



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that the Easter holidays are almost upon us, it really doesn't seem two minutes since Christmas.

We seem to have packed a lot into such a short term. However, in addition to the normal timetable an extensive programme of support, revision and coursework sessions has been running every evening for students in the key examination years and these will continue after Easter right up to and during the examination period. Parents of Year 11 students will also have been notified of the study programme which will run during the holiday period. I am very pleased to say that students have responded very well and attendance at the extra sessions has been very good. I am very appreciative of the many staff in all subject areas who have given their time so willingly to support students beyond the school day.

Earlier in the term we all enjoyed the three spectacular Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings, which are a highlight of the school calendar. This year had a nautical theme and our students and all our local primary schools rose to the challenge superbly to provide high quality performances. The dancing skills of the PE staff especially the 'sailors', brought the house down!

A team of senior students qualified for the national finals of the Mock Trial Competition in Manchester last week and although they didn't win they had a fantastic experience. This is the first time we have reached the finals, very well done to all involved.

Reports of this and other events can be found later in this edition of 'In Touch'.

I have written previously regarding my concerns about road safety. Although some additional yellow line markings and barriers have been added to the roads around the school students must take much more care when crossing the roads near to school. This was sadly highlighted to us one morning this week when a student at another secondary school in Rotherham was knocked down and killed outside their school. Please help us to learn from this tragedy by talking to your child(ren) about crossing the road safely. We are continuing to campaign for additional pelican crossings and would welcome your support in writing individually to the council.

On a more positive note may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter.

P Ward
Headteacher

March 2008

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FRIENDS OF WATH NUMBERS CLUB

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Friends of Wath by buying numbers in their numbers club. The winning numbers, drawn out by Miss Ackerley's Year 9 Mathematics Group are as follows:

Prize	Winning Number
1st prize of £50	7
2nd prize of £20	149
3rd prize of £10	116
4th prizes of £5 each	67 and 160
5th prizes of £1 each	84, 185, 35, 149 and 17

The Good Life

It will be a long time before Wath Comprehensive School grows all its own food, but a new project is giving some of our students the chance to develop their gardening skills - and to make a contribution towards improving the local environment at the same time. We have taken over an allotment plot on a site a few minutes' walk from school, and since Christmas we have been planning, clearing and preparing.



This photograph shows the plot in its 'before' state. Some clearing was certainly needed! We are very grateful to the Co-operative Society for supporting the project financially and to Wathwood Hospital and the Rotherham Children's Inclusion and Support service for their practical help. Planting will begin soon, and we hope to have fresh produce for sale in school before the Summer

Holiday. The school may not be able to grow enough food to feed itself, but we hope that this project will be able to develop and sell enough to pay for itself. We will keep you informed.

Photograph showing the presentation of a cheque in support of the project



Ski Visit to Les Rois Mages In France March



We began our journey at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday morning on the 2nd March 2008. We were to catch a plane from Manchester Airport and land in Turin, Italy before being transferred by coach to our hotel, Les Rois Mages, in the ski resort of Montgenevre which is in the French Alps. Everyone was looking forward to the journey ahead but I suspect no one anticipated just how good it was going to be.

During the week we had various awards presented at the end of each skiing day. An example was the Donkey of the Day which was awarded for a variety of reasons e.g. wearing two right ski boots (Joe Thompson), forgetting to lift the safety bar to get off the chair lift (Alex Green), being a human 'bowling ball' on skis and knocking the ski group over (Seb Drake).



Skier of the week went to Joanna Anderson. A well deserved candidate for the award, not just for her excellent skiing ability, but for the ability to successfully plan, then lead the staff on a morning of skiing. Not an easy task if you ask me. She also claimed the award for her unselfish and helpful manner in helping skiers less capable than herself even before staff had thought to ask her.

Highlights of the trip for me had to be one of two things. Sebastian Drake's commitment to acclaimed crab dance, or Chris Ng's numerous encounters with the floor. One that especially sticks in my mind is when he decided the tree just off piste would be a good place to stop, after running into this he then decided to hit some simultaneous jumps at high

speed and flew over them until crash landing on the other side.

Obviously a candidate for donkey of the day, along with Matthew Baggaley who fell asleep on a ski lift was Alex Logan when a vibrant orange fence got in her way. Which almost beats Joanna's efforts to lead half the advanced group up the wrong ski lift on the very first day leaving the rest to roast in the sun.

There was some brilliant skiing taking place throughout the duration of the trip, some showing the determination to get back up after a fall and carry on, all were willing to learn under the tuition of the instructors. Many progressed dramatically through the week. One girl to mention is Brogan Hough, this girl having taken a fall on just the second day which concluded in a twisted knee, showed bravery and strength and never seemed to let it get her down. She wore a proud smile throughout the rest of the week and wanted to be involved, asking to go down to the snow and have her picture taken. After seeing her remarkable spirit the staff decided to introduce a new award for next year's trip: 'Non-skier of the Week'.



All that remains is to thank all the staff: Mr S Wesson, Mr Greaves, Mr Taylor, Mr Baker, Mr D Wesson, Mrs De-Mengel and last but certainly not least, our Headteacher Mrs Ward. Written by John Askew

A WARM WATH WELCOME

Wath Comprehensive School has hosted German adult learners from Riesa, Rotherham's Partner town for two weeks of English lessons. They are the second group to visit the Language College as part of the long-standing partnership between the two towns. Last year Rotherham scooped third place in the Yorkshire and Humber Awards for the project which combines language and culture, learning and lifestyle.

The five professionals stayed with families in Rotherham and nearby Doncaster to reinforce what they had learnt in the classroom. The first week of intensive tuition was supported by a programme of visits in and around Rotherham to show the new face of the town and the region.



The college professor, doctor, company director, business leader and director of the town tourist information service all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Wath Language College director Nigel Bemrose said: "The Language College continues to build its international reputation. Our thanks go to the Chief Executive and his staff for all their help with the project."

Rotherham teams will compete in Riesa's Dragon-Boat festival in July, and students from Wath will visit the town to complete a work experience placement. "The warm Yorkshire welcome our guests receive here makes their trip complete", said Mr Bemrose. "We're already looking forward to next year's course", he added.

Photo:graph from left to right

*Professor Heinz ZIEGER Sylvia ILLGEN Manuela LANGER
Andreas STAROSKE Sabine GUEFFROY*

Nigel BEMROSE (Language College Director)

Riding High



Georgia Simpson, a year 9 student, started riding about 6 years ago at a riding school in Doncaster where she had lessons over a period of 3 to 4 years. Initially she started taking part in some competitions riding ponies from the school but then decided it was time to own her own pony. Her pony, Trickster, was bought in April 2006 when she joined Wentworth & District Pony Club. In this time she has taken part in some cross country as well as show jumping competitions.

During the recent Christmas holidays she took part in a show jumping competition to try to qualify for the finals which are to take place in Gloucestershire. During her round of show jumps she achieved a very fast time and went into the lead. As the competition progressed and her class had finished no one had achieved a faster time so she won in her class. She collected her rosette and proudly did her lap of honour.

The result of this superb achievement is that she has now qualified for the final. She will therefore be travelling down to Gloucestershire in April 2008. She is looking forward to the competition and we would like to wish her all the best. Lets hope she can bring back another rosette.

Swimming Success

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd March 2008 Natasha Oates participated in the Disability Sports Events National Junior Swimming Championships. Natasha was a member of the DSE Yorkshire Swimming Team in the S14 category, which is for Group A for U14's.

Natasha took part in the 50 metres breast stroke and won Gold in a time of 51.13 seconds. This time was faster than anyone in all categories up to U18. In the 50 metres backstroke she achieved a bronze medal in a time of 52.44 seconds, taking 4 seconds off her previous personal best. In the 100 metres individual medley she achieved a Silver medal in a time of 1 minute 44.72 seconds taking an amazing 8 seconds off her previous personal best. If this wasn't enough she took part in the 50 metres freestyle where she achieved another Silver medal in recording a time of 40.24 seconds again taking off 2 seconds from her previous personal best. Here she is proudly showing off her medals. Well done Natasha: all your hard work is certainly paying off.



Y10 'Give us the Money' Enterprise Challenge Final



At the beginning of February all of our Year 10 pupils went to Dorothy Hyman Banqueting Suite over three days to take part in their Dragons' Den style Enterprise Challenge Day, organised by Business Education South Yorkshire. Following a most enjoyable and engaging challenge, a winning team was chosen on each of the days. Everyday Joyce Tinker, Lead Liaison Manager from BeSY, selected the most enterprising student. The winning teams received gift vouchers for Meadowhall.

On the afternoon of Friday 29th February the winning teams from each day competed for the title 'Y10 Enterprise Champions' in the school library.

Following a buffet lunch the teams worked on improving their presentations before delivering them in front of the 'Dragons' Den' judges, who included two of the original judges, together with Mrs Sanders and Hayley Edge our entrepreneur from Y13. This time the judges were even more ruthless in their questioning of the teams on their product.

However, after much deliberation a winning team was eventually chosen, they were one of the teams from Miss Wilson's tutor group, who received Easter Eggs, and gifts donated by the Army.

The winning team was:

Emily Kitchen
Becki Gough
Jade Nightingale
Georgina Ryan
Beth Hobson
Laura Josephs
Stephanie Brown
Kirsty Swift



The three contenders for the title 'Most Enterprising Student' over the whole event were Ben Bristow, Alex Gardner and Oliver Lynam. Joyce awarded the prize for the overall winner to Oliver Lynam; all three boys received a rather nice, engraved trophy.

Congratulations to all the winners

QATAR TEACHERS' VISIT TO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2008

In February 2007, as part of a programme run by the British Council, Mr Naylor visited Qatar in the Middle East to create links between our school and schools in Qatar. The visit resulted in links being established with Muaither Girls' School and Khaled bin Alwaleed School for Boys, both situated on the outskirts of the capital city of Doha. This February saw a return visit by two of the teachers from Khaled bin Alwaleed School. Mr Naylor worked with the group of Middle East teachers in York on Sunday 24th February as part of a process of getting to know about British culture, society and our education system. Then on the following Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the two teachers, Mr Kordi and Mr Al Kadi, visited our school, met staff and students and visited a range of different lessons to experience our way of teaching and learning. They were both very excited by what they saw and heard, and took back with them to Qatar lots of new ideas to try out in their lessons. They have asked us to thank our students and staff for being so welcoming and for accommodating them in lessons. They enjoyed their visit very much.



*Mr R Naylor, Assistant
Headteacher, with Mr Kordi and
Mr Al Kadi*

VISITS BY Y11 STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

On the mornings of Monday 3rd of March and Tuesday 4th of March nearly 100 Y11 students from other schools who are considering Wath Sixth Form as their place of study for 'A' levels came to find out more about our Sixth Form. It was the first opportunity to visit the school since the January Sixth Form Evening, a chance to see the school during the teaching day and to visit subject areas. The students also visited 'A' level classes and took advantage of the opportunity to talk to those students who are currently taking 'A' levels. The students enjoyed the mornings and staff commented on their positive outlook and their favourable impressions of the school. The next open days are at the end of June, when all students will have the opportunity to experience actual 'A' level lessons for themselves as part of the process of deciding which 'A' level subjects to take.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
20th March 2008	Last day of term
7th April 2008	Return to School
9th April 2008	Y9 KS3 English play a.m.
9th April 2008	Friends of Wath meeting 7.30 p.m. in the Young Persons Centre
16th April 2008	Review day 3
22nd April 2008	Year 8 parent/student consultation meeting 3.30 p.m
5th May 2008	May Day Bank Holiday
12th May 2008	GCSE and A level examinations begin
6th to 9th May 2008	KS3 Assessments
19th May 2008	Year 10 Performing Arts Week
23rd May 2008	Last day of half term
2nd June 2008	Return to School
13th June 2008	Additional INSET day

Rotherham E-Mentoring Scheme

Wath Sixth Form

in Partnership with

Sheffield Hallam University

E-Mentoring is a mentoring relationship that uses e-mail as the system of communication between Mentor and Mentee. Wath Sixth Form has entered a scheme which provides an exciting way for students to gain information about all aspects of Higher Education. This could range from guidance on how to choose a course, how to complete an application, how to write a personal statement to discussions about setting educational targets and personal goals or even discovering where the best student discounts can be found!

Wath Sixth Form has been invited to enter an electronic mentoring programme run in conjunction with Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and Sheffield Hallam University (SHU). Most of our current Y12 students recognised the potential benefits of having an eMentor and put themselves forward for the scheme. The students then completed a short questionnaire that was used to identify those who were finally offered a place in the scheme. This was necessary because the number of places available is limited. The invited students eagerly signed up for the scheme. Since then, they have attended a launch evening at SHU and met with their eMentor, a current SHU student. The Y12 students now correspond with their Mentor via e-mail as and when they wish.

From a Health and Safety perspective, all university mentors are CRB checked and all meetings between our students and their mentors are supervised. In addition, all e-mails are subject to a filtering and monitoring process by a Co-ordinator in school.

As our Sixth Form students are now reaching that stage where they have to give some serious thought to their futures, the eMentees are finding this programme extremely valuable. In particular, the eMentees can access a wealth of 'inside knowledge' from experienced university students in order to see how going to university can help them succeed in achieving their goals.

However, you do not have to wait to be a Sixth Form student to take advantage of this exciting and valuable scheme. Any student from Year 9, 10 or 11 can participate. The next scheme will begin in September 2008. Watch this space for further details!

Ms J Shaw

Higher Education Coordinator/Deputy Head of Sixth Form

French Work Experience to Saint-Etienne

15th October to 21st October 20

People who went on the trip: Simon Tingle, Peter Swallow, Kirsty McCormick, Thomas Mower, Simon Wake, Deanna Wilson, Thomas Whyke, Bethany Harker, Vanessa Plansson, French Assistant and Monsieur Grayel.

The Work Experience in the schools of Saint-Etienne provided a unique opportunity which presented both a challenge and an amazing experience for all the students, working in Primary, Secondary Schools and Colleges in the town of Saint Etienne, from 15th to the 21st of October 2007.



One of the best ways of developing language skills is being surrounded by the language 24 hours a day. Of course working within the schools was challenging. One of the most noticeable impacts of the trip was the effect on the students' confidence; incredibly, it seemed that everyone really developed a great deal of self-confidence and awareness to deal with the most demanding situations. The work in the different schools was extremely varied, from having the opportunity to understand the French schools' system, clerical and administrative tasks, teaching, mentoring and giving presentations.

One of the most satisfying aspects of the trip was the interaction between English and French students. The young French people were most certainly very appreciative and welcoming and this added to the enjoyable nature of the experience. The ability to cope with everyday situations in another language can be at times very daunting, but this experience has given the students the opportunity to overcome these obstacles but also appreciate the enormous benefits of proficiency in another language.

Aside from the work experience there was plenty of time for relaxation with opportunities such as bowling, cinema, shopping and meals. Some students also took time to visit the nearby city of Lyon. These activities, along with the typical French restaurants where we ate at each night, allowed the students to appreciate the French culture whilst unwinding from the work during the day.

Not only will this experience be treasured by the students because of confidence, independence, language skills but it was also a very enjoyable opportunity for the students in an area of profound French culture. Mr Grayel said that the French teachers were very impressed by our students who displayed very high standards at all times. Mr Grayel thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and said he found it very interesting watching the students using various strategies to cope in the French schools. An experience which will be repeated next year for the current Year 12.

Written by Simon Tindle

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust - Maths Challenges

Students from Wath have been taking part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenges for many years. The trust describes their challenges as: "lively, intriguing papers designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of pupils. They are tests of reasoning and mental agility, which can be taken without any special preparation or revision. The three levels cover the 11-18 age range and together attract over half a million entries each year from over 4000 schools and colleges."

The competition is divided into three age groups:

- Junior - years 7 and 8
- Intermediate - years 9, 10 and 11
- Senior - years 12 and 13

In November 2007, 27 Wath sixth form students took the Senior Maths Challenge. One third of the entrants received an award, two gold, three silver and four bronze. Thomas Mower and Stephen Turner achieved the same highest score of 77. They were competing with thousands of entrants from the best private and state schools in the country.

On February 7th seventy six Wath students from year's 9, 10 and 11 sat this years Intermediate Challenge. This is a particularly daunting experience for year 9 students who suddenly find themselves challenged at the same level as year 10 and 11 students. The awards are made in year bands but the papers are marked exactly the same with the same marks to be achieved for each level of award. 42% of these Wath students received awards in this year's Intermediate competition. One student, Katherine Bostock in year 9, received a Gold Award and an invitation to take part in the next qualifying round called the Grey Kangaroo. Katherine will then be competing with the top few percent of Maths students in the country of her own age group. Eventually success in further qualifiers could lead to a place in the UK team which will compete in the International Maths Olympiad and travel abroad.

On 1st May 2008 over 120 year 7 and 8 students will take part in the Junior Maths Challenge. At this level any student in Maths set 1 will take part. This allows our students to test their mathematical skills against the best maths students in the country. Around a quarter of a million students enter the competition at the Junior level and a Gold award represents a result in the top 5% in the country.

Success in the Maths Challenges is highly regarded as an indicator of good mathematical skills and can be very helpful when competing for places in further or higher education.

RETIREMENT OF MRS CHRISTINE BAMFORD

On behalf of Wath Comprehensive School Staff and students I would like to take this opportunity to wish our dear friend and colleague Christine Bamford a very fond farewell in her retirement from the school on 31st March 2008.



Christine has become a very valuable member of staff in providing an exceptional service through her very conscientious management of the school reprographics centre. Christine came to Wath Comprehensive from RCAT on 8 March 2004 where she had worked for many years and brought with her a wealth of experience and knowledge, which I can only say was of great value to the school. Christine will be missed greatly by all her colleagues and students alike. Christine, to her credit, has tried to keep everyone else going, meeting deadlines and giving advice when perhaps things may not have been so good for herself and as we all know she too has gone through some very difficult times over the past year.

Well Christine as your well-deserved retirement approaches everyone at Wath Comprehensive School :A Language College wishes to say a very big "THANK YOU" for all your hard work and commitment to the School throughout your time here. We wish you well in your retirement and good luck for the future. We will miss you greatly.

Message from Christine

I have worked here at Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College for the past four years. This has been a most enjoyable period in my 32 years of reprographic work. In my retirement I am exchanging copying equipment for gardening tools and paper for potting compost. I wish the students and staff of the school all the very best.

A NIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD



On Thursday 21st February the main school hall was transformed into the glamorous world of Hollywood.

The Hollywood disco was organised by the Young Chamber team. Young Chamber is a group of students who work hard together to organise events and schemes throughout school to help raise money and to learn new skills. Everyone entered like Hollywood stars, walking down a red carpet and having their pictures taken by a professional photographer.

The disco started off the way all discos should, great music, terrible dancing, and the sound of balloons popping. After about an hour, when the glow sticks had been sold and all the pictures had been taken, the music turned down low, the lights dimmed, and Shred, the band chosen to play at the event, made their debut performance. First, they played 'Highway To Hell' getting the crowd excited and begging for more. They played three more songs and ended with a bang.

After Shred, the DJ turned up her music and the dancing continued, but just as people were getting back into the swing of things, the music stopped and three Y11 dancers tore onto the stage. The crowd stood open-mouthed as the three girls wowed them with their amazingly choreographed dance routine. After a little more dancing, it was time to crown 'Miss Hollywood'. The five nominees were called up onto the stage and the crowd were asked to scream for the girl (including Matthew) they wanted to win. It was close but the lucky girl who got to wear the crown was Morven Robinson.



Everyone crammed on stage and danced more than they had all night. A perfect way to end the evening, but before everyone went home there was one more thing left to happen. The music changed to a slower beat and the crowd made way for those who had someone special to dance with.



The night was over quickly, but it wasn't to be forgotten. It was a great night and hopefully The Young Chamber will be holding another one just like it later in the year.

Big thanks to everyone who helped, took part in and came to the disco. If you would like to see the pictures taken on the night, you can access them in 'My Computer, Doclib on snow, Students, Young Chamber, Disco Images'

SCIENCE HALL OF FAME

Well Done to the following students who have been nominated by their Science Teacher for their hard work and efforts over this half term, special mention should be made to all those in Year 9 for their hard work in their Mock SATs and revision.

Year 7

Suzy Beanland
Joe Thomas
George Senior
Shannon Frail
Sophie Millers
Ria Steel
William King
Aaron Lawford
Shona Beasley
Curtis Knowles
Essy Movahedi
Michael Sanders
Miriam Mhlanga
Charlotte Hobson

Year 8

Zak Bailey
Derrien Kerr
Ren Allott
Julian Hermoso
Tyler Grivil
Alex Gosling
Sadie Ferguson
Karl Magnall
Rob Garner
Stevie-Lee Hoyle
Adam Copeland
Shannon Court
Ashleigh Law
Andrew Wordsworth

Year 9

Thomas Hill
Gerda Ceponyte
Nicole Stringer
Emma Levin
James Powley
Amy Bates
Joe Szacki
Holly Caine
Michael Garnett
Ruth Rocha Lawrence
Patsy Fryer
Sarah Oscroft
Thomas Andrews
Scott Westoby

THE EMMA VEE DANCE STUDIOS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A few students from our school have recently taken part in a dancing fund raising event. These include myself, Kayleigh Annetts, Rihanna Woodbridge and Bethany Dyson. It took place on the 14th December 2007 and finished on the 16th December 2007 at Montgomery Hall in Wath-on-Deerne. It was a great success with 750 people attending over the weekend to see the show.

My sister and I did a dance called 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' from the Wizard of Oz. There were some other wonderful dances done by other members of the dance school, for example, Macnamara's Band, Steam Heat and many others. It was a good show to watch because it was funny and colourful.

The money raised went to the Rowan Ward at Rotherham District General Hospital where my dad works. We raised £1 100 in ticket sales alone. There will be more money raised once the proceeds from raffle sales and donations are added.

I interviewed my nana and she said, "It was absolutely fabulous." I know many others also thought the same. I wonder if you were one of the lucky ones to have seen our performance?

Kayleigh Annetts.

GYM, DANCE AND MOVEMENT EVENING PHOTOGRAPHS



'Mock Trial Success'

'Mock Success'. This is not a tip for life, but an account of the school 2008 Bar Mock Trial Team's participation in the National Final on Saturday 1st March. First of all we didn't win, but that doesn't mean that the trip was not an amazing achievement, simply for the fact that everyone involved loved every minute they were there. Not to mention that we were down to the last sixteen schools from over two hundred entrants.

The fun began at half four on Friday afternoon when the loaded down mini bus set off for Liverpool, where the competition was being held. On board we had nine fabulous students, and four stunning staff! The mini bus was loaded down simply because between us we had enough crisps, sweeties, and chocolate to feed twice that number, most of it provided by our lovely exam officer, Leanne White. Never let a Wath Comp team be accused of being under prepared! We spent that night in a Travelodge somewhere off some motorway some distance away from Liverpool, all organised by Mr Bemrose, so maybe we will never know just where it was we ended up.

The next morning was when the real fun began and at the Crown Court in the centre of Liverpool, up many flights of stairs, we competed in our first round. Trouble plagued us from the start however as our court clerk, Emily Booth, had laryngitis, yet still managed to pull a heroic performance from the bag. The case was intending to pervert the course of justice and the defendant was clearly guilty. Unfortunately the opposition was also extremely good and the defendant got off scot free, despite excellent testimony from our two key witnesses, Thomas Hill and Lucy Carney.

A quick break and then we were off to our next case, this time arson, and a tight round was fought. The two barristers, Jayde Adams and Joe Bowns, fought valiantly and gave the opposition a rough ride, especially as it was the side of the case that they had not done before in any the previous heats. Key in this case was our witness Paula Norris (aka Alex Doyle) yet her true testimony seemed to fall on deaf ears with the jury.

By this time we knew that the calibre of the competition we were up against was unlike anything we had encountered before, so we gave the final case of the day our all with the two intrepid barristers being Josh Woodbridge and Rachael Hamer-Norman, and the refined work of Hannah Higgins as usher, but it was not enough to ensure our place into the final round later that afternoon. So it was off to the photographer to have our team picture taken and then to collect the certificates for getting that far.

At the mini ceremony where we collected the certificates the finalists were announced, and one of our competitors from earlier in the day were in the top two and going on to the last heat, giving us confidence that we could have done no better! The team that finally won was from Whitley Bay, and were definitely our favourites as the (second) nicest team there.

Overall the day was amazing; despite everyone with a scouse accent deciding we were no longer Wath but 'Waith' Comp. There was a fantastically supportive spirit in the entire court despite the nature of the competition and it was a real buzz for everyone involved, including the actual barristers it seemed. Heed this warning though: Mock Trial is addictive no matter what level you enter at, be it Y9, Y13 or any stage in between. We're all sad to never be able to do it again, but hopefully some new bright stars will manage to win us the Final next year. Long Live the Bar Mock Trial team 2007/8.

With special thanks to all the teachers who put so much work in, Ms Fenton, Mrs Shurdhi and Miss Stroud and Mr Bemrose for doing all of the driving.

Written by Rachael Hamer-Norman

Biotechnology days



On Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th of March, the science lab, F43, was transformed into a university laboratory as Dr John Scholar from the National Centre for Biotechnology Education (based at Reading University) as an integral part of 'A' level Biology. He came to give Year 12 students the opportunity to experience university level practical work. Students initially extracted their own DNA (the genetic material) from cheek cells. They then used techniques often seen in CSI programmes called PCR and DNA fingerprinting. PCR takes a small amount of DNA (as might be found at the scene of a crime) and copies it to become a larger mass.

When sufficient DNA is obtained, a DNA fingerprint can be produced which is unique to that individual. DNA fingerprints can be used as evidence in a court of Law to identify an individual from a hair follicle, body fluid, or fragments of skin left behind at a scene of crime. Once they had mastered these techniques they then used their skills to identify a criminal from evidence supplied. Inevitably - it was Captain Mustard in the Library with the candlestick!

On a serious note, though, the students enjoyed the experience as well as working very hard. Well done to all Year 12 Biologists for their positive, well mannered approach to the day.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT EXCITING NEWS

For the first time, on 2 May 2008, young people are taking over the House of Lords to debate and vote on their national campaigns for 2008 and 2009.

Rotherham will be represented by John D'Silva a year 8 from our school and Sarah Hale who is a student from another Rotherham school as part of a large group of MYP's (Members of Youth Parliament) representing Yorkshire and the Humber.

Please look at the link below for more information. There is also an opportunity for all young people to influence what the MYP's debate in the House of Lords through the UKYP website.

www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk



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