in Manchester

Susan Jones works for Unilever in Bedford. She has recently studied at Wisconsin University.

From Wath to Wales, via Richmond



Perhaps you would not expect an old Wathonian to become a Conservative Cabinet Minister, still less to have a meteoric rise in Tory politics - but with WILLIAM HAGUE, that is exactly what happened - and his teachers are not really surprised at all!

'Haggis' could reel off the names of MPs and their constituencies at 14 and did brilliant Harold Wilson impersonations at 16. A member of the very notable sixth form of 1979, he scored straight 'A's at 'A' level and went on to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Magdalen College, Oxford. There he was told he could either get a first class degree or be President of the Union: he did both!

In 1987 he stood as Conservative candidate in Wentworth, and was predictably well beaten, but in 1989 he was selected to fight the Richmond by-election and became the last Conservative successfully to hold a Tory seat in a by-election. In 1992 his majority was over 23,000.

He did not stay on the back benches long - personal aide to Norman Lamont, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Minister for Social Security, Minister for the Disabled, and since July 1995, Secretary of State for Wales and the youngest Cabinet Minister since the 1940s.

His officials are puzzled that their boss likes to climb the Welsh mountains, but he was, after all, the boy who ran up Helvellyn before breakfast on a school trip in 1976. They like his pleasant and relaxed manner and becoming modesty, and we could have told them about that too! William keeps in touch with many Wath contemporaries, and is immensely proud of his old school. He has accepted our invitation to be principal guest at Speech Day in January 1997.

Cambridge Places for 1996

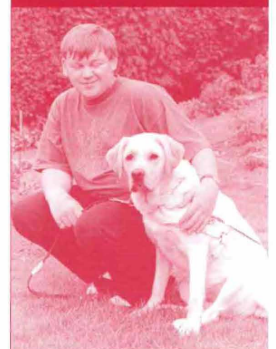
Two Upper Sixth students have been offered places at Cambridge University for October 1996.

Deputy Head Girl, Catherine Gammons, has a place at Jesus College to read Geography. She will study alongside former Head Girl, Clare Bacon, who is studying French and Spanish at the college.

Ian Johnson, who joined us from Darfield Foulstone School in 1994, will study Natural Sciences at Selwyn College where he will join four other former Wath Sixth Formers, Stephen Fern, Steven Gennard, Dominic Rolling and John Turner.

Eddie Kitchen

Amongst the leavers from the Upper Sixth last summer, one person stands out. We are used to success at the highest level in the Sixth Form but the achievement of Eddie Kitchen will always be remembered, for he is the first blind student to have taken 'A' levels and gone on to university from Wath. Eddie's strength of character and constant good humour were an example to all of us; life can be difficult for any student in a large school but he coped splendidly and was uncompromising. In addition to gaining good GCSE's, 'A' level results and a place at Sunderland University, he was awarded the prestigious Tom Walker trophy when voted as the school's most admired student. Eddie's adorable golden Labrador guide dog Rowan was a star attraction at a full staff meeting last September when he attempted to eat the Head's notes (most regrettably, he wasn't quite fast enough!).



Mrs Mary Addey (1928 - 1996): A Life for Learning

Many of those who crowded into Wath Trinity Methodist Church for Mary Addey's funeral in February reflected her life-long involvement with our school - teachers past and present, former pupils, governors, parents and friends. All wanted to pay tribute to a teacher who inspired affection and respect in both pupils and colleagues.

A former pupil of the school, she returned in 1962 to teach Biology, becoming Senior Teacher and Head of Year 7 in 1972. For 14 years, until her retirement in 1986, every new entrant to the school passed through her expert and caring hands, and all owe her a massive debt for putting them *on the right track* from the start: 'Mrs Addey says....' was as much the watchword in Year 7 Wing as in the Science Block. Her Christianity shone through her teaching, and she believed passionately in the power of education to improve society.

No-one could have done more to enrich the educational experiences of children - school parties to the Lake District, Norfolk Broads, ballet, concerts, Wath tip reclamation project, Dearne Valley UNA. Inside and outside the classroom Mary Addey was totally committed to the welfare of young people. We miss her deeply, but we are proud of the part she played in the shaping of the school that meant so much to her.

On 24 May, Mr Addey and other members of the family will open the 'Mary Addey Garden', created out of the lower quadrangle, and now to be named after her as a lasting memorial to a fine Wathonian.



Sixth Formers Survive Terror Quake!!

The twelve Upper Sixth Spanish students and their three teachers who went to Barcelona for the Catalonia Study Visit in February are back home safe and well after surviving a Force 5 earthquake, Spain's most serious quake for 30 years. What turned out to be another highly successful visit could well have been an appalling multi-death tragedy: fortunately all but two of the party took it all in their stride and didn't even bother to wake up! Head of Sixth Form, Derek Bacon and Joanne Limer were both woken by the 3am tremor and Mr Bacon

(apparently in most attractive light blue pyjamas!) was seen running around the hotel corridors in a panic, screaming "Vamos a morir, vamos a morir!" ("We're going to die, we're going to die!").

The study visit enabled to students to learn much about this region of Spain which has its own language, Catalan, and to enjoy the atmosphere of one of the world's most exciting cities. Several of the students did two weeks' work experience in the region in the Lower Sixth and met up again with friends made at that time.

Wath Chronicle

Deadline - Near Disaster

For the tenth edition of the Wath Chronicle a larger than ever editorial team was assembled under the editorship of Jessica Mahdavi.

Producing a newspaper in one day is a magnificent achievement enabling the school to enter the Times National Competition. With minutes remaining before the 5.00pm deadline the copy was rushed to John Brailsford Print as the school's resource base was closed. Six copies were then packed and dispatched to the Times. Many thanks are due to the postman who waited ten minutes by the post box in Parkgate for our copies to arrive!



Enterprise Flowers at Wath

This year has seen two important changes to 'Floral Dreams' - the dried flower arranging group which has operated successfully under the guidance of Shelagh Wing of the Art Department. Firstly the group has been re-named 'Dry Design', and secondly it is now being run as a Young Enterprise Company.

Young Enterprise is an international scheme which

encourages young people to plan, organise and run their own business activities. By taking on roles such as Managing Director, Finance Director and Company Secretary, individual students acquire specific business skills. More importantly, perhaps, regular Board Meetings and production sessions enable all group members to develop skills such as teamwork, planning and decision making.

We are grateful to Peter Bysouth (C&C Enquiries, Mexborough) and Jane Littlewood (Rabbit Design, Wombwell) for the time which they have given to support our students.

It is clear that 'Dry Design', A Young Enterprise Company, will be a success, both commercially and as an experience for the students. Well done to all those involved!



Recycling at Wath



We have become a recycling school! At present we have set up several sites around the school to collect aluminium cans (in association with Morthyng Ltd) and will soon have two paper banks - one for newspaper and one for office waste, this time in association with Cutts Bros. and RMBC. Both projects will bring in a valuable source of income for the school, which can also be used to improve the amenities on the site. Can you help us? Please save aluminium cans/papers at home and send them to school with your son/daughter.



...look out for these re-cycling symbols!



New Future for the 'Bottom Quad'

For years now, the 'bottom quad' has been an eyesore, and at last we are able to do something about it, thanks to funding from Barclays 'New Futures' award won by Wath pupils last year. This once-derelict area is being turned into a garden and quiet area for pupils use, in a project energetically managed by Mrs Jane Shaw and supported superbly by Mowlem Training. Mowlem Trainees' excellent workmanship has transformed this corner of school into a first class amenity which will be formally opened on 25 May, when it will be dedicated to the memory of Mrs Mary Addey.

This is an expensive project and the award is being backed by fund-raising efforts in school: Y7 have raised £300 towards paving stones and Y8 and Y9 are doing the same to provide benches and picnic tables. 8U are designing a special wall mosaic on an environmental theme. Offers of further help will be welcome.

Y7 First Year Garden

Last year as part of an environmental drive, Year 7 did a survey on how to improve Y7 Wing. They presented their suggestions for change at an assembly to the whole of Y7 and invited Senior Staff and Governors to attend. It was a great success and two of their ideas were acted on immediately.

The part of the staff car park which has been used as a rather dangerous short-cut to our neighbouring infants school was made into a walled garden - a much needed attractive area on a drab site, and an amenity for pupils to enjoy.

The enthusiasm for this was fantastic: pupils from all years, together with their teachers, helped dig up the weeds and put down the topsoil. Brampton environment fund donated £200 for shrubs and Mowlem Training, at no charge, provided the labour for the brick work.

After six weeks of very hard work the garden was finished. This just goes to show that with enthusiasm and determination pupils can make a real difference.



School and College pool their resources

Wath Comprehensive School and Rockingham College are joining forces in a new drive to encourage more people into scientific careers.

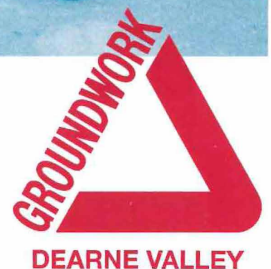
Last September, the two establishments launched the

Foundation and Intermediate GNVQ Science Programme, pooling resources and expertise at both sites.

The course is open to school leavers and mature students who want a good grounding

in science.

Programme tutor Mr Walch emphasises that the course is very flexible, needing no previous qualifications.



... the symbol of Groundwork Dearne Valley

Willow Weaving and Biomass Project

Groundwork Dearne Valley is working with Wath Comprehensive School on a willow weaving and BIOMASS project that will transform a corner of redundant playing fields into a sitting area with willow structures.

The project is being funded through two national Groundwork initiatives: **Autumn Campaign**, a planting for wildlife project sponsored by Lloyds Bank Charitable Trust, and **BIOMASS**, a series of pilot

projects using willow crops sponsored by the Department of the Environment.

The project has two aims.

The first is to provide somewhere pleasant and sheltered for pupils to sit out at lunch and break times.

The second is to provide a willow crop that can be used for two school enterprise initiatives: basket making for the school's Dry Design flower arrangement business and

productions of bark chippings for sale and/or for use in the school grounds.

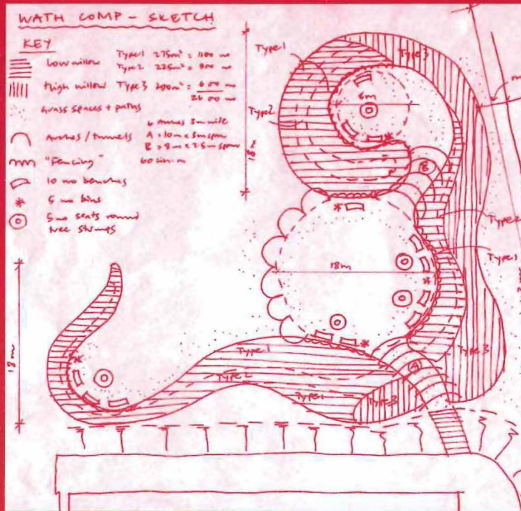
Basket weaver and environmental artist, Jeff Allen, has worked alongside Year 8 and Year 9 pupils on the design of the site and has introduced them to basket weaving techniques which will be used to create tunnels, arches, seat backs and bins. The young people will be planting the willow crop and weaving the structures on 21 March 1996 with the help

of Jeff and staff from the school, Groundwork Dearne Valley and Rotherham MBC's Countryside Service.

Tony Swift, Environment Manager at Wath Comprehensive says of the project, "The school is delighted to be involved in a scheme which achieves so many different aims. With the planting, we will be creating a much needed picnic and sitting space in the grounds as well as involving pupils in a 'live' design project and

introducing a really good enterprise scheme into the school for years to come."

Jack McBane, Executive Director of Groundwork Dearne Valley is equally delighted to be involved in a project with the school. "Groundwork Dearne Valley is committed to working with young people to improve the environment. We see the planting day as the start of a long-term project at Wath Comprehensive."



During the winter months, Year 7 students at Wath Comprehensive School took part in the project 'Regeneration of the Dearne'.

The purpose of the project was to provide the opportunity for students to look back over the past 10, 20, 30 years or so and to analyse the changes which have taken place.

The project started with everyone visiting the Heritage Centre at Elsecar where students studied things like transport and road systems, the mining industry, local crafts and changing environment. All students were invited to involve their parents and grandparents in the project so they could tell them about experiences they

The Dearne of a New Era



might remember. Coincidentally, most of the students were born at around the time the coal strike began at Cortonwood Colliery at Brampton, and as a result they have grown up in a period of dramatic changes, and it was felt that they should all appreciate the relative stability which the mining industry had brought to the area.

Having said that, an important part of the project was to look at the future and how the area can be revitalised. Students designed and planned how they might change the slag heap landscape and make use of, for example, the redundant NCB sites; they worked with Groundwork Trust, the Earth Centre and Local Planners to investigate

what could be done. They designed a suitable theme motif for a 'T' shirt which they had screen printed onto 250 shirts which were in turn sold (there are still some left if you want one) to their relatives and friends. Looking back it is impossible to say what each student gained from the project, but they undoubtedly picked up something of their heritage, which of course is rightfully theirs.

As the project closed with a 'bopping' competition to the vibrant tones of Jerry Lee Lewis, who knows what they were thinking? They were probably thinking that they were not of that era, that it was all unreal and a long time ago. Well it was.

Partnership Postbag

News from our Feeder Schools

Wath C of E School

Ours is a family school and children begin here, in our nursery, at three years of age. The teachers are friendly and the dinner-ladies are kind.

Lovely meals are served in our hall, although a few students choose to bring a packed lunch, or go home.

The infants have their own small playground but the juniors can enjoy a large field and playground.

Football, matball and badminton teams meet after school and we also have a choir and a brass band.

Within the top class I get the chance to go swimming each week.

I am proud to be a pupil in this school.

Wath Central

In February, Y5 and Y6 had a brilliant week. They were split up into mixed groups, and worked at art, dance and poetry. At the end they performed 'Time Warp 4'. It was a smashing experience.

In March, did you see the fire engine at our school last week?, classes had the pleasure of meeting firemen and seeing a rescue. Have you got a fire alarm?. We discovered that they can sve lives!

After hearing about the sad incident in Dumblane, security at school has been improved. All outside doors are now kept locked.

After 26 years of service at Wath Central, Mr M Lindsay retires at Easter.

Friday the 15th of March disco raised £100 for Rotherham Hospice.

Wentworth Church of England School

Mrs Thompson retired at the end of the Easter Term 1995. A special assembly was held in the school as well as a retirement buffet for colleagues, family and friends.

Achievements
Liam Rooney, Y6, was chosen for the Rotherham boys football team.

Jennifer Collinson, Ben Haslam and Elizabeth Thornhill achieved success by having their work published in a book of poems. They attended the launch of the booklet at the Rotherham Arts Centre and heard their work read by poet Ian McMillan.

After a summer term concert entitled 'There'll always be a Wentworth' based on Evacuation during the Second World War, we managed to find the teacher who came to Wentworth with evacuees from Rotherham.

Brampton Ellis Junior

West Riding Classroom. The "West Riding" Classrooms have been knocked down! A portakabin was delivered and positioned by crane for one of the classes to use. The builders have found an old air raid shelter underneath where they have been digging.

"Joseph Performance" Year 5 performed the musical play 'Joseph'. It was really good. Shane Brown played Joseph

and the singing was excellent. The costumes were brilliant as well.

Clowns. Tonya and Yuri, the two clowns, came into school to show us how to do some clown tricks. They taught us juggling, stilt walking, plate spinning, using a diabolo and tried to show us how to ride a unicycle! Yuri was really funny. Some children were chosen to take part in a mini performance in the hall, it was really good - and humorous. We also had a Mystic Meg taking part who was played by Gemma Walling.

Victoria Junior and Infant School, Wath

School Council

Members of our School Council are at present raising funds for a lap-top computer. This is their biggest project so far. Already this year they have bought tools and bulbs for the school garden. They have also bought a clock for the Dining Room.

Caring for the Environment

Environment Open Day for parents and friends will be on July 10th this year. Classes will be working in the school gardens and taking their parents on an adventure trail around the school grounds.

Changes

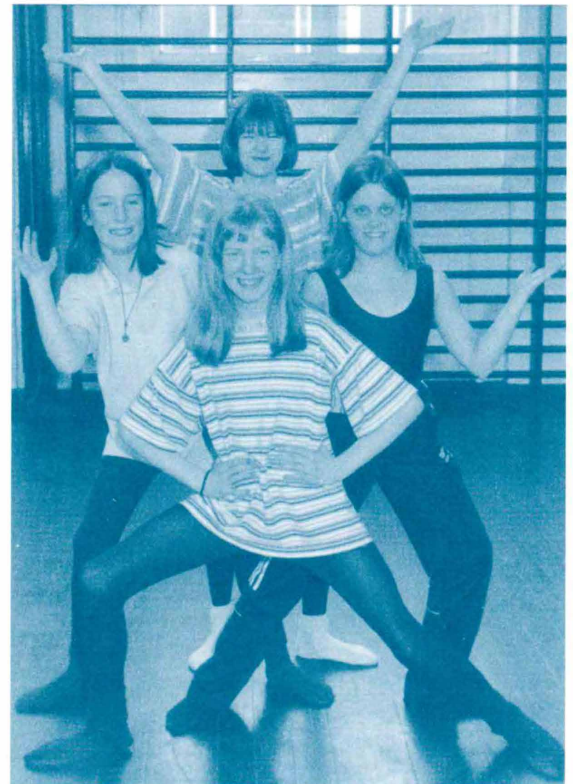
In September, the school will have a new Headteacher. Until January 1997, when a new Deputy Headteacher is appointed, Mrs Barbara Oates will be Acting Deputy Headteacher.

Drama on Tour

During the last week of the Spring Term the Y10 GCSE Drama group toured our partnership schools as part of their GCSE course. This year's presentation was devised by the students themselves and was based on 'Brother to the Ox', an autobiographical novel by Fred Kitchen. The students were all involved in acting out scenes of daily life in a small village not far from Wath, unrecognisable today. They rehearsed not only in lessons but also during lunch hours and couldn't wait to 'hit the road'. Wath Comp on tour!

The primary schools always make us feel welcome and their children look forward to our visits, in some way perhaps we help to 'break the ice' and explode some of the myths about the 'big school'.

This year's offering was received with great enthusiasm by all our partnership schools. The humour, harshness and sadness of Fred's life was delivered with some skill and imagination by the performers. After two shows each day chasing from one school to another, we were all pretty exhausted by the end of the week. The dedication, enthusiasm, maturity and self confidence of our students was a credit to the school. Well done all of you.



"Pull out the Stops"

Network '96 is the Royal Ballet's new education project devised in conjunction with the company's national Dance Bites tour. Following an invitation from the company to hold music and dance workshops on site, four Year 7 pupils took up the opportunity to work with other schools in the region, led by choreographer Emma Diamond and the education team, and other students from Bretton Hall.

Chloe Hindmarsh, Carly Youren, Rebecca Sherriff and Kirsty Thacker worked very hard over a period of seven weeks, including half-term holidays, making the most of a wonderful opportunity to work and perform at the Lyceum Theatre. It was an exciting project, taking the theme of 'Obsession' from Emma Diamond's new work 'Signed in Red'.

Where will the Rainbow End?

In March pupils in Years 7-10 took part in a production of 'Rainbows Ending' by Noel Greig, performed at school and also at the Rotherham Arts Centre.

The performances were outstanding, showing a great deal of talent and commitment. The cast, under the direction of Ian McGrath (Head of Drama), showed a confidence and maturity beyond their years. Developing confidence was evident in each successive performance, culminating in the final performance in the Arts Centre on 15 March. This small and intimate theatre was ideal for this type of drama and was a huge success, providing a wonderful experience for the pupils. The performance was recorded on video by Rockingham College staff and will be entered in a National Drama Competition. The junior drama production has become an annual event.



Parkes Brothers to tour the USA

Musical brothers Jonathan and Christopher Parkes are set to tour the USA this summer with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. Both boys play principal positions in the Rotherham Youth Band and are current holders of the

Rotherham Young Musician of the Year Under 18 and Under 16 titles. It is the first time brothers have held the titles concurrently and the first time Wath Comprehensive School has had a winner of either competition.



Team

Hockey Tournaments

U18 Rotherham & S. Yorks Winners
U15 Rotherham Winners U14 Rotherham Winners
U13 Indoor Hockey Rotherham Winners

Netball Tournaments

U15 Rotherham Runners Up
U14 Rotherham Runners Up
U13 Rotherham Winners

Rugby

U13
Yorkshire Post KO Champion
Woodhouse Grove Runners Up
Bradford 10s Joint Winners
Barlborough 7s Plate Winners
John Brothwell Winners
1st XV
South Yorkshire 7s Winners

Indoor Athletics

Rotherham Schools Indoor Champions Y7-10

X-Country - Rotherham League

Y7 Boys Winners
Y7 Girls Runners Up
Y8/9 Girls Winners
Y8 Boys Runners Up
Y9/10 Boys Runners Up
Senior Girls Runners Up
Senior Boys Winners

Individual

Hockey

U14 South Yorks Team - Jody Stinson
U16 Rotherham Team - Rachel Oxer
Heather Fawcett
Jody Shepherd
U18 South Yorks - Rebecca Nicoll
Joe Catling

Netball

U18 South Yorks - Rebecca Nicoll

Rugby

U16 North of England - Stephen Wesson
U16 Yorkshire - Tony Ingman
Stephen Wesson
Phil Burgin
U16 South Yorks - Jean-Paul Williams
Chris South
Adam Sturman

Football

U14 Rotherham - Brett Davis

X-Country

Rotherham Junior Boys - Richard Lomas 2nd
Rotherham Inter Boys - Steven Inglis 1st
Rotherham League Champions
Y7 Girls - Anna Grant 1st
Senior Girls - Kelly Pressley 3rd
8/9 Girls - Amy Ridsdale 3rd
Y8 Boys - Richard Lomas 2nd
Senior Boys - James Longley 3rd

Trampoline

Michelle Buczek - U13 Yorkshire Champion

Water Polo

U20 Girls North Eastern Counties - Frances Leighton
England Trials U17 Girls - Frances Leighton
U16 Youths North Eastern Counties - Richard Leighton

Dance

Over 16 Miss Dance of Great Britain Final - Simone Temple

Yorkshire Champions



What a season for the Year 8 Rugby Team! Beaten only once in the regular season, they progressed through the regional rounds of the Yorkshire Post Cup beating Hungerhill School 26-7 in the South Yorkshire Final. Four regional winners were invited to Otley Rugby Club for Finals Day. Wath played a very big Allertonshire High School in their semi-final beating them 27-7 with a fine all-round team performance. In the final they played St. Wilfred's, Featherstone, who had beaten Ermysted's, Skipton 5-0. Much pressure was exerted in the first half without any score. After half time the team played some excellent running rugby and showed a maturity way beyond their years, with tries from Paul Hunter and Andrew Hirst (2) and a conversion by Captain Martin Bray. Are they the best Wath Team yet? The Y11 and Y12 lads may argue differently!

To cap the season, the team made the final of the Woodhouse Grove 7's, won the Barborough Hall Plate, were runners up in the Bradford G.S. 10's and finally won the John Brothwell Memorial Tournament at Wath to round off a marvellous year.

Well done lads.

School Hockey Success

The U13 Indoor Hockey Team took the Rotherham Tournament by storm, winning all their games in style without conceding a single goal. Throughout the competition, goalkeeper Sarah Morton didn't touch the ball once due to solid defensive team play by Laura Bower, Becky Eades and Anna Norton.

Wath sparkled up-front with the combination of Catherine Guy and Catherine Dyson scoring some blistering goals. Helen Cooke also played a key role in a team which is showing great potential for seasons to come.

The U13 Netball Team (nearly all of whom play in the Hockey Team) got through to the final of their Rotherham Tournament - losing only by two goals to finish runners-up.

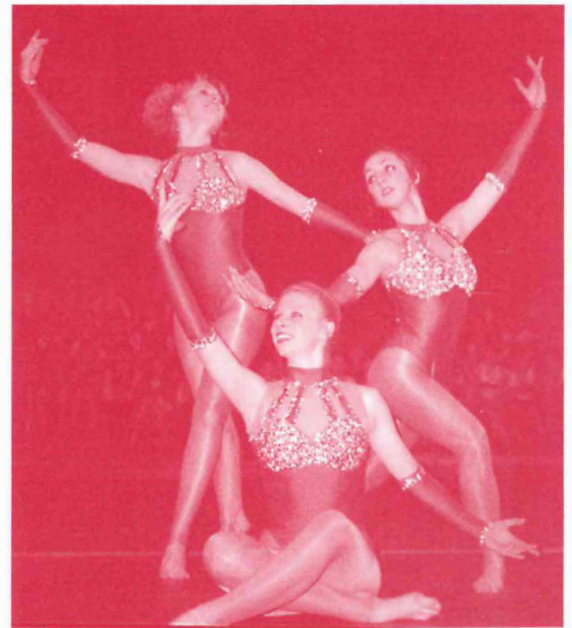
Hockey and Netball this year have been extremely successful with Wath reaching the final of nearly every tournament.

The future looks excellent!



Gym, Dance, Movement Spectacular

Once again our annual Gum, Dance and Movement Evenings scaled the heights and was as spectacular and entertaining as ever. Compered by the hilarious Matt Guest and Phil Davis the two evenings were attended by over 750 people and had 150 pupils of all ages taking part. We were especially pleased to welcome Wath Central and Wentworth Junior who gave superb performances to a packed audience. Hours of hard work by staff and pupils brought praise from the Mayor, Director of Education and P.E. Advisers. What price three nights next year? **BOOK EARLY!**



Yorkshire Hat Trick

For the first time in the school's history three boys represented Yorkshire at under 16 level playing in matches against Warwickshire, Cumbria, Northumberland, Cheshire, Durham and Lancashire - a magnificent achievement, well done Tony Ingman, Phillip Burgin and Stephen Wesson, who also captained the side.

Following North of England Trials, Stephen went on to represent the North, scoring an excellent try against the South West. He appeared in

the final England trial but narrowly missed selection for the national team. The last pupil to make it so far was

Paul Battersby in 1980, prior to that Terry Roberts represented England at Under 19 in 1974.

