



December 2011

In Touch

Message from the Headteacher

WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL: A LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term staff and students are looking forward to a well deserved Christmas holiday.

Following the recent positive Ofsted inspection it has been very much back to 'business as usual'. Thankfully to date (I hope I am not speaking too soon) the weather has been rather kinder than this time last year when we had the heavy snowfalls to contend with.

As I write Year 11 students are currently taking their preliminary examinations which are very important as they help us target the appropriate interventions to ensure the most positive outcomes in the Summer. The results of the preliminary examinations will be given to students after the Christmas holiday. Y11 are to be congratulated for their positive attitude and sensible conduct during the examination period.

Last week we enjoyed a very special occasion, the Year 11 Presentation Evening for students who took their GCSE examinations last Summer. As reported in an earlier edition of 'In Touch' these students achieved excellent results. Many of these students have moved into our Sixth Form and it was lovely to welcome them and those students who left us to pursue courses, training or employment elsewhere.

Next week we are looking forward to three performances of this year's pantomime, Cinderella, if last year's production of Jack and the Beanstalk is anything to go by it will be a truly lively and entertaining evening for all ages.

In the final week of term, on Thursday 15 December we look forward to the annual Christmas Concert where many of our gifted musicians and singers will have an opportunity to showcase their talents in a programme of traditional and contemporary music. This is always a very popular and enjoyable evening which sets us up perfectly for Christmas.

All tutor groups are currently busy putting the finishing touches to their hampers for our annual Christmas Hamper competition. Once the judging has taken place the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the areas which the school serves and to local residential care homes. With the incentive of a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for the 'best in school' staff and students have once again risen to the challenge and the results are amazing. The results will be announced in the next edition of 'In Touch'.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and good New Year.

Yours sincerely

P Ward
Headteacher

Welcome from Wath Watch!

Welcome to our November edition of 'In Touch'. We've got lots of news this month on the many activities we have been doing in school so far this half-term. From Art Club to Enterprise and Concerts to Children in Need, there has been lots to keep us busy.

It does not stop there though, as there is even more going on in the build-up to Christmas, so make sure you check out the notices on the back page for details on the upcoming events. Happy reading!

The Student Journalists

Enterprise Success

This year in Enterprise, the Year 7s have raised over £60. The preparation for the task was run by Miss Wall in G9 and we all were always hard at work on Wednesday lunchtimes. The posters were all designed by ourselves. Most stalls were bake sales and all the baking was done in our own time at home. A lot of effort was put into the final product in Enterprise week, but none of this would have been worked if it wasn't for you so we give you a big THANK YOU and hope that the next Enterprise will go well.

Hopefully next year we will raise more money if you do your bit. The money we have raised will be used for either the next enterprise or given to charity. Any way it is used, it will be used wisely. Once again thank you for all the support and we hope we give you another fantastic week in the future.

**Written by Jayme, George, Olivia and Elizibeth
Y7 Enterprise**

Wath is where the art is

On a Monday after school, some students stay back and use their skills to create amazing art work for the school. A number of different art teachers run this club on a Monday 2:45 until 3:45 in S16.



In the first week, the members of this amazing club used the computers to find pictures and plan the design of their project for this term. This term's project is textiles. Students can do anything they like and not just stuff for Christmas; I decided that I was going to do a cushion cover.

The team of budding artists have started to draw their plans for what they will be doing; their wonderful ideas were all thought about really carefully. Some people are even going to give their creations to their families for Christmas.

One year 8 girl has started doing a 3D face and it already looks amazing! First, she had to cut out the card and make a head. When she did it, she got some shredded paper and stuck it onto the face to make it look like hair.

Other students have designed Christmas trees, whilst others are doing flowers. All of the designs look brilliant.

This is just a taster of what art club does. Remember that if you want to join all you have to do is go up to S16 on Monday after school, making sure that your parents or carers know you are staying at school and that you have sorted out transport home.

By Amber Millington
Student Journalist

Sporting Wath

We all know that loads of exciting things are happening in the next year, like the London 2012 Olympics. We also know that tickets are hard to get hold of. So what sports are happening on a more local level? We asked Mr. Wesson five questions to see why we should all join a sports club!

Us: "First of all, we'd like to ask you how many sports clubs there are."

Mr.W: "Sure! There are about 12 in total, but that's including clubs for particular year group."

Us: "Okay, that's a lot! Second question: which do you teach?"

Mr.W: "I teach Cross Country and Rugby."

Us: "What club do you recommend trying? Is there a club that's great for everyone?"

Mr.W: "Yep, the one that you should try would be the Olympic Club."

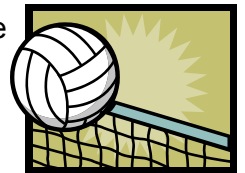
Us: "Right, thanks! And fourth question, what do we get out of it by joining a Sports Club? What can we gain from it?"

Mr.W: "You can gain skills that you use in everyday life and more, you can also gain friends from all year groups!"

Us: "Do you need any equipment, and if so, what?"

Mr.W: "All you need is a kit – the same you wear for games lessons — except for BMX, you need a working bike and protection."

So, there you have it! Extra-curricular sport clubs are really good – you barely



need anything to join and most are **free!** Remember to get permission from both the teacher and your parents before joining

Written By Jazmin Williams
Interviewed by Phillippa Matthews
Student Journalists

With thanks to Mr. Wesson

Wath Breaks into Song!

On the evening of November 10th, Wath once again produced a fantastic evening of music and dance at the 'Music and Dance Celebration Concert'. It was a busy night in the audience with parents, teachers and students coming along to enjoy it. A lot of people were in this big event and students performed, such as Abbie Sanderson, who sang 'Jar of Hearts' and Emilia Ashton, performing in the Samba Band.

The whole concert was fantastic and Mrs. Shaw says "I am so proud of all the students who took part and made it a wonderful night!"

Many thanks to all staff and students who made it possible; a lot of work and rehearsals went into making it a great Wath Comprehensive school event.

Abbie Sanderson
Student Journalist Y8



Road Safety

On Monday 31st October the road safety group workers came in to school to talk about how to keep safe near roads. They performed a pantomime to us about a boy who wanted to ignore his mum and all the advice she was giving him on what to do when crossing the roads.

The main part of the presentation was the performance, however they also got some people to take part in some activities. One of which was a guessing game where you had to guess how long a car took to stop and how many metres it was. A lot of people participated and they were all close to finding the answer, but the answer actually was 27 metres which took 5.7 seconds. It turned out that most people who guessed would have been hit by a car if they were in a real life situation.

The moral of the story is "Watch out for where you step because you never know what's round the corner."

People need to try to take these things seriously because so many terrible car accidents have happened before, and we want to make sure it never happens to you.

Overall, the road safety afternoon was amazing and everyone enjoyed it. We will be looking forward to see them again.

Written By Lauren Hudson
Student Journalist Y7

Expedition to Beresford Dale

During October half term, 5 dedicated Y11 students took time out to attempt to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition.

The feat was to take place in Beresford Dale after much planning and preparing. Students walked around 8 miles on each of the two days and had to camp in between, carrying everything with them such as tents, food and cooking pots and pans.

They were lucky with the weather during the day, but it poured with rain during the night, with the tents threatening to blow away in the wind. The students were marked on their teamwork, their tidiness with regard to litter and their completion of the walk.

All students worked fantastically together and successfully passed the expedition part. Their presentation, on the effects of tourism on the countryside, will bring them closer to achieving the Bronze Award.



Children in Need

A big thank you to all those involved in Children in Need a couple of weeks ago. There was a huge amount of money raised through all the different events going on in school.

The non-uniform day was a big success, with sixth formers in fancy dress raising extra funds. There was a raffle with some excellent prizes available. Throughout the day the atmosphere was really positive: aspiring footballers were testing their skills against the goalie on the football pitch; queues of girls (and a few lads!) were waiting for the very popular nail bar and there were lots of hungry mouths waiting eagerly at many cake sales taking place in the social areas. The final total has not been counted up yet, but as soon as it is, we will let you know how much was raised.



Student Journalists

Shaking up Shakespeare



Year 8 students have been enjoying learning Shakespeare texts through Drama-based activities in their English lessons. The English Department have been working hard to encourage students to actively engage with Shakespeare through a range of fun and interactive drama-focused activities.



Students in Year 8 have been studying 'Hamlet' in English this term. Teaching Shakespeare in this way has proven highly successful with a range of students enjoying lessons and gaining a detailed knowledge and understanding of characters, themes and events in the play.



"Doing Drama is better than just reading and writing all the time." Anthony Royle, Year 8.

"I think learning Shakespeare through Drama is fun because we're not bored and we have something exciting and different to do in lesson." Hayley Shaw, Year 8.



"I think doing Drama in English is fantastic because we are learning a different way to remember the story and it is a good way to make friends." Jasmine Cooke, Year 8.



"When you do Drama you understand it more than when you are just writing." Naomi McReynolds, Year 8.



"I think doing Drama for Shakespeare is easier learning because basically you live it but without the violence and everyone can be involved as a different character." Robbie Marshall, Year 8.





Educational Visits Abroad

We're offering lots of foreign study visits for our students to enjoy this year. As a Language College, we believe these visits and work experience abroad are an important part of language learning. By visiting countries where people speak the languages they are learning, our students not only have the opportunity to improve their language skills but they also learn about new cultures and meet new people. In September 2011, Y11 students visited Paris for a week. Other Modern Foreign Language visits coming up include: Y7/Y8 visit to Murcia, Spain, Sixth Form Work Experience in France, Germany and Spain. Other departments in school also offer visits abroad including: the ski visit to France, Somme Battlefields visit to France & Belgium, water sports visit to Spain. Please contact the relevant department within school for further information.



Clubs

We offer lots of lunch time and after-school clubs for our students to take part in. Here are some things to REMEMBER if you want to join a school club:

**You MUST get a permission slip from the member of staff running the club before you come along

**You can bring your packed lunch or buy a sandwich to bring - NO HOT FOOD though!

**Don't be afraid to try something new, if you think you might be interested just give it a go!

If you'd like to know what clubs we have on offer, please see the clubs board next to the LRB or ask your tutor, PSHCEE teacher if you're in Y7 or Miss Owen in the Language College Office next to G7.

Eco Group & Switch Off Fortnight

It's switch off fortnight from 21st November to 4th December. You could save up to 20% on your energy bills by switching off unnecessary electrical appliances! Find out more at www.jointhepod.org.

Are you interested in environmental issues? Do you care about what's happening to the planet? Would you like to help us to achieve Eco-School Status? If so, join the Eco Group. See Miss Owen in Language College for more information.



English Baccalaureate

This new award introduced by the Government will become a key figure in school league tables. To gain the Baccalaureate a student needs GCSE Grades C or above in English Language, Maths, Science, a Modern (or ancient) Foreign Language, and a Humanities subject.

As a specialist Language College, our students have an advantage over others in Rotherham and are more likely to leave school with the Baccalaureate because we require all our students to study a foreign language (although we also offer NVQs in French, German and Spanish). If the award had been offered last year, 25% of our students would have achieved it, against a national average of 16%. This year, our target is for 30% of Wath Comprehensive School students to leave school with the Baccalaureate.

Given that many schools do not require students to study a foreign language, nationally, a very small number of students are expected to be awarded the Baccalaureate, with well over half of all University applicants not getting it. We therefore expect that the Baccalaureate will become an important goal and that many of our students will be motivated to achieve it.

Language Classes

Our language classes for adults started again in September. We're running 30-week tutor-taught classes in Beginners' & Intermediate French & Spanish. We're also starting another 10-week computer-based course in January. We offer 32 languages from Arabic to Icelandic, Spanish to Welsh on our computer-based courses. Please call Language College for information on 01709 879029 or email wacssowen@rgfl.org.



Foreign Language Assistants

We've welcomed five new Foreign Language Assistants (FLAs) to Wath this year with another, Aureore, returning for her third year! Aureore and Pauline (both French), Anna (German), Dominik (Austrian), Sonia (Spanish) and Mary Tere (Mexican) are doing a wonderful job of giving us an insight into their own countries and cultures, as well as helping our students to perfect their language skills and do well in exams.

As the only specialist Language College in Rotherham, we arrange for FLAs to come to many Rotherham Secondary schools from October to May every year, a process which begins again in March!



The Go For It! Scheme

The Go For It! Scheme is a national initiative designed to help more young people take part in out of school activities. The scheme is now in its second year and we hope it will be even more popular this year than last!

Eligible students can apply for funding to allow them to participate in out of school (after school, weekend and holiday) activities such as Scouts, music lessons, sports or drama clubs, beauty courses, teen gym, street dance and even driving lessons. The Go For It! Scheme has also helped to heavily subsidise a number of extra-curricular activities which we opened up to all students in school including paintballing, skateboard customising, nail art, cupcake baking, graffiti art and more.

If you are eligible for Go For It! funding, you will have received a letter from Rotherham Council's Children's and Young People's Department explaining the scheme. If you would like to take part in an activity, please ask your parent or carer to complete the Activity Request Form and then you need to bring it back to Miss Owen in the Language College Office (next to G7). If you have any questions about the scheme, need a form or would like to check your eligibility, please contact Miss Owen in the Language College Office (next to G7), on 01709 879029 or by email at wacssowen@rgfl.org



Aureore



Pauline



Dominik



Anna



Sonia



Mary Tere



Toluca, Mary Tere's home town in Mexico!

Notices

Art House Christmas competition

The Art department is currently running a Christmas competition for Years Seven to Nine. Year Sevens are being asked to make a bauble, Year Eights a stocking and Year Nines a cracker. Every entry receives a house point, so make sure you get your entries in quick.

House Scores so far

	A	C	R	S	Th	Tr
Y 7	61	100	61	51	90	105
Y8	32	24	28	31	26	50
Y9	28	15	18	24	22	34
Y10	58	79	61	64	55	98
TOTAL	179	218	168	170	193	287

10 fascinating facts!

Did you know...

1. Babies yawn before they are born.
2. Your heart is about the same size as your fist.
3. Dust from Africa can travel all the way to America—just on the wind!
4. The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds.
5. Frogs drink through their skin.
6. If you fell into a black hole, you'd stretch out like spaghetti.
7. Every year, New York moves one inch further away from England.
8. A large python can swallow a goat whole.
9. Crocodiles often eat rocks.
10. A cat has 20 muscles in each ear.

Dates For your Diary

7th-9th December—Christmas pantomime.

13th December—Y13 Student/Parent Consultation Evening

15th December—Christmas Concert



Autumn Wordsearch

Can you find the 15 autumnal words in this wordsearch?

M	C	W	E	N	C	C	T	Y	S	X	G	L	Y	L
O	C	W	I	G	M	S	F	E	H	E	M	W	U	E
S	D	M	E	E	E	L	L	K	H	C	O	J	U	A
S	T	M	Y	V	G	B	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	V
O	E	C	R	P	A	Y	H	N	C	J	G	U	S	E
L	Y	A	S	T	P	O	E	F	O	Q	S	L	R	S
B	H	S	E	E	R	C	E	J	L	S	U	N	C	C
H	N	G	E	A	A	S	I	X	O	N	A	Q	L	Y
L	E	Y	N	P	T	A	S	H	U	N	S	E	P	D
V	R	G	M	I	T	T	U	N	R	H	M	O	S	X
Q	E	F	V	N	W	E	N	T	F	M	H	E	I	L
K	W	A	E	B	D	C	M	K	U	S	M	R	G	Z
O	L	N	E	D	L	O	G	B	L	M	A	T	Z	C
F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	E	R	N	B	S	L

autumn
leaves
bonfire
fireworks
orange
golden
crunchy
blossom

harvest
festival
season
September
October
colourful
vegetables

Fascinating Facts

Opposite sides of dice always add up to seven.

Comedy Corner!

Did you hear about the werewolf party?
They had a howling good time!