

# CONNEXIONS

# 13



Welcome to the 2008 edition of Connexions, the magazine that links home and school, keeping you in touch with the activities, events and people that have made the headlines during the year. The cover photograph is from the skiing visit to Montgenevre. Read about this, and much more, inside.

## CONSTRUCTION WORK NEARS COMPLETION

Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College will soon include some of the best leisure facilities of any school in England. December 2008 is the date when the swimming pool will open to members of the public. The pool is now halfway through construction and Wilmot Dixon, the main contractors, hope to start visits by small parties of students to show off the new facilities. The facilities include a twenty-five metre pool, a small pool for learners and a fitness centre. The government may soon be making swimming free to all under sixteens, so I am sure all Wath Comprehensive students will make full use of these facilities.

Alongside the swimming pool is the all weather surface pitch which should be completed by August 2008. This floodlit pitch will be available for outside bookings as well as for school use as soon as it is complete. The facility is identical to the new all weather pitch that Aston Villa Football Club have just had installed; in fact the company who installed that pitch are also working on ours. The pitch will be solely for school use in school hours, but we shall be happy for teams and outside organisations to book the facility at evenings and weekends. The third generation playing surface conforms to all UEFA regulations and has the advantage that it can be split into three five-a-side pitches when required. We look forward to these wonderful facilities being fully available to our students in the near future. *Mr M Nowell*



## WATH COMPREHENSIVE STUDENTS SAY 'GIVE US THE MONEY'

In February, over a three-day period, all of our Year 10 students faced panels of judges from the world of business in an exciting real-life enterprise challenge. 'Give Us The Money' was organised by Miss Wing, the school's Enterprise Co-ordinator, working in partnership with Business & Education South Yorkshire (BE-SY).

The challenge required the students to work in teams to design a saleable product, to produce the product from recycled materials and to draw up financial and marketing plans. Each team then had to present its ideas to a judging panel made up of members of the local business community.

Before starting work on their products the students attended workshops delivered by local business people, to gain a better understanding of what business and enterprise is all about and to learn about marketing their products, the financial implications of the development of a new product and the problems that can arise when setting up a new business.

Team members took on the roles of Managing Director, Finance, Design, Purchasing, Manufacturing and Marketing, and were given just a couple of hours to research their market, create their product and prepare their presentation to the judging panel. Panel members included Peter Whitworth (Doncaster, Rotherham and District Motor Trades), Major Robin Bruce (The Army) and Kevin Donnelly (Business & Education South Yorkshire).

On each day of the challenge a winning team was chosen to go forward to the final, and these teams were given three weeks to develop their ideas further so that they could persuade the judges to invest in their product.

The winners of the final were the Youthbotics team.

Their design for an educational robot for children aged two to five years old impressed the judges, who also praised the team for their enterprise skills, their entrepreneurial flair and the quality of their presentation.

Georgina Ryan, Managing Director of Youthbotics said: "We wanted to produce a product with an educational link, which is why we came up with a robot designed to make learning easier for children. After winning the first heat, we developed the product by carrying out further market research, which involved us asking friends who have younger brothers and sisters what they thought they should be learning by a certain age. When we faced the judges it was nerve-racking, but we had confidence in our product and were really happy when they said they would invest in it."

Oliver Lynam won the award for the Most Enterprising Student, and Ben Bristow and Alex Gardner were the runners up.

Was it worth taking every Year 10 student out of school for a day to take part in this challenge? Mr Marsden, Assistant Headteacher, believes so. He said: "As a school we are committed to helping our students to become enterprising young people. This isn't just about making money. It's about spotting opportunities and grasping them, solving problems, working in teams, communicating and building the confidence to talk to other people about your ideas and your successes. In short, it's about developing skills which will help our young people to make the most of their lives. That's why enterprise education is so important."

*Our photo shows the winning Youthbotics team. Back: Georgina Ryan, Emily Kitchen, Kirsty Swift, Stephanie Brown, Beth Hobson Front: Becky Gough, Jade Nightingale*



## BUSINESS STUDENTS TAKE UP THE INTERNET CHALLENGE

If you could run a business over the Internet, what kind of business would you choose? That was the question which Sixth Form Business Studies students were asked earlier this year. With our fellow student, Ashley Bodham, we decided to set up a website which would put people in touch with everything they needed to organise any kind of party. We thought that businesses would pay us to put their contact details onto the website, and that party organisers would be eager to make all their arrangements with just a few clicks of a mouse.

Do you think it was a good idea? Business experts from Rotherham Youth Enterprise thought so, and they chose us to represent Wath when students from all over Rotherham presented their ideas at a special event at the Moorgate Crofts Business Centre in November. It wasn't just the idea which impressed the experts, of course. We had to back it up with facts and figures to show that it would make a profit. (We think they also liked the confident way in which we talked about our idea. We amazed ourselves by doing this without notes!)

The presentation at Moorgate Crofts was scary; it's much harder to be confident when you're away from your own school and outside your 'comfort zone'. But we managed it – and we came away as runners-up.

Like all A Level courses, Business Studies is changing from this September. It will look in a lot more depth at enterprise – what it takes to start up a business. (Is this the influence of Dragons' Den?) The Internet Challenge will be part of the new course. We like to think that, by trying out the challenge, we have helped to develop an activity which will benefit future students. *Naomi Beard and Lauren Marshall (Y12)*

*The photographs show: Top: All the students and staff who attended the Moorgate Crofts event. Bottom: Lauren, Ashley and Naomi putting the finishing touches to their presentation at Moorgate Crofts.*



## APPRENTICESHIP AWARD FOR SAM

At a ceremony in October, former Wath Comprehensive student Sam Glossop was named as Rotherham Young Apprentice Of The Year.

Sam was one of nine Wath students in his year group who had been involved in the Young Apprenticeship programme during Years 10 and 11. All nine had chosen a vocational course as one of their options, and had gained additional experience of their vocational area by spending a total of 50 days each on work experience. Not all the 50 days were in school time, so this represented a significant commitment.

So 'Congratulations' to Sam, who left Wath in the Summer of 2007 to follow an architecture course. We wish him well. And 'Congratulations' too to all our students, past and present, who have successfully completed the Young Apprenticeships programme:

### Completed 2006:

Jack Holliday, Christopher House, Annabel Tye, Laura Wormley (Art and Design); Robert Beardshall, Gavin Mulcahy, Gordon Stanton (Engineering)

### Completed 2007:

Carla Burkinshaw, James Hunt, Megan Mountford, Chantelle Windle (Art and Design); Sam Glossop, Rebecca Milner (Business and Administration); Thomas Branford, Sam Broadley, Christopher Cook (Engineering)

### Will Complete 2008:

Jarrad Bradbury, Hannah Taylor, Bethany Vaughan (Art and Design); Joseph Lee (Business and Administration)

## REFLECTIONS ON FINLAND 1

Mrs Chisholm arrived at my house at 5.45 am. 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; my heart soared with it. My ears popped continuously during the hour and twenty minutes to Frankfurt.

I was woken by a sharp prod from Mrs Chisholm. It was because we had landed and we were finally in Helsinki. My heart thumped like a big bass drum as I picked up my luggage and dragged it behind me. Looking around I could not see anyone who could have been my host family. Then I saw them - a blonde woman with a warming smile 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 that I had to take my shoes off. I looked around at the smelly shoes which littered the ground and reluctantly took off 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 a break before showing our presentations. It was scary and formal, like I had imagined it would be. 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 the meal 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 along 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 among the Comenius group.

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

When we finally had to leave to go the gate I reluctantly hugged my Finnish family goodbye. I could see tears in Tuomas' 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.

*Charlotte 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 Bátortereny, Hungary in October. I met the Co-ordinators 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 nine 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 their 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, PowerPoint presentations reflecting life in Wath and a questionnaire from the Finnish school entitled 'A Day In The Life Of'. This inspired Wath students to produce their own videos and PowerPoints depicting their own 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 this 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 partner schools and to work on the magazine, as well as to 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 School. Some of their reflections on the visit are printed here for you to read.

*Mrs Gracey*  
Comenius Co-ordinator



## REFLECTIONS ON FINLAND 2

The trip was great. I never expected it to be anywhere near 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. I didn't speak much with my host that night, and I was exhausted. I remember lying in bed that night – a very comfortable bed – and thinking 'what on earth am I doing here?'

The next day I understood exactly why I was here. It was to do a presentation in front of a load 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 nice 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 to 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 got ice cream, met the other Comenius students and played on the zumpa zumpa (AKA chumpa chumpa AKA trampoline).

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

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

*Laura Josephs*

## AT SCHOOL IN FINLAND

Charlotte and Laura have written such excellent accounts of the Comenius visit to Finland that there isn't much left for me to say. But you might like to know a little bit more about what school in Finland is like.

The school we visited has 430 pupils aged from 7 to 16, with classes of around 15 to 20 students. (24 is the maximum for any class). Classrooms are arranged around a central hall, with glass walls looking out onto balconies where computers are situated.

Many students bike or walk to school, with some arriving by bus or car. School starts at 8.30 am, but not for all students. Lessons are staggered throughout the day, with some students finishing at 1 pm some days, some starting at 10 am or 11 am and older ones sometimes working until 4 pm. They arrange the timetables so that there is no free time between lessons, though there are two sittings for lunch, with the younger students eating about 11.30 am and the older ones at 12 noon. There are no bells.

The food is free, available in a free-standing heated unit in an open room off the hall, and students help themselves. On the first day the choice was vegetable soup and bread or a type of sweet porridge (or both!), and on the second day there were vegetarian or meat meatballs with sauce, green beans and potatoes. There is always an unlimited supply of bread, Ryvita-style crackers, butter and cheese, milk and water.

At all times while we were there the school was quiet and calm, and at no time did we ever witness any loud, inappropriate or silly behaviour. Students were at all times polite and respectful to us, their teachers and their peers. They take their shoes off when they enter the school, walking round in slippers or socks, and they leave their coats, bags and belongings on pegs and in personal lockers (though there seemed to be no need or desire to lock them).

In the staff room there is a large cloakroom with coat hangers, lockers, a toilet, bidet, shower and a communal lounge area with a fully equipped kitchen (including dishwasher) and percolated coffee always on tap. Staff have lockers (again unlocked) at the back of this area, with clear Perspex holders at the front of each so mail can be put in. There is a separate workroom with computers, a photocopier for all to use freely, a guillotine, a stapler, etc. Additionally there is a conference room (or quiet work area) off the staff room and the secretary's office. The Head seems to be based in the staff room.

The staff room has its own entrance and the doors are self-locking, both from the stairs leading in and the balcony into the main school area. Staff take it in turns to clean the staffroom and to provide an incredible range of edible treats for all.

Classrooms are clean, bright and well equipped and feel very spacious. Tables are permanently set out in the hall and are used both for meals and for assemblies (where students also stand/sit on the stairs and round the balconies in a very casual but extremely well ordered way). The stage can be flat to the floor or raised, and an enormous screen the whole width of the stage can be rolled down automatically when needed.

How does this compare with your experience of Wath?

I want to finish by saying just how well Charlotte and Laura did with both of their presentations – especially the one in front of about 500 people in a large hall. They had fun too, and so did Mrs Champlin and I - as you can see.

*Mrs Chisholm*



## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### Budding Keyboardists Give Up Their Break-time

Miss Hakopian has set up 'Keyboard Club' at Break times for students to practise for their assessments, and to allow them to explore their creativity. This is proving to be a great success as attainment levels have improved. The club takes place every Monday to Thursday at Break in F4. Everyone is welcome!

### 'Grease' Is Coming To Wath Comprehensive

By the time you read this, the show will be just about to hit the road. We hope that you will be blown away by all the cast's performances. The chorus singers have given up many Wednesday lunchtimes for rehearsals, and many evenings too since Spring Bank Holiday. They have all done exceptionally well, and we hope that their good work will be rewarded with some excellent and appreciative audiences.

### Examination Successes

Congratulations to the following students who have been successful in practical and theory examinations this school year:

Sarah Blow	Flute (Grade 2)	RMS
Rebecca Brown	Cornet (Grade 3)	ABRSM
Charlotte Cutts	Flute (Grade 6)	ABRSM
Josh Heenan	Electric Guitar (Grade 2)	RGT
Katie Lumb	Theory (Grade 5)	ABRSM
Tom Paskell	Alto Saxophone (Grade 5)	ABRSM
Amy Pearson	Flute (Grade 2)	RMS
Samantha Pearson	Theory (Grade 5)	ABRSM
Olivia Rhoden	Alto Saxophone (Grade 1)	RMS
Emma Simpson	Cornet (Grade 3)	ABRSM
Deanna Wilson	Flute (Grade 5)	ABRSM
Shelley Wong	Violin (Grade 5)	ABRSM

### Plans For The Future

Watch out for the Wath Samba Band. It doesn't exist yet, but we confidently expect it to be performing at school and community events before the end of the next school year.

And watch out, too, for a series of events designed to raise money for the restoration of the school's Steinway piano. The series will begin on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, with a recital by past and present members of the school, and this will be followed by a varied programme from September to Christmas. Please support this exciting but expensive project.

## A CAROUSEL RIDE FOR YEAR 9

"It was the employability bit that I enjoyed best", said Alex Tindle, "because it really showed me what I'll need to do to get to college or get a job."

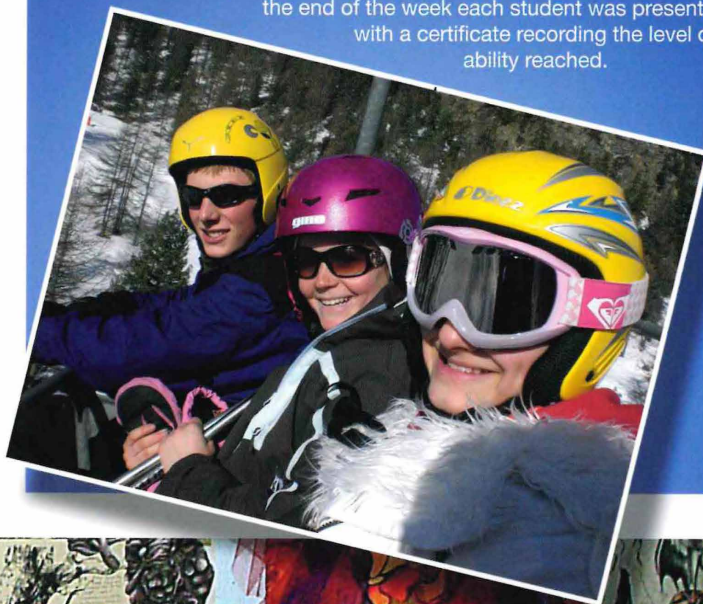
Alex is in a small group of Year 9 students who have spent one day a week on a 'carousel' of activities designed to develop their personal skills and interests in preparation for the courses they might follow in their GCSE years. Activities have included sport, employability skills, customer care (led by staff from Meadowhall), website design and – as the photographs show – developing the school's allotment. Other members of the group might have liked the sport or the gardening best, but Alex knew what was important for him.



## SKIING – IT'S A PISTE OF CAKE

Earlier this year a group of fifty students went to the resort of Montgenevre on the French-Italian border. This is a high ski resort and the snow conditions were excellent throughout the week. The students were put into groups according to their ability and every day they were taught by the French Ski School. Progress was excellent, and very soon the groups were skiing down long green or blue runs from high in the mountains. There was a programme of evening activities including karaoke, fancy dress and disco, and – under the watchful eye of Mrs Ward – the use of French at mealtimes was compulsory.

The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and at the end of the week each student was presented with a certificate recording the level of ability reached.



## ART TAKES OVER

During May, the school's Art Corridor was converted into an Art Gallery with a display of examination work by Year 11 students.

Meanwhile, A Level students in Year 13 displayed their work in Wath Library. A viewing evening on May 19<sup>th</sup> was well attended by family, friends and members of the local community. *The photograph shows a small sample of the work on display.*



## WATH STUDENTS SEE THE WORLD (OR QUITE A BIT OF IT, AT LEAST)

Where have Wath Comprehensive students been on school visits this year?

The Languages Department has taken students from a range of year groups to Chateau Beaumont, Paris and Saint Etienne in France, to Munich in Germany and to Santander in Spain.

Not quite as much travelling was involved in the Business Studies visits to Doncaster Sheffield Robin Hood Airport, to Denby Pottery and to Tesco in Wath. But the visits were just as valuable, as were the days which Food Technology students spent at Cadbury World and in catering competitions at RCAT.

The London museums were as popular as ever. A Level Psychology students went to the Freud Museum whilst their Computing counterparts spent a day at the Science Museum.

The Mock Trial competition took a number of our students to Nottingham and Liverpool Crown Courts. Thank you to the English Department for organising our participation in this competition.

Geography and Biology fieldwork took students to Derbyshire and the Yorkshire Dales, a Science visit to Rotherham's 'Liquid' nightclub was (Miss Hyde assures us) an educational experience, and the Art, Drama, English and Music Departments promoted culture with visits to galleries, plays and performances.

And we mustn't leave out the Ski, Watersports and Somme Battlefields visits which, year after year, open our students' eyes and broaden their experiences.

That makes about 27 visits. (Can you recognise the locations in the photographs?) If only there was space to mention the other 82. Yes, a total of 109 school visits in a single year. What a range of opportunities!



## SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

On May 20th the School Council met for the day. We discussed transport, litter, healthy eating (and Le Rendezvous) and raising the profile of the School Council.

**Transport.** We discussed the yellow bus to Bolton. It was felt that the bus was overcrowded, so if there was an accident there would be more problems than with a bus that was of the right size for the amount of people on it. Also there are no buses to Great Houghton. Some members of the School Council are going to be writing to the bus company.

**Litter.** There is a growing problem with litter and chewing gum on the floor. Outside the litter problem causes the seagulls to come. The Council has set up a sub-committee to look into this, and they intend to do a presentation to Mrs Ward.

**Healthy Eating.** The school is going to try to get Healthy Eating Accreditation. We helped out by saying what we want to happen in PHSCE lessons. We have raised the problem of an overly busy restaurant/canteen, and next meeting we'll be hearing possible solutions to the problem – so if you want to say something you need to tell your Council representatives.

**Profile of the Council.** We felt that students weren't aware of who their Council representatives are. This means that not everyone can get their voices heard, if their Tutor Group representative isn't attending meetings. Using the notice board on the Languages corridor, we hope to raise the School Council's profile, by:

- Having photographs of School Council members up, so you know who you need to go and talk to.
- Putting up agendas and minutes of Council meetings so you know, if you want to say something on a certain issue, what day to come.
- Putting up posters (and other forms of advertisements) to make sure young people know when events are happening.

We also hope to write a manifesto, showing what we are going to be doing, and hopefully in the future what the achievements of the last year were.

So if there are any ideas or comments on any of this please talk to one of your Council members, or if you don't know who they are, the notice board on the Languages corridor will soon be ready.

*Ruth Rocha-Lawrence and John D'Silva*

# WATH SPORTS COUNCIL

The Sports Council is a student organisation which aims to improve sports in school. Its members have been busy raising money for the PE Department, and for sport in the school generally.

## Sponsorship Deals

The Council have negotiated sponsorship deals with Norton Housing Association, who have agreed to give £2056. This will be put towards superb new football kits which will be worn by teams from all year groups. In return, the kits will have Norton Housing Association's logo printed across the front. Norton Housing Association are also the sponsors of Sheffield FC, so the Sports Council was invited to attend one of their games and had their photo taken at half time with two representatives from Norton Housing Association. The photograph was placed in the Rotherham Advertiser.

## Race Night

In order to raise money, the Sports Council decided to hold a race night. This event was held on April 24th at Montgomery Hall in Wath. It was very successful, raising over £900! Those present on the night included the Headteacher Mrs Ward, all the PE staff, some Science staff and obviously the members of the Sports Council plus friends. The night was very enjoyable, with great food and entertainment. The night would not have been such a success, however, without the helping hand of the Friends of Wath. Together, both organisations created a great atmosphere and altogether a fantastic night out.

## Hooded Tops and Skins

The Sports Council would like to remind all students that grey hooded tops are ready for ordering once more; the same applies to the black 'skins' (skin-tight tops). Both these items of clothing proved a massive hit with students when they were first sold, bringing a lot of money to the Sports Council. If you would like either one, please enquire at the PE block, in the staff room.

Members of the Sports Council are:

Jonny Hays (Chairman), Jory Banister, Josh Bartle, Jody Heathcote (Secretary), Sam Beard, Callum Scatchard, David Swallow (Treasurer), Emily Sowerby, William Turner



**Wath Olympic Hopefuls at the English Schools Athletics Cup**



# HOUSE REPORT 2007-2008

**Sports Day** Last July, the village of Cudworth witnessed the annual migration of our school athletes for the House Athletics Championship. For the first time in many years Troy surprised everyone with a spectacular effort to win the competition. Was this due to their talent, or to their excellent supporters who shouted themselves hoarse? Carthage were second with Thebes, Rome, Athens and Sparta following in order.

In near perfect conditions, 11 track and 5 field event records were broken. Victor Ludorum winners were Sean Hearne (Y7), Alec Davies (Y8), Alex Rowe (Y9) and Kingsley James (Y10). Victrix Ludorum winners were Georgia Sanders (Y7), Georgia Simpson (Y8), Sarah Sterling (Y9) and Robyn Lanceley (Y10). Outstanding Performance Awards went to Abigale Bishell (Y7) and Sam Beard (Y10).

**Euro Quiz** September saw the new Year 7 introduced to the House system with a Euro quiz held in the hall to celebrate European Week. The enthusiasm of the participants was memorable. Well done to all those who took part. Troy were the winners, followed by Sparta and Athens.

**Art** In December, the Art Department

announced the winners of the 2007 House Christmas Card Competition.

Year 7 Winners – Shay Murray (1st), Maddison Brown, Mia Wallis and Libby Hancock.  
Year 8 Winners – Georgia Sanders (1st), Lucy Bailey, Nicholas Grainger and Jessica Vickers.  
Year 9 Winners – Alice Woodcock (1st), Jessica Higgins, Katrina Pugh and Holly Caine.

With 10 points awarded for first place, 2 points for every finalist and 1 point for every entry, the overall positions were:

1st	Athens	154
2nd	Troy	136
3rd	Rome	127
4th	Thebes	122
5th	Carthage	119
6th	Sparta	116

The cards were displayed in the hall, which looked even more festive as a result.

**Year 8** Activities held in January consisted of boys football and girls netball. Excellent teamwork left three boys teams close to being champions, as the results show:

1st equal	– Rome and Troy with 22 points
3rd	– Carthage (20 points)
4th equal	– Athens and Sparta (9 points)
6th	– Thebes (6 points)

The netball results were:

1st	Rome (13 points)
2nd	Troy (10 points)
3rd	Thebes (7 points)
4th	Carthage (5 points)
5th	equal – Athens and Sparta (3 points)

**Year 7** The Year 7 activities, like those run for Year 8, were well organised by the Sixth Form PE groups under the superb supervision of the PE Department. Following the netball battles it was no surprise that the Houses of Troy and Athens were equal first as both won the maximum number of matches. Thebes came third. Year 7 football produced similar results, with Athens first; Troy second and Sparta third.

**Swimming March** saw our pupils make their annual big splash in Wath. The Swimming Gala took place for what may be the last time in the town's historic baths. With noise and enthusiasm, the competitors urged each other to achieve their best. Results were Athens first, Carthage second, Sparta and Rome equal third, Thebes fifth and Troy sixth.

With the building of the new swimming pool on our school grounds already under way, we look forward to next year's event in this watery arena where our pool of swimming talent will take the plunge.

Many thanks to Mr Harper and all the staff who have helped the year's events to be so successful. *Mr G D Longley*