



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

February 2008

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Although this is a relatively short term it is proving to be an exceptionally busy one. This is particularly so for all students in key examination years as these examinations begin in a little over three months.

Year 9 students continue to prepare for their Key Stage 3 SATs in English, Mathematics and Science. Practice tests were held in school recently and the results from these will help staff and students to identify and focus on aspects which need more attention in order to make the necessary improvements in the SATs paper in early May.

Year 11 students are completing their coursework tasks in many subjects already and should have finished all coursework before the end of term. They are also now focusing their attention on revision and preparation for the written examinations, which begin in May. An extensive programme of revision and support has been organised and these sessions are held every day after school. Please check with your child which subjects operate each day and encourage them to attend, last year the students who did attend benefited greatly. All students in Year 11 have an adult mentor who will meet with them regularly to monitor progress and ensure that work is up to date and of the appropriate standard. I am very appreciative of the time which staff are freely giving to help our students maximise their potential.

Post-16 students (Year 12 and 13) have been sitting the module examinations and again additional learning opportunities have also been made available to support students and I am pleased to report that the response from students has been very positive.

As I am sure many of you recall, examination time can be stressful for students it is also a difficult time for parents who often wonder how they can best support their children. As with all examinations, planning and preparation is the key, last minute revision works for very few. Parents can support here checking that deadlines are met and by helping to prepare a structured revision timetable which begins well in advance of the examination period - now is not too soon to start!

The location for revision needs to be comfortable and appropriate - lying on a bed with music booming out at high volume does not help concentration whatever your child may tell you. Staff in school can help support students further by suggesting a range of revision techniques so that your child can adopt those which work for them.

Inside this issue

Airport Challenge	2
Christmas Hampers	
Year 9 Netball	3
Tournamant	
Comenius Project	4
Common Application Process	
Careers Fair	
School Disco	5
Free tickets	
Science Hall of Fame	6
Presentation Evening	
Foreign Language Assistants	7
Le Club des Amis Français à Dearne Valley	8
Dates for your diary	
Y12 Open Evening	
Youth Parliament	9
Numbers Club	
South Yorkshire Football	
Piano Restoration	10
Prefects	11
Free transport	
Scholastic Book Fair	

A key role for parents is ensuring that the timetable has planned breaks and time for recreation built in. Too much intense work can result in over-tiredness and anxiety, which are clearly counter productive. Striking a balance is important, they are only teenagers once!

Finally please contact the school if you need any further help or information.

P Ward

Headteacher



HAMPERS BEING DELIVERED TO SENIOR CITIZENS DECEMBER 2007

CITB Airport Project Challenge.

Congratulations to the team from Wath Comprehensive on winning the regional heat of the 2007 CITB Airport Project Challenge held at the Source at Meadowhall. The students competed against schools from South Yorkshire and were victorious at their first attempt.

The final was held at West Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of the 2007 National Construction Week. Here other regional winners from Secondary Schools in the Yorkshire and Humber region joined the students. For the final, each team had to act as a construction company who had the task of solving a problem at the airport, by introducing appropriate disabled facilities.



Sue Rawson, Education and Careers Adviser for Construction Skills Yorkshire & Humber said: "The airport challenge is one of the key events of National Construction Week in the region and I am pleased to say that the tasks the pupils faced were carried out successfully and to a high standard. Each job demonstrated to the teams the various skills that are needed to work on such a large construction project."

YEAR 9 NETBALL TOURNAMENT HELD AT WATH ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2008



Congratulations to everyone who took part in this tournament. The weather on this evening was not brilliant, but it did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the Year 9 girls, from several schools in Rotherham, who took part in many very exciting matches. The Y9 team won most of their matches and are therefore through, as runners-up, to the finals on March 15th 2008. Well done—a tremendous achievement. Good luck in the finals.

Comenius Project Update.

Mrs Gracey attended a project meeting in Hungary in October where she met the Comenius coordinators from our new partner schools from Helsinki, Finland and Cosenza in Italy. As usual the Hungarian school were excellent hosts and good progress was made regarding the project on Teenage Culture. The Wath Comenius group is currently working hard on their documentary on Teenage Life in Wath. Some of the work being done includes a drama production organised by Scott Westoby and David Pettinger in Year 9 focusing on adult perceptions of teenagers and the Year 8 girls are busy planning the Comenius fashion show in March 2008. In May, Charlotte Josephs and Laura Josephs will be representing the school at the end of year project meeting in Helsinki Finland. The girls will be presenting the work of the Wath Comenius group to the representatives from our partner schools.

Common Application Process

Our school is part of a pilot programme running in Rotherham called the 'Common Application Process (CAP)'. This involves our current Year 11 applying online to many of the colleges and training providers in the area. The CAP has been developed over the last few years with the aim of getting pupils who are in their last year of compulsory education to apply online to the provider of their choice. The website for the CAP is www.applyrotherham.org.uk and it is recommended that any pupil from Y9 onwards start to use this very useful website that has lots of information on it.

So far the Common Application Process is working well, many of the current Y11 have applied online and are keeping up to date by using the message service that is part of the site. One major advantage of the CAP is that pupils and parents/carers can use the site from home. Navigating through the site it is possible to see every provider in Rotherham and what courses they offer. Pupils need a PIN number to apply online, these are available from Connexions Advisers.

CAREERS FAIR HELD ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2007



The annual Careers Fair took place on Monday 17th December. The aim of the Careers Fair is to give pupils an opportunity to meet with colleges/employers and training providers and find out what they offer. The event was very well supported. Nineteen providers were present with all giving out advice and literature and many giving out free items such as pens, rulers and chocolate! Pupils commented that the event had given them much more of an idea what to do when leaving school. The school would like to thank Business Education South Yorkshire for helping to organise and support the event.



SCHOOL DISCO REPORT

The Y8 and Y7 disco, which was organised by Friends of Wath went down well and was a nice treat. Everybody had a great time and had lots of fun. The music was great and all the songs played were ones that you could dance to like the YMCA, Macarena and lots of others you would expect. All the teachers and parents from Friends of Wath even started dancing.

Everyone there had a laugh and a dance. Refreshments were included and were not even expensive.

Big Eat crisps-40p

Fizzy pop-50p

Sweets-20p

Or you could have all 3 for£1!

Of course all the fizzy pop made us all go mad even if we only had one!

By the end of the evening we had all had a great night, everyone was dancing with each other and we all had a smile on our face. We would like to thank everyone, staff and parents, who helped to organise this event and we look forward to the next one.

Written By - Natalie Edwards.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to all the students who won a pair of complimentary Rotherham United Football tickets in the last half term. They were rewarded for receiving the most good mentions from their teachers in Good Behaviour Week 2. Wath Comprehensive School would like to thank Rotherham United Football Club for all their support and generosity. Here are some of the students receiving their tickets from the Student Support Workers Team.

Science Hall of Fame

The list below gives the names of those students who were nominated by their Science Teachers for the Science Hall of Fame. They have been nominated for the Hall of Fame due to their hard work and the determination that they have shown over the later part of 2007. Well done to you all. Keep up the good work and effort!

Science Department

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Hollie Glossop	Oliver Ng	Amy Peace
Kurt Thompson	Olivia Rhoden	Amy Skelley
Andrew Bishop	Casey Moule	Michael Garnett
Tia Simpson	Andrew Wordsworth	Oliver Shaw
Eve Chaplin	Jordan Phillis	Jonathan Middleton
Jamie Miller	Connor Wyarr	Emma Ward
Harry Woodward	Fern Duffield	Alexandra Hayes
Kelly Pidgeon	Marcus Windle	Shannon Massey
Luke Burrell	Sam Windle	Daniel Wright
Daniel Lord	Sheridan Ward	James Powley
Georgia Clegg	Charlotte Dench	Katie Waddington
Rosie Bright	Ben Barkworth	Hannah Cater
Josh Brookes	Adam Copeland	Sam Drury
Tom Stoner	Travis Ward	Chloe Cooper
Ellie Morris	Scott Sidlow	
William King	Karl Magnall	
Ria Steel	Billy Hobson	
Kacey Garner	Derrien Kerr	
Daniella Utley	Eve Thompson	
Adam Ryder	Jordan Copeland	
	Zoe Baker	

PRESENTATION
EVENING
TUESDAY 18TH
DECEMBER 2007



FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

Every year Wath employs Foreign Language Assistants in French, German and Spanish.

The Foreign Language Assistants' programme is managed in the UK by the British Council and funded by the UK Education Departments.

The programme provides native speakers of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese and Japanese, from 20 countries worldwide, to support qualified teachers of Modern Foreign Languages in the UK.

The scheme offers an invaluable resource for the promotion and support of language teaching and learning and the Assistants can contribute greatly to all aspects of a language department's work by providing authentic native language support.

The scheme is broadly reciprocal and many English Language Assistants from the UK travel to partner countries on a similar programme. Several former students from Wath have completed a successful year in European schools as part of their university degree.

Over 2000 Foreign Language Assistants per year help thousands of pupils to improve their skills in modern foreign languages, particularly their speaking. The aim is to promote awareness of the international dimension and global citizenship through providing different cultural perspectives.

The Assistants help pupils and teachers to meet national curriculum and national examination board requirements by working closely with individuals or small groups in conjunction with the class teacher. They can prove effective at all levels of education, from Primary language learning through to Higher Education.

Such is our experience of working with the British Council that the Language College coordinates the Foreign Language Assistants for all schools in the Borough, including those helping to deliver languages in Primary Schools.

The Assistants gain from working in the UK as it enables them to learn the English language and culture and develop their teaching skills.

This school year our Foreign Language Assistants are:

Vanessa Plansson and Mathieu Jonchere from France

Jochen Stuppi from Germany and

Cristina Vieites Anaia from Spain.

We also have Jordan Danilo Masías Ortiz who also helps with the Spanish programme.

Le Club des Amis Français à Dearne Valley

The Dearne Valley French Society is part of Wath School's Language College outreach to the community. The club has been running for about 5 years and provides a varied programme of events in a friendly atmosphere to cater for everyone, even those who are not fluent in French.

The club provides a platform for French speakers to meet in a non-academic environment to gain knowledge of the culture and history of French speaking nations.

The club meets once a month on a Friday night at St Joseph's Church Hall, Carr Road, Wath. As well as speakers, the club usually hosts a wine tasting event, a French food evening, a Christmas meal and a summer barbecue.

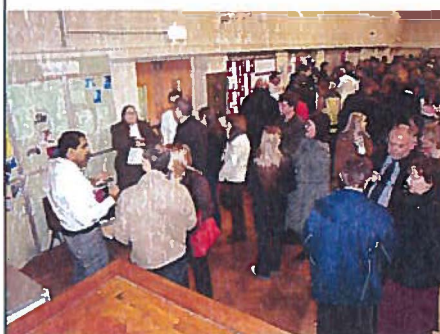
If you would like to know more about the group, please contact Ruth Owen at school - 01709 760222.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
1st February 2008	Y9 English preliminary SAT's
4th February 2008	A level Biology coursework day
4th February 2008	Y11 interviews for Y12 begin
5th to 7th February 2008	Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings
8th February 2008	Last day of half term
18th February 2008	Return to school after half term
19th February 2008	Y7 Student/Parent Consultation evening from 3.30 p.m.
20th February 2008	Friends of Wath meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Young Persons 'Centre
26th February 2008	Y11 Student/Parent Consultation evening from 3.30 p.m.
29th February 2008	Y9 Mathematics preliminary SAT's
3rd to 9th March 2008	Ski visit
Week beginning 10th March 2008	Assessment Week 4

YEAR 12 OPEN EVENING

The evening of Tuesday 8th January 2008 saw the school's annual New Sixth Evening take place in the school hall. It is designed to inform Y11 students and their parents and carers about life as a Sixth Form student and there is also the opportunity to meet with subject Heads of Department and teachers to find out about different subjects at 'A' level. The evening began with a talk by Mr Naylor, Head of Sixth Form, and then students and parents could go and talk to teachers of the subjects students were interested in. The school Hall was full as we welcomed Y11 Wath students and also Y11 students from local 11-16 schools. Feedback confirms that students and parents find the evening informative, interesting and worthwhile as important decisions are being made about the future. Mr Naylor was also on hand to deal with individual concerns and questions. It was an enjoyable evening and the start of a series of events informing Y11 students about 'A' levels and Sixth Form life. The other events are two open mornings on the 3rd and 4th of March and two days of sample lessons on the 26th and 27th June.



MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Elections took place during the week beginning 21st January 2008 for Members of the Youth Parliament. We are pleased to announce that John D'Silva has been voted as a MYP, along with George Foster and George Bailey as Deputies. Well done to all our 3 students who stood for the election!

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 Mrs Casey's Year 7 Mathematics Group are as follows:

Prize	Winning Number
1st prize of £50	88
2nd prize of £20	65
3rd prize of £10	57
4th prizes of £5 each	2 and 151
5th prizes of £1	40, 100, 23, 61 and 188

Many thanks to everyone who took part. The second raffle will take place on Monday 17th March 2008.

Friends of Wath

U13 SOUTH YORKSHIRE FOOTBALL FINAL REPORT

By Hayla Stanworth and Lucy Sowerby

Straight from the first whistle Wath took control of the game with early shots narrowly missing the posts. A square ball across the box from Hayla Stanworth fell to Zoë Morton who coolly slotted the ball into the back of the net for 1-0. A few minutes later Emily Weatherstone picked the ball up from the sideline and took on three players finishing with a great right footed strike for 2-0. Lucy Sowerby then hit home with a glorious right footed strike from 18 yards for 3-0. Wath then eased off for the last 5 mins of the half which allowed Penistone the opportunity to play the ball around and attack the Wath goal for the first time, a well organised attack ended up in a goal for 3-1. Wath responded immediately with Emily scoring for Wath's 4th. After half time Wath continued to cause Penistone trouble with good linking play across the pitch. Fantastic balls were played through from the defence by Jess Degney and Katie Eyre resulting in Emily Weatherstone becoming the hat trick hero of the game! Towards the end of the game, a great ball delivered from Holly Coldron resulted in Lucy Sowerby placing the ball in the top right hand corner of the net for 6-1 to Wath. The Penistone girls battled to the end of the game but when the final whistle was blown, Wath finally lifted the South Yorkshire Cup! The team is eager to continue into the National rounds of the competition.

Squad

Lucy Sowerby (Captain), Hayla Stanworth, Emily Weatherstone, Naomi Roach, Zoe Morton, Holly Coldron, Abbie Benbridge, Katie Eyre, Ash Rowlands, Ash Exley, Sophie Kirkham, Jess Degney, Lizzie Goddard Taylor, Evie Harrison, Zoe Lever,

Piano restoration fund

Wath Comprehensive School in partnership with Friends of Wath are working together in raising funds towards restoration of one of our most loved and used musical treasures; our Steinway Piano.

This prestigious piano has been at Wath Comprehensive School since 1953 and has been involved with more musical and drama productions throughout the years than we could ever have imagined.

The fund in school at present along with generous donations from Wombwell Rotary Club, the Druids Sheffield Friendly Society, Friends of Wath and Wath Comprehensive School has now reached £1552. The estimation for the restoration work is in a range between £8 000 and £12 000. To purchase a new Steinway would cost between £25 000 and £30 000.

The piano is tuned and maintained on a regular basis and gives students, staff and community alike many hours of pleasure. Sadly the piano is looking very tired at present therefore we have decided that since this beautiful instrument has worked so very hard for Wath Comprehensive School over the years a gentle caring restoration would enable everyone's enjoyment to continue for many years to come. We would like to ask if anyone could find it in their heart to help us in our quest and wished to make a donation please send these to Wath Comprehensive School in a sealed envelope marked clearly Piano Restoration Fund, Wath Comprehensive School, Sandygate, Wath-On- Dearne, Rotherham S63 7NW.

The photograph shows two of our Sixth Form students at the piano rehearsing. The piano sits in the main school hall and as you can see is a very important part of our establishment.

A very grateful thank you from Wath Comprehensive School and Friends of Wath



PREFECTS 2007

In September this year, Year 11 students were asked to apply to become a prefect as part of the developing positive behaviour programme being introduced by Heads of Faculty.

Mrs Sharkey led this aspect of the programme and approached Mr Bestford, Head of Year 11, to encourage the students to apply. Having talked to the students about their role in assembly over 130 students applied with 126 students being successful. The applications showed maturity, responsibility and that we have some incredible students in our school who feel they can contribute to make it an even better place to come and learn.

The prefects support the staff on duty and have been excellent role models for the rest of the school. They have helped students in the library, supported students on the corridors and worked with younger students in different areas of the school.

Their role is still developing but they should be congratulated for their hard work and commitment to the school.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE TRANSPORT FOR YOUR CHILD?

Under new National Guidelines parents who are in receipt of maximum working taxcredits and whose children live between 2 and 6 miles from school could qualify for free home to school transport for their children. This will be in the form of a zero fare bus pass. The qualifying date for this National Offer is 1st March 2008. Parents/carers are asked to contact the Transport Assessment Officer on 01709 822649 to register for the free home to school transport.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all who supported the Scholastic Book Fair in purchasing books, posters and stationery. The amount taken was £630.00 which resulted in commission items to the value of £378.00. As a result of this wonderful achievement, there are more new books on the Library shelves for students to choose from. There will be another fair to look forward to in the Springtime, so I will be in touch with you nearer to the time.

Thank you.

Mrs P. Sanders (Librarian).



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

Tel: 01709 760222

Fax: 01709 761094