



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

We have had a very busy but on the whole productive and enjoyable half term.

All students should now know their subjects and the results of the recent assessment week will have informed them whether they are working below, on or above target. The forthcoming review day will allow reflection on this information and help students to understand what they need to do to improve their performance.

The motivational levels tell us a great deal about a student's attitude to work and their potential to improve.

We have spent a great deal of time this half term analysing last Summer's results in order that we can inform our own strategies and identify practical ways to help students achieve their best. It is quite clear that there is a very strong relationship between good attendance and meeting targets. Students whose attendance is less than satisfactory miss key areas of work and are always on 'catch-up', which puts them under added pressure.

In addition to our key priority of continuing to raise achievement we continue to offer a range of extra curricular activities for our students. Auditions have recently taken place for our school production of *Grease*, musicians are already preparing for the Christmas Concert, master and support classes are running in a range of subjects and there is a busy programme of sporting activities including many fixtures against other schools in football, rugby, cross-country, netball and hockey in which we have already enjoyed much success.

Do encourage your child(ren) to take full advantage of the opportunities on offer for them.

Pat Ward
Headteacher

October 2007

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Y13 WORK EXPERIENCE TO FRANCE OCTOBER 2007

As you are aware from the September issue of the Newsletter we had organised some work placements, to take place in France for our Y13 students. This followed the very successful Work Placements that took place in Germany at the end of July. On Sunday 14th October 2007, 8 out of 10 of our Y13 Language students travelled to Saint-Etienne in France. They started working in schools on Monday morning and spent the week helping in classrooms. We were successful in arranging for three schools to be involved in this project, 1 secondary and 2 primary schools. The students had to do quite a lot of preparatory work before they set off. This involved them preparing a presentation for showing to French students about our school, our region and they tried to focus on cultural differences. This has been a very exciting project and the students are looking forward to writing an article for the next issue explaining in more detail the work that they have been fortunate to take part in. The group was accompanied by Mr I Grayel, Head of the Languages Faculty.

LEARNING SKILLS WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS

The Learning Mentor Team recently ran a Learning Skills Workshop. This involved every member of Year 8 attending one session. During the sessions the students learned how the brain works and took part in memory skills activities and techniques. They were also given the opportunity to cover activities such as Mind Mapping, exploring the use of index cards to help with their learning and develop their skills of note taking. The sessions were a success and the majority of the students worked well and gained a lot from this experience.



Former Wath Student Appears on Channel 4



This September, ex-Wath student Dinos Sfyris rubbed shoulders with the stars when he made an appearance on iconic teatime TV show Countdown. Dinos, who was in last years' Y13, was successful in the gruelling audition process, and was thrilled to be invited back to be on the show with famous faces Des O'Connor and Carol Vorderman. With fellow Wath students Emma Sale, Helen Lambert and Holly Bristow in tow, Dinos travelled to Leeds on the morning of Thursday 20th September for his first show. He beat the current three-time champion with a fantastic score of 99, and followed this up with a respectable score of 86 in his second victory. " I couldn't believe I'd won. I was a bit nervous to start with but I soon settled in. It felt great to be the reigning champion of such a popular show, and I couldn't wait to go back the next week for more words and numbers fun." says Dinos.

The following Wednesday, Dinos continued his victorious streak, spotting the conundrum 'DECANTING' in two seconds! This brought him his third victory. Unfortunately, Dinos' blaze of glory was brought to an end in his fourth game by Dorian Lidell, a student. In the tense conclusion of the show, Dinos was behind by two points, and it all came down to a crucial conundrum. Unfortunately, nobody managed to spot the answer, and Dinos was knocked out of the competition. ' I was obviously disappointed, especially as it was so close, because I really wanted to become an octochamp (winner of eight games) and compete in the finals. But I feel I did well to win three games and it was a brilliant experience that I'd recommend to anyone.'

Whilst at the studio, Dinos was thrilled to meet the weekly celebrities who accompany word expert Susie Dent in 'Dictionary Corner'. These included legendary keyboardist Rick Wakeman and former Playschool presenter Johnny Ball (father of Zoë Ball). But Dinos was especially pleased to meet maths brainbox Carol Vorderman. 'I have always thought that Carol is a great advocate for numeracy in schools.' says Dinos, 'She has shown that you can be intelligent and attractive!' Dinos has just started his first year at Sheffield University, studying Maths and Chemistry. ' I have always really liked Maths, and this came in handy for the numbers rounds.' he says.

See if you can solve these three numbers rounds, all of which featured in Dinos' shows. Use the six numbers given to reach the target. You can add, subtract, multiply and divide them. You don't have to use all the numbers, but you can't use the same one twice.

MEDIUM

10, 8, 5, 3, 7, 75 TARGET=157

HARD

10, 4, 9, 1, 8, 75, TARGET= 920

VERY HARD

5, 10, 3, 8, 4, 25 TARGET= 931

Below is the conundrum that Dinos could not spot in his final game. Can you unscramble the letters to find the nine-letter word?

WHEELIMAN



Dinos, Emma and the famous letters board

REVIEW DAYS

In order to monitor each student's progress through the year, we will be formally assessing your son/daughter in each subject area every half term. The assessment will be by means of a formal measure of attainment in the quality of academic work and by recording a motivational level in each subject. We do this so that we can keep each student, yourself and teaching staff informed of progress. As part of our drive to improve communication between school and home, parents/carers are invited to meet with their son's/daughter's Form Tutor three times a year. At these 'Review Days' there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress through the year and set targets for the future.

The dates of the Review Days for this academic year are 9 November, 14 January and 16 April. Students should only attend school that day for the appointment with their Tutor, however, because of the importance we attach to these days, all students must attend their interview.

You should have already received from your child an invitation to attend our first Review Day on Friday 9 November. The appointment is only with the Form Tutor, although Heads of Year will be available throughout the day should you need to talk with them. Please be aware that each interview will only last about ten minutes and so this will not be an opportunity to discuss other general concerns that have arisen - I would be grateful if you could follow these up with individual subject teachers, Form Tutor or Head of Year in the normal way.

We very much value parent/carer attendance on these occasions and therefore we do hope you will be able to attend with your child on 9 November and then the two later Review Days. If another adult is attending instead of yourself please could you ensure you have notified the Form Tutor, in advance, of their relationship to your child. Thank you.

Mr J Taylor

Assistant Headteacher

Reel Good Fun!

This term Wath Comprehensive Film Club got off to a start in the English Department. The club runs on Thursday lunchtimes and gives students an opportunity to discuss their taste in films and learn a little bit about the film industry. Films will also be screened, in order to boost their film literacy and let them experience films they might not otherwise get a chance to see.

The club is open to Y10, Y11 and Sixth Form students and we are hoping to branch it out into film production, when the necessary equipment and software becomes available. In the meantime, our first focus is on the Horror genre in the run up to Halloween.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5th November 2007	Return to school
Friday 9th November 2007	Review day for all years
Tuesday 20th November 2007	Y12 Student/parent/carer consultation evening from 3.30 p.m.
Thursday 22nd November 2007	GCSE Drama performance evening
Monday 26th November 2007	Staff training day—school closed to students
Monday 26th November 2007 to Friday 7th December 2007	Y11 Preliminary examinations
Monday 3rd to Friday 7th December 2007	Assessment week 2

MOTIVATIONAL LEVELS

This year the School has replaced its previous 'Effort Marks' with a series of half termly 'Motivational Levels'. This is to try and recognise a greater variety of student characteristics that are important for progress towards achieving full potential. In addition there are 5 motivational levels which will allow teaching staff more flexibility when awarding the level. As can be seen from the scheme below, we expect all students at Wath Comprehensive School to be striving towards the award of levels '4' (Good) or '5' (Outstanding). Conversely subject teachers and Heads of Year will be very keen to monitor the future improvement of any student who is awarded levels below level 3.

5	<p>Motivation is <u>Outstanding</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always very co-operative, enthusiastic and hardworking. • Completes all work set to best of ability. • Very self-disciplined.
4	<p>Motivation is <u>Good</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally co-operative, enthusiastic and hardworking. • Completes all work set, normally showing evidence of good effort. • Good level of self-discipline.
3	<p>Motivation is <u>Satisfactory</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually co-operative, but generally doing little more than required by the teacher. • Classwork/homework usually completed on time. • Receives consequences on rare occasions. • Regular punctuality and attendance at lessons.
2	<p>Motivation is <u>Unsatisfactory</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs regular pressure and attention from the teacher to ensure work is done. • Insufficient effort with classwork/homework. • Receives consequences on occasions. • Occasional late arrival at and/or unexplained absence from lessons.
1	<p>Motivation is <u>Very Poor</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncooperative and indifferent for most of the time in class. • Makes very little effort with classwork/homework. • Lacks self-discipline. • Regularly receives consequences. • Frequent late arrival at and/or unexplained absence from lessons.

This judgement is based on an evaluation of how motivated the pupil has been in the half term to which the assessment relates.

All elements of a level must be met for the award of levels above level 1.

Parents/carers will be informed of progress in each subject area every half term by means of a Report. The average of the motivational levels will be calculated and this will determine whether a Gold, Silver or Bronze Certificate for motivation is awarded.

RAISING MONEY FOR MACMILLAN NURSES



SELECTION OF FOOD ON SALE

For the fourth year running the Learning Mentor Team organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning. This year they had a big helping hand from the Asdan group in Year 11 who helped organise and run the event. With the help of the Asdan group the Coffee Morning was a huge success raising in excess of £500. As well as the traditional sales of tea, coffee and cakes the Asdan groups help enabled us to raise further funds by including activities such as Name the Dog, Island Treasure hunt, How many sweets in the jar and a raffle with some very attractive prizes.



SOME OF THE MANY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Wath students don't finish their hard work once lessons end. Throughout all areas of the school opportunities are available for students to take part in a varied extra curricular programme. Over the next few pages some of the activities that are provided are shown, all of which attract a good number of students.

MONDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Mathematics	After school	Year 11—targeting grade C students
Music	Lunchtime	Saxophone Club (Years 11-13)
RE	Lunchtime	Knit and natter (Years 7-11)
PE	After school	Netball Practice (Years 7 -9) Badminton (Years 8/9) Year 7 tutor group football Dance Club (Years 10/11) Senior rugby (Years 11-13)

MONDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Languages	Lunchtime	Internet search, games, computer work, homework (All years)
Design and Technology	After school	Graphics and Textiles coursework catch up sessions (Year 11)

TUESDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Music	Lunchtime	Stage band
		Electric guitar club (Years 7-11)
		Keyboard club (Years 7-11)
PE	Lunchtime	Netball (Years 10/11)
PE	After school	Senior hockey club
Languages	Lunchtime	Internet search, games, computer work, homework (All years)
Technology	Lunchtime	Food catch up sessions (Year 11)

WEDNESDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Music	Lunchtime	Singing club (Years 7-13)
		Guitar club (Years 7-13)
RE	Lunchtime	Knit and natter (Years 7-11)
RE	After school	Amnesty International group (Year 8/9)
PE	After school	Netball fixtures (Years 7-13)
		Football practice (Years 7-11)
		Senior rugby fixtures (Years 12/13)
Languages	Lunchtime	Internet search, games, computer work, homework (All years) Revision sessions prior to assessments (Years 10/11) - dates confirmed later
Technology	Lunchtime	Graphics, Electronics and Food catch up sessions (Year 11) Engineering catch up sessions to start January 2008 (Year11)

THURSDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Music	Lunchtime	School band (Years 7-13)
RE	Lunchtime	School council (Year 9)
PE	After school	Cross country (Years 7-13)
		Girls football
		Revision club for BTEC/GCSE/A level

THURSDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
PE	5.30 to 6.30 p.m	Street Dance
Languages	Lunchtime	Internet search, games, computer work, homework (All years)
Technology	Lunchtime	Resistant materials catch up sessions (Year 11)

FRIDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
Music	Lunchtime	Various Wind Ensembles (Years 7-13)
Mathematics	After school	Year 11—Targeting grade C students Year 11—Improving grades group
RE	Lunchtime	Christian citizenship group
PE	After school	Girls keep fit (Years 7-13) Dance/gym club (Year 7-9) Senior basketball (Years 11-13)
Languages	Lunchtime	Internet search, games, computer work, homework (All years) Computer language games (Year7)

SATURDAY		
DEPARTMENT	Time	Activity
PE	8.30 to 11.30 a.m.	Boys fixtures (Years 7-13)

As you can see a very varied programme which we are sure you will agree can only enhance and enrich the learning of students here at Wath.

GIMME SOMME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

25th Annual Battlefields Visit is a Resounding Success

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Never let it be said that the History Department fail to entertain. It's a trip that other Departments and schools must look upon with a huge amount of envy. 25 visits since 1981 to the same area, and still it is over subscribed. Well let me tell you that I can vouch for the absolutely educationally and socially fantastic visit, as having visited in 2006, last year. I decided to further my knowledge again this year.

The morning of Monday October 1st some 48 excited but slightly tired students all rolling up to the school gates, fresh from the early start. After the cases and other formalities were packed and checked, we departed Wath at 7.15 a.m. and made our way towards Dover. Simple it would seem, but our coach driver Mel, added to the groups spirits, by giving us our first glimpse of his weird sense of direction, taking us on a tour of the Kent countryside. A bemused Miss Cooney stated "Where the flipping heck is he taking us?", something that was passing through the heads of many. We arrived at the hostel in Belgium at 10.15 p.m. local time. Although most students were extremely tired by the unusually long coach drive spirits were still high, especially between the 6th formers, who were still laughing and joking.

Many students believe school residential to be 24/7 of getting school type lessons. However, anyone experiencing this visit will know otherwise, with the annual Pool and Table Football competitions getting into full swing. As with the FA cup, giant killings were a heavy feature in the Table Football, as both Mr Kolaric with Ashley Mallett, and Jamie Bailey with Matthew Parker were swiftly dispatched from the competition in the early rounds to Y10 opposition. The girls then went on to beat Mr Staton and Mr Goodman to reach the final, but eventually, it was won by the team captained by Natalie Smith.

However, come back fighter Mr Staton proved to fight to the end in the pool competition, coming back from six balls down to eliminate Miss Cooney, who only needed the black. A jubilant Mr Staton, beaming, compared his victory to that of Peter the Great, whereas Miss Cooney gave the following statement: "It's not fair. I was robbed" Mr Kolaric eventually put his disappointment at the table football behind him to comprehensively thrash Matthew Parker and Mr Goodman, and take the title.

Despite the fun and good nature of the visit however, we cannot forget the emotional roller-coaster that you cannot fail to be taken on. The area that sticks in my mind is the Cot Cemetery where an overwhelming sense of loss seems to sap your entire body and you sense an almighty amount of gratitude towards the 11 000 men lying in graves here, and also the 33 000 who have no known graves, but who are listed on the wall towards the back of the cemetery. The other area that really sticks in the mind is the Menin Gate in Ypres, where everything you have seen over the past four days, combined with Mr Goodman's excellent and fitting comments, all come back to hit you, as Miss Child discovered who like many others has experienced the visit for the very first time. "To see it first hand, it's rather shocking" she commented. The Menin Gate Ceremony is always an emotional event, as the Last Post echoes around the huge structure, with over 54 000 names of dead soldiers etched all around you. It is here where you really know what the whole trip is about, and why you came.

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Out of the 1100 over the years who have had the pleasure of this experience, not one can say that in some way, it didn't affect them, nor can they say that they didn't enjoy it. Perhaps you as Wath students are reading this and wondering "Why should I chose this particular visit?" Well, even now as I write this article, I feel touched as I think back to what I saw. Maybe an article in a newsletter doesn't do the visit, or indeed the men that died enough justice, so I strongly recommend that you talk to a member of the History Department and ensure that you are one of the next students to have this incredible experience. Trust me, you won't regret it. This article is just the beginning of your experience of a lifetime.

Ashley Mallett—12PY

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**MENIN GATE AND ROLE
OF HONOUR**

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

Tel: 01709 760222

Fax: 01709 761094