



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

June 2008

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

As I indicated in my letter posted out to you a couple of weeks ago the last half term at Wath is not a time when we all begin to wind down, on the contrary it is packed with lots of events and activities which will ensure that we are all kept very busy until the very last day.

A large party of staff and students left this week for the Watersports visit to Spain, a Munich visit has just returned and a group of Y8 students have been to France. At the end of term a small number of sixth form German students will go on two weeks work placements in Reisa, Germany. All our Year 10 students have a two week work experience much closer to home in hundreds of different placements in and around Rotherham with others venturing further afield. There are a number of day visits organised including a special trip as a reward for those students who have gained seventy five or more merits during the school year. Congratulations to them on this fantastic achievement.

We can also look forward to being entertained during the three night production of Grease, which students and staff have been working hard on for a long time. There is also a special piano recital evening on 17 July to raise funds to restore our lovely piano, which was featured in an earlier addition of 'In Touch'.

Now that examinations are over Year 11 will be looking forward to their 'prom' next week and Sixth Form students can prepare for their leavers ball at the end of that week. I suspect that there isn't an evening dress or tuxedo to be found within miles of Rotherham now, for me last year's 'model' will just have to do!

We had some unexpected excitement when Channel 4 rang me to ask whether Jamie Oliver could film a programme in school for his Ministry of Food series to be screened in the Autumn. He also wanted to launch his Pass it On campaign from the school on that evening.



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Even though it was very short notice we said yes and rallied round after school to meet the demands of the film crew and numerous assistants. All went very well and Jamie was charm itself and kind enough to come into reception at the end of filming to sign menus, cookery books and have photographs taken for a few staff who had waited patiently. In fact, it went so well that this week they have been back (again at short notice!) to film twelve of our students following a recipe by radio which Jamie was broadcasting live from Radio Sheffield. The students had an excellent time and it came across well on the radio so we're looking forward to seeing the film.

They rang again yesterday..... perhaps a career in television beckons!

P Ward

Headteacher

NEWS ON FORMER STUDENTS

BEN FELLOWS

Many past students, parents and friends of Wath Comprehensive School will remember Ben Fellows. On June 18th 2008 he flew out to either Costa Rica or Nicaragua as a Project Manager of a group of students to help deprived communities. Until he arrives there, he will not know what lies ahead. He could be helping to build a new school or create a safe drinking water system



He will be swapping his home comforts for sleeping in a tent and his food will be basics like rice, beans and porridge.

Ben has had to raise £2 000 for the charity on top of flights and equipment which he has paid for himself. He recently completed the Rother Valley Triathlon to help raise funds and so far he has a total of £1 600.

Since leaving Wath Ben, who works for Airbus, has lived in Bristol having studied for a Degree in Aeronautical Engineering with Spanish.

If you want more information visit www.raleighinternational.co.uk or www.justgiving.com/benfellows

JOSH WALE

It is pleasing to hear the news that a former student, Josh Wale from Brampton has signed a three year, 10 fight deal with Sentanta Sports. The twenty year old has won all seven of his fights since turning professional in 2006 — a tremendous achievement.

Good luck in your future fights - we hope to hear of your future successes.



YOUNG JOURNALISTS

Wath Comprehensive School Journalist Has Review Published!

I was very excited about my book review being published in the Dinnington Chronicle, especially when the sub editor asked us who had written it because hardly anything needed changing. It made me feel really good about my writing.

My review was on one of Anthony Horowitz's novels- 'Stormbreaker'. It is also a very good action packed film. I chose to write this book review because 'Stormbreaker' is my favourite book of all the Alex Rider collection. It is also the starter book of Anthony Horowitz's Alex Rider books. I have attached my review below so you can read about 'Stormbreaker' and hopefully you will want to read it too.

By Sam Hyde — Year 8

MY REVIEW OF 'STORMBREAKER'



In this book, Alex Rider is just an ordinary schoolboy who becomes a spy for MI6. All his adventures start because Alan Blunt (the chairman of MI6) asks him to work for them as an undercover teenage spy. Alex took a lot of persuasion to join the team but he finally did.

When this happened, through various missions MI6 explained the first assignment, the Stormbreaker mission. While Alex was on duty he found out that the Stormbreaker was the most advanced piece of computerised technology ever invented, but he also found out that Darius Sayle was inserting a virus into the computer that was designed to kill whoever went on the computer.

Alex Rider has to race against time to get to the place where the Stormbreakers are activated, and he did it all by one gadget, a parachute and a helicopter.

But did Alex stop the Stormbreaker computers going online?

If you are interested about finding out what happens and if Alex survives to go on another mission, then you must read this book. I can honestly say that once you've started, you will want to continue reading and follow Alex on his adventures.

YOUR MISSION, IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT, IS TO READ 'STORMBREAKER'

Review of Journalist Visit to a Local Press Office

On the 11th April at nine o'clock, four student journalists including ourselves Kayleigh Annetts, Fern Duffield and also Sam and Joe Hyde went to a newspaper press in Dinnington to learn all about how our reports could be published in the local newspaper. We all met Miss Ackerley and Miss Hardeman at reception and we were driven by Miss Ackerley to Johnston press in Dinnington. The journey was approximately thirty minutes long.

When we arrived we were shown in by Mr Connell and before starting editing our work we waited for Wath C of E to arrive so we could share our work ideas. We were then introduced to the editor who would be publishing our work into the local newspaper. Sam Hyde said, "We were excited our work was going into the newspaper and happy that people would learn about Wath Comprehensive and all the things we do." On the day we were interviewed about our experience and we said,

"We are really excited because all our work is going into the Dinnington and Maltby Guardian and we have enjoyed every bit of it."

By Kayleigh Annetts and Fern Duffield
Editor Student Journalist

Wath Comprehensive School Pod Casting Session

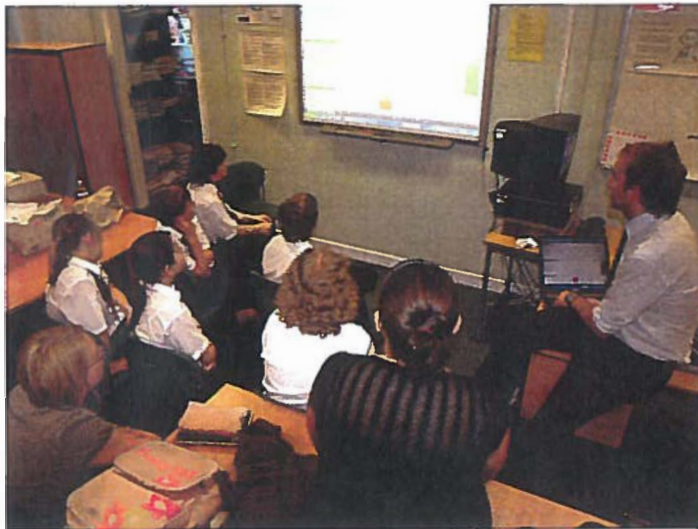
Monday 9th June 2008



On Monday 9th June 2008 the Wath Comprehensive School Journalism club met up with 2 people from a reporting centre to discuss the importance of using the pod casting program. A pod cast

is a computer program that news reporters and filmmakers use to create an audio version of their work.

Natalie Edwards, Shona Hayes Mackenzie and Kayleigh Annetts all made their own little pod cast after learning how to. Sam Hyde, Thomas Powell and Joe Hyde also did this too, and they will hopefully be having their pod cast go live in the future.



The Journalism Club and its guiding teachers attended the session and it is Miss Ackerley's goal to extend the scope of the journalist project and to use pod casting as a way of communicating with other students and parents.

Written by
Sam Hyde and Thomas Powell
Student Journalists

Review

Writing the review for the Readathon that took place in March 2008 was a great opportunity for us. It took us a long time to do because we wanted to include everything about the day, from the costumes we wore to the activities we took part in.

In the end it was published in a local newspaper and it was felt that many people in the community would like to know about what we did. It was a great chance for myself and Shona to take part in the Readathon for the second year running. This was a great experience for anyone taking part because it is so much fun and a helpful day in improving our reading skills and making reading fun.

Written by Natalie Edwards

Edited By The Student Journalist Project

LEPRA - Aerobics Event

A huge well done to all the Y7 pupils who took part in the Lepra Aerobics Fundraising Event. In total, 45 pupils gave up their own time to collect sponsorship money and take part in an aerobics session one Friday lunchtime.

The grand total raised was £549.41, with several students raising over £21 each and being rewarded with a LEPRAs t-shirt. We are hoping to run the event again next year with the new Y7 intake.

Well done to all those students who took part, your efforts will make a difference to so many Lepra sufferers.

Miss Wilson (Assistant PHSCE Coordinator)

UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP gives the young people of the UK, between the ages of 11 and 18 a voice, which is heard and listened to by local and national government, providers of services for young people and other agencies who have an interest in the views and needs of young people. At Wath we are proud that John D'Silva is our Rotherham Representative.

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One of their latest ideas is that they believe all under 18's in full time education should be allocated a national concession card to use on public transport. This would make buses and trains accessible to young people; allow access to leisure facilities; create a cleaner environment as a consequence of cutting down on car use; create the same freedom that pensioners enjoy; young people in full time education do not have an income and are reliant on public transport.

In the past, young people have said that public transport is an issue of main concern for various reasons such as expense and accessibility. For this reason UKYP has composed a survey, aiming for a response of 30,000 young people, to find out what you really think of public transport in the UK. The results of this survey will be compiled in a report to be presented to the Department of Transport, to lobby for the improvement of the current transport situation for young people.

If you are interested in supporting this campaign, an on-line petition has now been developed by two of the Members of the UKYP, which will go directly to the Prime Minister. Anyone, young or old, can sign this petition so if you are interested please go the web site below.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/U18Travel-card/>

Your vote can make a difference so please take a minute or two to look at this site.

FOOD HYGIENE

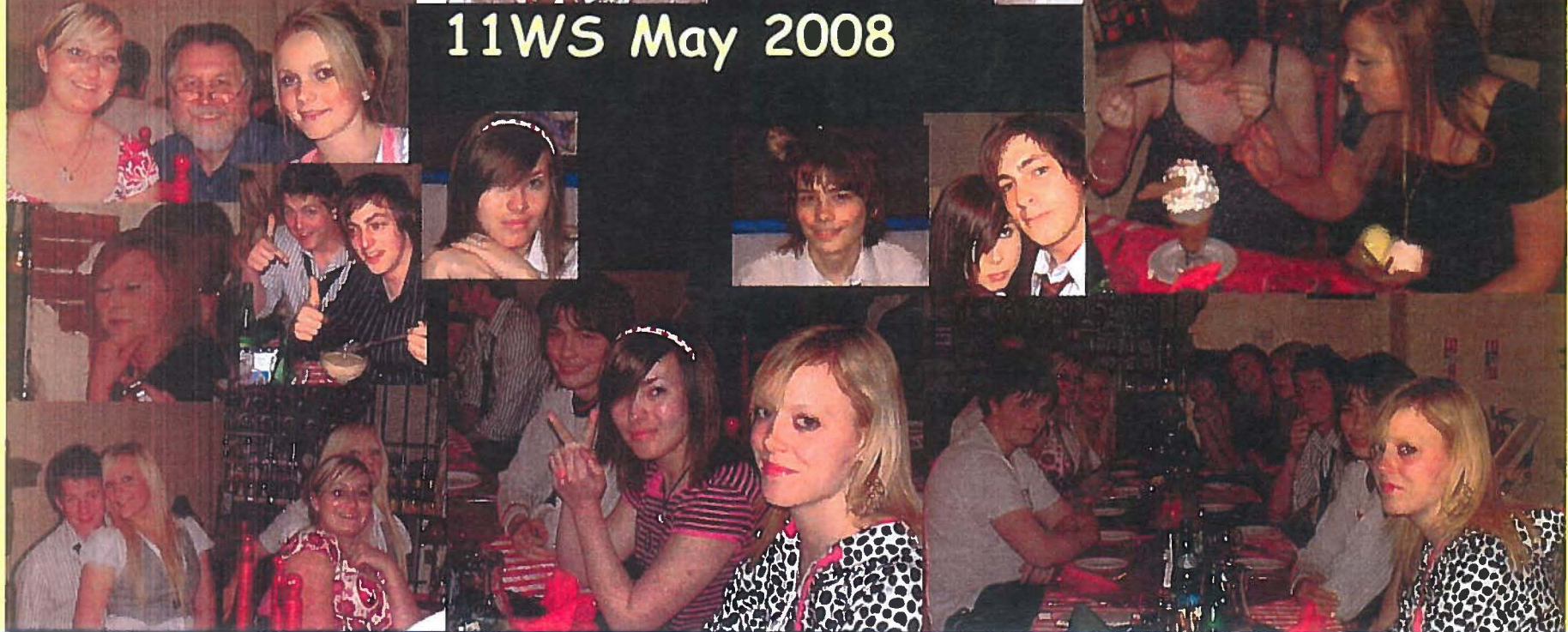
Many of our students at Wath have an interest in looking at working in the Food and Hospitality Industry and are keen to gain as many qualifications as they can whilst they are still at school. Under the watchful eye of Mrs J Morley a group of Year 10 students were recently given an opportunity to take a Food Hygiene course followed by an examination in order to gain a Food Hygiene Certificate.

The photograph opposite shows them working through some of the questions. We look forward to hearing the results. Well done to everyone who took part.





11WS May 2008



COMENIUS NEWS

Comenius visit to Helsinki Reflections by Charlotte Josephs Year10

Mrs Chisholm arrived at my house at 5.45am. I rushed out of the house excitedly; almost forgetting to say goodbye to my family as I dragged my heavy cases into the boot of Mrs Chisholm's son's car... we climbed in and began our tiring journey to Helsinki.....

I never imagined my first plane ride would be so immense. As we took off my stomach stayed behind as the plane soared through the clouds and my heart soared with it. My ears popped continuously during the hour and twenty minutes to Frankfurt.

I was woken once more by a sharp prod from Mrs Chisholm, This time it was because we had landed and we were finally in Helsinki. My heart thumped like a big brass drum as I picked up my luggage and dragged it behind me. Looking around I could not see anyone who could have been my family then I saw them: a blond woman with a warming smile stood accompanied by her son. He stood with a blank expression as his mother greeted me kindly, softly shaking my hand as she introduced herself as Anna and her son Tuomas. I must admit I was absolutely terrified of living with complete strangers but as I waved goodbye to Laura, the friendly faces of Anna and Tuomas assured me that everything was going to be alright.



As we drove through the city I could not help but notice what a beautiful place it was, even though my eyelids were aching to close, my eyes were attracted to the beauty of the city. And I could not keep my eyes off it.

The school was a lovely building, curved like a coliseum with a children's play area in front. Tuomas told me I had to take my shoes off. I looked around at the smelly shoes, which littered the ground and reluctantly took my shoes and placed them on a shelf. Our day started with a few drama games to help the Comenius group get to know each other. Afterwards we had break before showing our presentations. It was scary and formal like I had imagined it would be and I quite enjoyed showing the group our presentations. I was pleased with how brilliantly my day had been when it was time to go back home.

The next day we had to cook a traditional meal. We chose shepherd's pie with heart shaped Yorkshire puddings. We weren't sure how the Yorkshire Puddings would turn out, but in the end it was great and everyone loved it. I particularly liked the meatballs from the Finnish team.

That night we all met up together and went out for a walk a long the streets, we talked a lot about what we did in our free time and learnt a lot about the other countries, particularly Italy. I began to truly love being around the Comenius group.

On the last day we went to a big Mother's Day meal with Tuomas's mum, grandmother and great grandmother. The meal was lovely with lots of Finnish food such as rye bread and reindeer...

When we finally had to leave I reluctantly hugged my Finnish family goodbye. I could see tears in Tuomas's mother's eyes as we waved goodbye. I never thought I would feel so sad when boarding the plane to go home. As we took off my stomach lurched but as the plane soared through the clouds, this time it was a piece of my heart that was left behind.



Review of the trip to Finland

The trip was great. I never expected it to be almost as great as it was. It was my first time on a plane and I was so excited to be flying in the air, even the horrible plane food didn't spoil the experience for me. And neither did Mrs Champlin or Mrs Chisholm. If anything, they made the trip even more worthwhile!



When we reached Helsinki we received the kindest greetings, which made me feel so relieved since I never received an email from my host. My host and I didn't speak much that night, and I was exhausted. I remember lying in bed that night, a very comfortable bed, and thinking "What am I doing here?"

The next day I understood exactly why I was here: to give a presentation in front of a group of foreign people. At first I was nervous, but that was before I spoke to the other teenagers properly. We spent a lot of time together, more than I had expected. I even learnt a few Italian, Hungarian and Finnish words.

The weather was always nice when we were there, which made it really pleasant when we went out. The school days were spent in school, designing the Comenius magazine and touring the school. It was interesting to see the school, it only had around 400 students, aged 7 - 16 and they were not all in school at the same time so it was very quiet. The school was beautiful and so was the natural life, which surrounded it.

After school we could do whatever we liked. We went shopping, went and bought ice cream, met the other Comenius students, and played on the zumpa zumpa AKA chumpa chumpa AKA the trampoline.

The experience of going abroad with the Comenius group is one experience I will never forget. The people that I met, the things I saw and the things I learnt will stay with me for the rest of my life.

The Comenius family has engraved their names in my heart forever.

By Laura Josephs



Comenius

'Don't Waste Your Life

As ever, this year has been a busy and productive one seeing the launch of our new project 'Don't Waste Your Life', in Bátorfőnyék, Hungary in October. I met the coordinators from Cosenza in southern Italy and Helsinki, Finland for the first time to discuss and prepare the project. Although we have been working with our Hungarian partners for the past 9 years they are, as always, generous and wonderful hosts. We had the privilege of working in the Town Hall and attended a dinner hosted by the Mayor herself. The area of Nógrád County where the school is located has many similarities to Wath and South Yorkshire with its mining heritage so our visit included a mining museum and an opportunity to talk to ex miners and their families about their past and hopes for the future. We were also honoured with a few traditional mining songs!

The focus of the project is to explore the challenges facing teenagers in Europe today, by sharing our similarities and differences and to identify a collective voice for teenagers across Europe. The end product will be a jointly produced magazine. This year students have been working on a documentary of teenage life within our communities. Students from years 8, 9 and 10 have produced a fashion shoot, a piece of drama looking at the pressures of being a teenager, power point presentations reflecting life in Wath and a questionnaire produced by the Finnish school titled 'A Day in the Life Of'. This inspired Wath students to produce their own videos and power points depicting their lives. Our shopping culture and love of Tesco in Wath fascinated our partner schools! Rebecca Ball and Becky Gough from year 10 produced a thought provoking presentation on how teenage life has changed since the 1960s. Our partner schools were so impressed by their idea that they have included it in next year's activities.

The end of year meeting was hosted by Torpparinmäki Comprehensive School in Helsinki. Laura and Charlotte Josephs represented Wath accompanied by Mrs Chisholm and Mrs Champlin. Their assignment was to meet with students from our partners' schools and work on the magazine as well as present all of the work produced by the Wath Comenius team. Both girls were excellent ambassadors and received nothing but praise from the staff and students of Torpparinmäki Comprehensive School.

Mrs Gracey

CHARITY BIKE RIDE—LONDON TO BRIGHTON



Many congratulations to Charlie Ludlam, a Year 9 student, who took part in a sponsored bike ride from London to Brighton on Sunday 15th June 2008. He cycled a total distance of 54 miles raising over £100 for the British Heart Foundation. A tremendous achievement - well done Charlie.

ERIC SAMPSON MEMORIAL CONCERTS

At the Eric Sampson Memorial concerts which start Wath Festival each year, Wath Comprehensive School students performed on both evenings. The concerts are named after our Headteacher who died suddenly a few years ago.

The Primary schools from the local area started the concerts and the first to perform was Brampton Ellis Infant school who sang and played the recorder. Next, Our Lady and St Josephs performed salsas, followed by Wath Victoria who played violin and sang. To end the evening Y8 Wath students, Alex Spencer, Courtney Sterling, Lewis Lowe and Owen Clark acted out a piece of drama called Homer's Odyssey.

Local schools continued to perform the next day as the concert continued. Firstly, Cortonwood Infant School started with a dance, which was followed by Wentworth C of E singing, then Wath Central performed with singing and African drumming. After that Wath Comp music department performed 8 different music groups. To start was the guitar group who did 3 songs and were assisted by Mrs Lowry. To follow this was Spinning Threads a band who performed Teenage Kicks, and then the violin group played 4 pieces and were assisted by Mrs Taylor. To follow was a wood wind group with Mrs Barker. Afterwards there were two duets, from Amy Usher and Emily Hearne and Rachel Grainger and Elizabeth Bell. To finish off were two solo acts, Deanna Wilson and John Turner.



WIND IN THE WILLOWS NOVEMBER 2008

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'Wind in the Willows' will be the next full school production by the Drama department. This will take place in November 08.

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'Wind in the Willows' follows Mr Toad's adventures with caravans, cars, trains, boats and even a spell in jail, but all along the way he has his loyal companions Mole, Badger and Rat. Of course he will rely on them most dearly when the evil Weasels attempt to take his beloved Toad Hall from him and a great battle ensues.

Auditions will be starting at some point this term and we are looking for students from all years to get involved. Audition times for actors will be listed in assembly notices or you can ask your

Drama teacher. If you are interested in getting involved with the technical aspects of the show such as projection, design, lighting, costume or make up, you should come along to one of the auditions and speak to Mr McHale.

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KNIT AND NATTER

This has been running in G12 on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes and has usually been attended by about 20 students. Activities include knitting, finger knitting, knitting nancy, binca cross stitch, and pompom making.

Mrs R Owen and Mrs C Haw are very grateful to the Friends of Wath for their financial support which has kept the sewing thread and knitting yarn boxes full.

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A big thank you to our Y11 students, Loren Parton, Amber Merrills, Jessica Price and Hannah Barker, who throughout the year have attended and helped those struggling to learn new skills. They have had their patience tested and have developed expertise in various activities.

Over the year students have made scarves, book marks, and coasters **WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN PART.**

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAMME

The Built Environment

In year 7, I was chosen to take part in the Gifted and Talented programme. When I spoke to my G & T Co-ordinator he told me about an exciting new course called the Built Environment which leads to a recognised qualification. During the course I took part in activities like Brick laying, joinery and basic plumbing. In the classroom we designed and tested computer generated bridges and paper straw models.

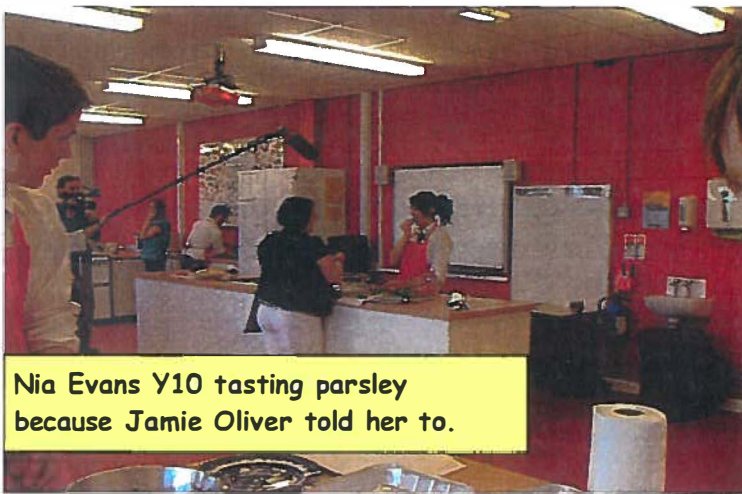
We also had day trips to Blist Hill Victorian village, Ironbridge the first iron bridge in Europe that worked and in the near future I will also be visiting St Pancras International Railway Station in London. An important part of the course was team work and in doing so I met lots of new people and gained a level 2 Problem Solving qualification.

I would encourage other pupils to take part in this challenging and enjoyable programme.

Tim Gillott

FOOD TECHNOLOGY NEWS

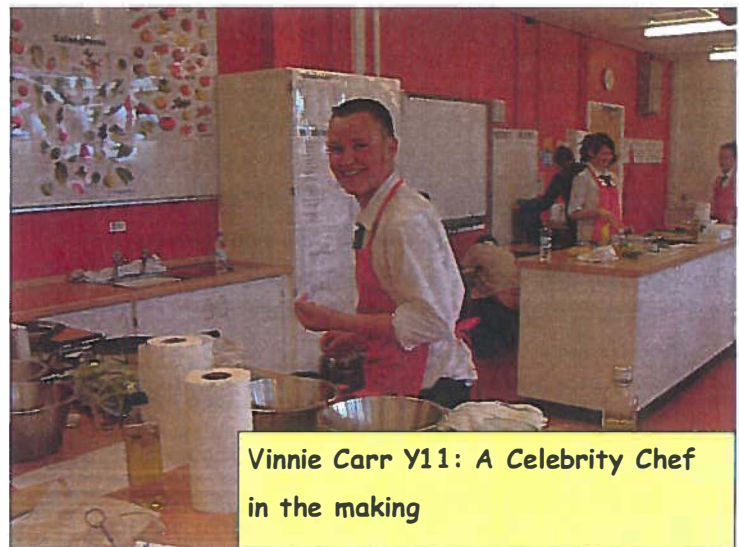
Tuesday 17th June 2008 saw Y10 and Y11 Food Technology students making their TV and Radio debut for a recording of Jamie Oliver's latest TV programme. They were invited to take part in a cook along, which involved them preparing and cooking fresh burgers while following Jamie Oliver's 'live' broadcast on radio Sheffield.



Nia Evans Y10 tasting parsley because Jamie Oliver told her to.

The camera crew from channel 4 were kept busy capturing all the stages of preparation from bashing cream crackers with rolling pins (a soundman's nightmare) to the cooking process where it got a little tricky as 14 frying pans can produce a hefty amount of smoke.

All students involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were keen to try the burgers after all their hard work. They were fantastic representatives of the school and both the radio presenter and the team from Channel 4 commented on how impressed they were with the students.



Vinnie Carr Y11: A Celebrity Chef in the making

The programme is to be broadcast early autumn, so remember to watch. You never know the next celebrity chef may come from Wath !!

Mrs Darby Technology Technician

MUNICH REPORT, BY BETH HOBSON, 10WL



On Sunday the 18th of May, Mr Rolling, Mr Mills, Miss Pilley and Miss Little took on the challenge of taking a group of mainly Y9's and a few Y10's to Germany. The coach was waiting, believe it or not, at one o'clock in the morning outside school for everyone to arrive. After everyone was finally seated on the coach, we set off at 02.30.

Everyone on the coach was extremely giddy and - despite the time - had no intention of going to sleep! We arrived, tired and desperate for the toilet, at the airport at some ridiculous time in the morning, dropped our luggage off and got our tickets (which seemed to take forever!) By eight in the morning we had finally got on the plane!

We arrived in Munich by eleven, still without sleep - but not particularly caring! When we arrived at the hotel there was, yes, an explanation, but still somewhat a lot of confusion about the locks on the doors for our rooms! Throughout the entire week I had not once succeeded in opening the door with that stupid key...

Anyway! After a quick change of clothes and eating lunch at the Haus International Hotel, we soon left for Olympiapark. Unfortunately it was raining - only slightly! - but still raining. We still didn't mind though as we had so much to do and hardly the time to complain! We all took the ride up to the top of the TV tower where we could see for miles and miles around the area - (many made comments such as 'I'm sure this thing is moving!...') It was really interesting to see - even if it was quite unnerving at the height we were at...

Afterwards, we finally arrived, damp and exhausted, back at the hotel ready for dinner and a long awaited sleep! We also discovered the luxury of our own bathrooms in our rooms... Each day of the trip was jam packed with things to do and places to go, with lots of walking, leaving you exhausted by the evening!

On Monday we visited Munich city and Mr Rolling, (re-named Mr Munich by the Y10 girls...) took us all on a tour around the city, which was very interesting, and there were many impressive buildings to see, such as St. Peter's Church and many others. I thought Tuesday was the most memorable day; we went to the Dachau Concentration Camp, where we saw just how horrible it was for those in the Second World War. We saw the sign on the gate, 'Arbeit Macht Frei', ('Work sets you free.')

We were taken around to see the places where the prisoners slept, where they worked, and where they were gassed. It was quite a haunting experience in all, quite hard to take in all at once, but it was still amazing to actually be there and see it. It was also freezing as we discovered in our shorts and tights. Afterwards we went into Munich again to visit the Deutsches Museum Planetarium... which was also interesting... apart from the fact that I couldn't understand it!



On Wednesday we were taken to the Allianz Arena (home of Bayern Munich and TSV 1860 Munich), which was incredible (and which Miss Pilley greatly enjoyed as she is an insane and uncontrollable football fanatic...)

We were given a well presented tour of the building, given the chance to see and be told about all the different places where the players went, the changing rooms, the pool... etc.

The next day, the final day, we left the hotel wrapped up warm to visit the German Alps to see the Castle where Chitty-Chitty Bang-Bang was filmed. There were masses of cameras appearing to capture the view

of the immense building from the bridge! Throughout the entire day it rained continuously - although not much - and yet the whole group kept a positive attitude as the day was just so enjoyable.

When we returned back to the hotel, we were all told to meet in the reception area for a prize-giving session! There was so much laughing at this point and nobody was left out! For example, the year 10 girls, 'Bang Tidy!' - winners of the best rock album cover, for having their own album title and for having their own song!



On Friday morning we were all very sad to be leaving and returning back to England after such an action packed and eventful week - except maybe for the poor Y9 who got her face stuck in the train doors as they closed on her. (*I didn't know about that - Mr Munich*)

We couldn't believe how fast the trip had gone!

Munich was by far the best school trip I have ever been on and I would love to go again if I could!

And finally, I'll just say one last thank you to the staff that made it such a fantastic experience!



Y9 THROUGH TO QUARTER FINALS OF LORD'S TAVENERS COMPETITION

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Wath Y9 cricket team have progressed to the last eight in the highly rated Lord's Taveners competition, defeating an impressive Birkdale outfit.

Birkdale won the toss and decided to bat first, and it appeared to be the right decision as they reached 30 without the loss of a wicket. **Archie Ogden** introduced himself into the attack and found a breakthrough, removing the Birkdale skipper, with a good catch from **Jordan Watson**. A combination of good fielding and spin twins **Sam Shaw** and **Sam Drury** slowed the run rate down, claiming 3 wickets between them. Useful spells from **Vinnie Ogden**, **Jordan Hadwin** and **Ben Haywood** supported Ogden, who came back on to remove the lower order, finishing with impressive figures of 4-23. Birkdale School finished on 116-8 from their 40 overs.

After some light refreshments, the second innings started and Wath got off to a slow start, mainly due to some impressive bowling from the Birkdale bowlers. **Sam Drury** battled away for 17 before he was stumped, and Wath looked to be in some difficulty. This was until **Ben Haywood** came to the middle and played a faultless innings of 59 not out, well supported by **Daniel Laister** who contributed with 16 not out. Wath ran out somewhat comfortable winners by 7 wickets with 4 overs remaining.

This is a great achievement by the Y9 team, having already defeated Wickersley by 42 runs, Rawmarsh by 9 wickets, Holgate School and now Birkdale, they will face Kingstone School from Barnsley in the next round.

INTER SCHOOL SPORTS RESULTS WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2008

	Dinnington	Maltby	Wath	Wickersley
Year 7	1st	4th	2nd	3rd
Year 8	3rd	4th	2nd	1st
Year 9	1st	4th	3rd	2nd
Year 10	1st	3rd	4th	2nd
Overall Result	1st	4th	3rd	2nd

Records Broken this year

Abi Bischell, Wath, Year 8, 200m, 26.13 s
Jamie Miller, Wath, Year 7, 100m, 12.89 s

It is also worth mentioning that **Abi Bischell (Y8)** won the Vic Roberts Trophy, which is an award for the outstanding performance of the day from all the schools that attended.

Well done to everyone who took part and a huge thank you to all the staff who have given their support in the many training sessions that have taken place this year.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Following a busy year with the Duke of Edinburgh, a number of students from Year 11 undertook their Bronze assessed Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the area of Monyash and Hartington. The students had planned their venture and routes. The expedition took in 15 miles of the finest White Peak, going through the valleys and trails. The students showed their camp craft and skills over the weekend, and proved their navigation skills that they have refined over previous expeditions.



4 of this group are going on an expedition to India, an International Exchange Programme to develop links. The students will be undertaking a week in the Lakes and seeing other sights of Yorkshire in July. In addition, in October, our students will be going to India to Kolkata and then making their way up the foothills of the Himalaya.

OLD MOOR WETLANDS VISIT

During the first week after half term some 90 year 7 students went to the Old Moor Wetlands Centre. This visit ties in with the topics that the students will be looking at during their classroom studies. The students were investigating the relationships between the animals, their habitat and environments, looking at everything from meadow creatures and insects to the larger animals which reside on the Wetlands.

The day encompasses looking at the environment and how it has been managed to be a safe haven for a large number of resident animals and birds but also the migratory animals which pass through.

Students also develop their group work and organisational skills in order to carry out the tasks set. Activities included pond dipping, bird watching and looking at the habitats and creatures of the woodlands and meadows.



SHERLOCK BONES

A group of Year 9 students were investigating the mysterious world of the human body and more specifically the workings of the human skeleton. The day was led by Dr Danyelle Thickett. The format of the day introduced the skeleton as a whole and the movement and function of the skeleton.

The students then investigated and looked at the process of cataloguing finds, identifying the missing parts and why things may be missing. The students then looked into the methods of ageing and sexing the remains of the bodies, looking into the characteristics that those skeletons may have had. "Students confidence grew in their practical skills and enjoyed themselves. It was a really fascinating day and everyone enjoyed it!" *Laura Parish*

The day was rounded off by looking at some skeletons and trying to identify what problems these may have had, relating to arthritis and other signs of ageing and illness.



TRANSFORMING ROTHERHAM LEARNING CONFERENCE 7TH JULY 2008 AT MAGNA, ROTHERHAM



On Thursday 19th June 2008, the Young Journalist Team attended a training session, with Miss Hardeman and Miss Ackerley, to prepare them for producing a news report on The Transforming Rotherham Learning Conference, which is to be held at Magna, Rotherham on Monday 7th July 2008. This is part of an ambitious National Schools Investment Programme known as Building Schools for the Future. The team has been invited to work with a local Media Company, Diva to produce a news report of the Conference on 7th July 2008. Here they are hard at work deciding how they will work together to ensure they produce a DVD of the event.

A report on their work will be available in the July edition of 'In Touch'

YEAR 12 CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2008

On Thursday 19th June 2008 a group of Year 12 students organised a Charity Football match to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. The Academic Students, captained by Joe Steel took on the Sports Students who were captained by Warren Smith. Spectators who paid £1 to watch the tightly contested match were thoroughly entertained by the magic created on the field. Mr Staton was convinced he had seen a future Beckham! Does he know anything about football?

The final result was:

Academic Students 0 Sports Students 8



Whatever the result of the match the real winner was The British Heart Foundation who will be presented with a cheque for £50. Well done to everyone who took part.

ORIENTEERING REPORT

On the 7th of May Mr Hawkins, a student teacher from Hallam University accompanied Mr Ashmore and a group of 15 Y10 pupils on an orienteering exercise which is part of the PE GCSE course. This relatively new aspect of the curriculum is quickly gaining momentum and proving popular with pupils, allowing those who perhaps do not favour the team sports to gain valuable experience and a worthwhile qualification.

The first task of the day was a team briefing where pupils are given compasses and maps and a thorough demonstration of how to use both. The bus then left school just after 9am with a relaxed and eager group of pupils.

On arrival at the destination, Clumber Park, we drove around the park and several landmarks and clues were pointed out, areas for special care also highlighted. After splitting into groups of 4/5 pupils set off at intervals of 5mins or so, the object of the exercise was to locate and navigate to a series of numbered markers on the map, these can be found in any order so the first `team meeting` is to decide the sequence. Immediately the team I was working with decided on a route and realised that by splitting into pairs several markers could be picked up at the same time and then the team regroup at the next marker. Markers consist of wooden posts with a number on which the pupils see on the map and also a letter, which is recorded, as proof of achievement.

On arrival back at base some 2 hours later the sheets were collected and a packed lunch heartily eaten.

After lunch another route was followed in a different part of the park, this being shorter at approximately one hour and only 3 markers. It was however more tricky with most time spent on forest tracks making correct use of maps and compasses crucial.

Apart from the obvious benefits of fresh air and exercise this course is invaluable in building team spirit, self respect as well as respect for colleagues and the environment. Pupils self confidence is boosted greatly by the activity and this was very evident on the day.

Mr P L Hawkins

TERM DATES 2008/2009 SCHOOL YEAR

School opens to students	School closes
Wednesday 3rd September 2008	Friday 24th October 2008
Monday 3rd November 2008	Friday 19th December 2008
Monday 5th January 2009	Friday 13th February 2009
Monday 23rd February 2009	Friday 3rd April 2009
Monday 20th April 2009	Friday 1st May 2009
Tuesday 5th May 2009	Friday 22nd May 2009
Monday 1st June 2009	Friday 17th July 2009

JIM CHISHOLM NEWS

Former Deputy Headteacher at Wath, Jim Chisholm, who retired in July 2006 was placed fourth in the World Age Group Sprint Triathlon Championships which took place earlier this month in Vancouver, Canada. This beats the eighth place that he achieved in the 2007 World Championships in Hamburg.

The conditions for the competition were appalling with low water temperatures and driving rain which caused problems for many of the competitors. Not Jim however who is used to these conditions as he does his training here in Yorkshire.

His success is even more remarkable as he sustained a back injury in December. A tremendous achievement—well done Jim!

Ready Steady Cook Finalists 2008

Ready Steady Cook Finalists 2008

Earlier this term Mrs Morley and Rotherham College of Arts and Technology organised a 'Ready, Steady Cook' Competition which was open to students in Years 9 and 10. Students worked in pairs and submitted menus for a main course suitable for two people. The competition was very close but sadly only one winning team was allowed to go through to the finals at RCAT on Wednesday 7th May 2008.

The Judges awarded marks as follows:

Originality of the dish	20 marks
Taste	20 marks
Presentation	20 marks
Healthy eating practices	20 marks
Health, safety and hygiene	20 marks



The winning partnership of the first round were brother and sister Charlotte and George Bailey who decided to prepare chicken in a creamy mushroom and white wine sauce accompanied with potato rosti, ratatouille and a tomato salad.

The final competition was very tense with Charlotte and George working under strict rules in a strange industrial kitchen. All finalists produced dishes to a very high standard and all deserved the title of 'Rotherham Schools Ready Steady Cook 2008' Winner. Charlotte and George gained second place—a brilliant achievement considering that

they were the youngest competitors in the competition. This was a very proud moment for their parents, grandma and Mrs Morley.

Comments from Charlotte and George

When we first saw the other contestants we thought we didn't have a chance as all the other competitors had taken Food Technology as an option. However we just wanted to have a good time and enjoy ourselves so we were very surprised when the judges said that the second prize had been awarded to 'an odd couple!'.

We didn't think we had done that well but were ecstatic to find out that it was us who had come second against so many older and more experienced students. We really enjoyed ourselves and it was a fun day out.

Congratulations



'Grease'. Break a Leg!

Not a leg though, but an ankle after David Kerry fell down a curb. Don't panic! The show must go on, and David will still be able to star in the show as one of the leading roles 'Kenickie'.

"It was a close call, could have been a lot worse. Nothing's stopping me from doing the show though," says David.

Determined David is learning his lines, rehearsing his songs with the band, and fully attending rehearsals, albeit hobbling rather than dancing. But we're sure he'll be fit for the show. Good Luck!



Chorus and Band

Rehearsals are taking place every lunchtime and three evenings a week.

"Things are starting to come together, and now the exams are finished in the hall we can get things on stage," says Mr Troughton.

Keep up the hard work cast!



Africa comes to Music!



One of the members of the workshop is Paul Batholomeuw, a composer of the music; he used to be in Jules Holland's band for 10 years! He was very impressed with how quickly the students have learnt the songs.

Miss Hakopian has had the pleasure with working of with Paul throughout the workshops and has decided to bring the ideas to the classroom, to make sure her classes get a flavour of what's going on.

Here is 7LK enjoying one of the lessons!!



STUDENTS FROM RAWMARSH SPORTS COLLEGE JOIN WITH WATH IN REHEARSALS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd July 2008 at 7 p.m.	New Year 6 Parents' Evening
3rd July 2008 at 7 p.m.	Sports Celebration Evening
4th July 2008	Y13 'Prom' at The Brooklands Hotel, Barnsley
7th to 11th July 2008	Expressive Arts Week
8th July 2008	Spellathon
9th to 11th July 2008	School Production of <i>Grease</i>
11th July 2008	Expressive Arts Day
18th July 2008	Last day of term
1st/2nd September 2008	Staff Training Days
3rd September 2008	Students return to school details to follow
17th September 2008	Y13 Mountain Walking Trip
19th September 2008	Provisional date for Y7, 9 and 12 photographs
24th September 2008	Y13 Mountain Walking Trip
29th September 2008	History Visit to the Somme
29th September 2008	Y13 Biology Fieldcourse
3rd November 2008	Y11 Study Visit to France



**Wath Comprehensive School: A
Language College
Sandygate
Wath-on-Deerne
ROTHERHAM
S63 7NW**

Tel: 01709 760222

Fax: 01709 761094