



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to report that we have had an extremely positive start to the school year and, not surprisingly, a very busy one.

We have welcomed a larger number of new staff than usual here mostly as a result of the seven retirements at the end of last term and we wish all our new colleagues the very best in their careers at Wath.

Year 7 students appear to have settled very quickly and have soon found their way around this very large school. My conversations with the many students I have encountered around school, in Le Rendezvous and in lessons are that they are enjoying their experience here. I have been particularly impressed by the large numbers who are involving themselves in extra-curricular activities, which we very much encourage them to do.

The sixth form has welcomed about 170 students into the new Year 12 from our ex-Y11 and many schools within the borough and beyond. Mr Naylor, Head of Sixth Form and his assistant Ms Shaw have had an extremely busy time processing the applications, interviewing prospective students and matching their course preferences.

Across our school community we continue to focus on raising academic standards and attainment and are committed to our aim to ensure that all our students receive a high quality education and leave us "active, able and qualified". This drive is unrelenting following our good Ofsted Inspection last academic year and our positive results in last Summer's external examinations.

You may recall that at the end of the Summer term the KS3 results were incomplete, as the English results were not released until late August. These have now been published and I am delighted to share with you the tremendous successes achieved by Year 9 (now Year 10).

The KS3 results are shown overleaf.

September 2007

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KS3 SATS	2004	2005	2006	2007
English L5+	70	73	70	82
Maths L5+	71	71	75	78
Science L5+	64	70	73	77
English L6+	30	37	36	46
Maths L6+	49	46	52	60
Science L6+	31	34	43	48

At GCSE 50% of students have so far achieved five or more A* - C grades but as we are awaiting the results of a number of requested re-marks this figure is likely to increase. A new statistic for publication this year is the % of students with 5 A* - C including English and Maths which remain at 39% as last year. 97% of students achieved at least 1 A* - G pass.

We were just a little disappointed with the baseline 50% figure but pleased with all others especially as our value added measure is a little higher than that judged by Ofsted last year indicating that students have made slightly more progress.

As always lessons can be learned. Students need to be in school every day trying their best if they are to fulfil their potential. Homework and coursework requires quality time to be spent on it and students must meet the deadlines set. Those that do persevere develop independent learning skills and cope well with the workload that public examinations demand. The demands of part-time employment and a busy social life should not push study time down their priority list. Students must accept, and act upon, the advice offered by their teachers.

We had real cause for celebration with our superb post-16 results especially at A2. We surpassed last year's record results with a 97% pass rate and 54% of passes at grades A or B. AS results were sound and with determined efforts, promise further A2 success next year.

In our efforts to provide students with a broad range of experiences and opportunities we continue to offer a broad extra-curricular programme, which we encourage students to take part in. In our experience students who involve themselves in the wider life of the school are the most successful in every way. There will be more information about extra-curricular activities in the next newsletter.

As parents/carers you have a huge part to play in your child's success. We wish to work in partnership with you to ensure that all students take full advantage of the opportunities available and leave us 'able, active and qualified' to take their place in the adult world.

Yours sincerely

P Ward
Headteacher

THE ROTHERHAM CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

The Rotherham Children's Book Award is a scheme that has involved Primary school children for a number of years now but this is the first year that Secondary Schools were allowed to participate. The scheme involved students reading a range of fiction texts, specially selected, meeting to discuss them and ultimately choosing a winner. The scheme was capped off with a fantastic visit to Magna where our students, along with Miss Piddock, Miss Marshall and some parents presented their views in front of 400 people, including the Mayor of Rotherham and some of the Authors of the novels that had been chosen.

The students had previously read the 6 books shortlisted for the award and selected one to win and one to give a presentation on. They delighted the audience with a Power Point and Drama Presentation on 'The Diamond of Drury Lane' by Julia Golding and selected 'Nickolai of the North' by Lucy Daniel Raby as their winner.

The students also made a display on 'The Diamond of Drury Lane' and had the opportunity to meet the authors and get their books signed. All of the students worked extremely hard both in the build up and on the day, even rehearsing every lunchtime for the week prior to the big event. They were a credit to the school.

There is a display marking their hard work on the English corridor between F29 and F31 and there is a video of their performance.

The students involved:

Charlotte Sandham-Mulholland Y9	Megan Thompson Y9
Olivia Thompson Y89	Aaron Shelton Y8
Adam Copeland Y8	Suki Lee Y8
Charlotte Bailey Y8	Ben Barkworth Y8
Lewis Gray Y8	Daniel Higgins Y8
Amy Szacki Y11	Leanne Ratcliffe Y11

The winning book was 'Alone On A Wide Wide Sea' by Michael Morpurgo who will be at next year's award ceremony to collect his trophy. The scheme will run again next year giving the students from this year the first chance to participate again and then hopefully opening it up to new Year 7s - budget permitting!

SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL SITE

The safety of everyone who comes onto the school site is of paramount importance to us. It is for this reason we ask parents/carers who need to bring or pick up their son/daughter by car that they drop them off, and pick them up away from the school entrances. Unfortunately we are not able to allow you to drop them off, or pick them up on the school site. As students leave the site at the end of the school day we close the entrances for vehicles to enable students to leave safely. It would help greatly if cars were not parked immediately outside the school gates or on the pavements, as this creates congestion on what is already a very busy road.

Unfortunately at the beginning of term we did have a student knocked down outside the school. He is recovering well but we all need to work together to ensure that every care is taken to prevent a recurrence of this incident.

WELCOMING MISS GREENSLADE TO THE PE DEPARTMENT

Miss Greenslade is the newest member of the PE staff. Miss Greenslade completed a Degree in Sports and Exercise Science at Leeds Metropolitan Carnegie University as well as her teacher training. She has played football at national league level and will carry out hockey and football practices for students. Wath is the first place Miss Greenslade has taught and so far, she says she is enjoying it!



Y9 ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE DAY

On Monday 16th July the whole of Y9 took part in an Enterprise Challenge Day in the school hall. The day was organised by Miss Wing, Enterprise Co-ordinator, and Joyce Tinker from Business Education South Yorkshire. This is the first of their five compulsory days of Enterprise Education over Key Stage four.



Our students worked in groups of 7/8 to create a business that

manufactured Clown Mobiles. They had to make one of their mobiles, do all the costings, name the company, advertise it, and finally create a Power Point Presentation. They presented this in front of their tutor, and then the winning company from each tutor group did their presentation in front of the whole year group and the judges.



Throughout the day, a team of students, supervised by one of the ICT technicians, videoed interviews from the companies that we all watched at the end of the afternoon whilst the judges made their final decisions.

The winning company who received prizes of Meadowhall vouchers were called 'Crazy Clown Inc.' and were from 9CW. The members of that group were - Daniel Howell, Luke Pearson, Megan Soame, Katie Jackson, Lauren Duke and Ashley Spencer. Well done to them and the rest of Y9!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Over the start of the summer holidays a number of the Y12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Student took to the hills of the White Peak for 3 days of fun walking in the area of Monsal, Monyash and Friddon. They were carrying all the equipment and food required for them over the 3 days. They were covering between 15 and 18miles a day. Their navigation proved impressive as did their team spirits despite having not the best of weather, and with their stamina waning at certain points.

They were joined over the Monday and Tuesday by Mr Shaw and Miss Williamson, with a motley crew of Year 10 students. They again proved to be impressive in their navigation, and teamwork, making extremely good time over the course of the route that they had planned.

Overall a massive well done to all the students. All the staff who took part in this Expedition were extremely proud of the efforts of all the students. I think that all the students would agree that they all had a good time, going to prove again what the students of Wath can achieve. Well done.

INTRODUCING GEORGE FOSTER - YEAR 9

I take part in Voice and Influence, mainly at Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College but also in Rotherham and the North Area. One of my projects is 'Safe Havens' which has been an anti-bullying scheme for Years 7 and 8 throughout 2006-07 and this year we hope to expand this into Year 9. We have a variety of anti-bullying resources available and these include magazines, workbooks, DVD's, games etc.



During September we will be inviting applicants for the role of Team Members who will be trained before starting their role in January 2008. We are currently in the process of applying for funding for equipment which will be available for use in 'Safe Havens' and for providing a residential for the training and team building of Team Members. We have had the continued support of Vicky Whitehead, Mrs Archer, Mr Bailey and Young People's Centre Staff throughout last year and we look forward to working with them in the coming year. Lots of changes will happen in 'Safe Havens' next year so watch out for regular updates.

One of the other roles I do is representing Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College on the Rotherham Youth Cabinet. We have six formal meetings every year in the Council chamber at Rotherham Town Hall where we discuss and deal with issues in Rotherham affecting young people. We also have six informal meetings where we prepare agendas, do lots of group work, take part in training about issues such as Fascism and Racism and we also have people coming in to do presentations on a variety of other issues where we put forward our ideas.

I have also joined sub-groups such as Darfur (the crisis in Darfur), Quid's In (funding for young people and their projects), Bullying Strategy (ways to deal with bullying in schools) and Integrated Services (joining all organisations together like the Police, Health, Youth Service for Children and Young People in Rotherham so that they can communicate with each other and work together).

VISIT TO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

One day during July, Mr Staton, Miss Cooney and Mrs Champlin led a group of 17 6th form students from the Y12 history classes on a day visit to The Houses of Parliament, London. With an early start, all students had to arrive at school for 6am, in order to arrive in London for a 10 o'clock meeting with our tour guide for a thorough tour around the House of Lords. The students then met up with the local MP for the Wentworth constituency, John Healey, and had a small conference with him held within the House of Lords where they had the opportunity to ask him questions which related to our area, the main topic at the time being the floods and the new Prime Minister.

In the afternoon the students had the opportunity to ride the London Eye and visit Covent Garden for a spot of shopping before setting off back to South

Yorkshire, with the students arriving back at school late at night. Nonetheless it was a great trip and everyone involved enjoyed it. Big thanks to

Mrs Champlin for organising the trip and setting up the meeting with our local MP.



YR 6/7 SUMMER SCHOOL THE HUBBLY BUBBLY CIRCUS



Another adventurous Summer School was held during the summer holidays for a group of Y6 students who were due to start at Wath Comprehensive in September. The aim of the Summer School Challenge is predominantly to aid transition into Secondary School, gaining an understanding of learning through fun activities, meeting new friends and to broaden the student's horizons. The "Challenge" for this year was to produce and present a Circus Show on Friday afternoon. Undaunted by the scale of the task, the children soon began deciding who was doing what. This presented the opportunity to introduce skills such as Team Building, Communication and Listening skills and then for them to practise some of the skills they were learning along the way - Learning Styles, Mind Mapping for organisation and Planning; they even did their numeracy and literacy quota for the week - writing scripts and

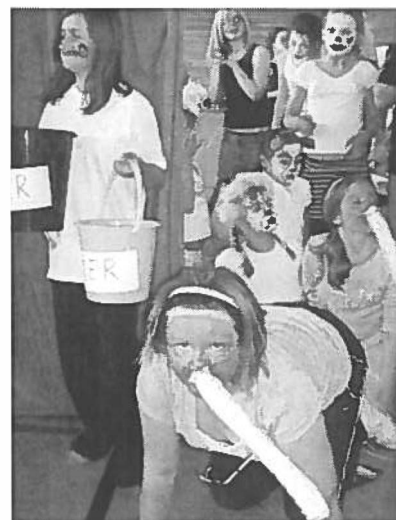
routines, without realising it. After a week of activities, ICT and craft workshops, a trip to Weston Park Museum, spells in the Learning Gym and slots of rehearsal time, the students were buzzing with confidence. It also provided

our Peer Tutors, Jade Hudson, Jenny Waddington, Chantelle Deighton and Adam Wilson with the opportunity to develop their skills of Team Working, responsibility for younger students and sharing ideas.



The highlight of the week was the "The Hubbly Bubbly Circus Show", which included the students showing off their talents such as Juggling, Dancing and Acrobats, to their families and friends. This was a

fantastic finale to a wonderful week, the outcome of which is a team of new "Super Learners" who have made new friends, feel comfortable in a new environment and are looking forward to joining Year 7.



FRIENDS OF WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Friends of Wath Comprehensive School, known many years ago as Wath Parent Teacher Association, continues to work to raise funds which go to support the learning of the students throughout the school. Last year, they were able to provide additional funding for many areas of school life and they are hoping to continue their efforts during 2007-08. They have many fundraising ideas in the pipeline one of which is to run a Numbers Club. Further details of this will be sent out to all parents/carers in the next few weeks but this is a chance for you to possibly win a monetary prize in a school lottery scheme. Look out for the information to become involved in this fund raising idea.

In addition they are looking to recruit new members who would be willing to give up some of their time to become more involved in their activities. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 17th October 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Young Persons Centre so if you want to be involved come along—you are most welcome. Please let Miss D Ackerley know if you will be there by either telephoning 01709 760222 or by e-mail: dackerley@wathcomp.org.uk. We will be organising a Disco for Y7/8 students on Thursday 25th October 2007 which should provide an opportunity to get involved in the work of Friends of Wath Comprehensive School. We look forward to welcoming new members.

New

Student Support Worker Team

It is the responsibility of the Student Support Workers in school to aid the school in addressing the pastoral needs of students. This is to ensure that students overcome barriers to learning and ultimately achieve their full potential.

It is imperative that the Student Support Worker Team is seen to be pro-active in developing and promoting positive behaviour generally across all years. This is a supportive team promoting the school's Inclusion agenda.

This is a non teaching role and as a result the Student Support Working Team is not restricted to a teaching time table. This will provide parents and carers with the opportunity to communicate any concerning issues with a member of staff quickly in order to ensure that any problems are dealt with swiftly and appropriately



The three members of the Student Support Worker Team are Mr Shaw, Miss Hutton and Mr Boyd

TRIUMPH FOR RETIRED DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Jim Chisholm taking part in the World Age Triathlon Championships held in Hamburg, Germany on Sunday 2nd September 2007.

Many students and colleagues, both past and present will remember Mr Jim Chisholm, Deputy Headteacher, who retired from Wath after 34 years of teaching in July of last year. Instead of putting his feet up in retirement he chose to train for the World Age Group Triathlon and has recently celebrated after finishing eighth in his age group in the World Championships which were held in Munich, Germany on 2nd September 2007.

The triathlon event consists of a 750 metre swim, a 22 kilometre cycle and a 5 kilometre run which Jim had hoped he would finish in the top ten. Finishing eighth therefore has been a great sense of achievement for him, especially after he had been forced out of the last World Championships through a calf injury.

He has gained a place in the 2008 World Championships in Vancouver, Canada which is his main goal. We look forward to hearing more news of his progress in the coming year. We wish him every success.

COUNTDOWN FANS

Channel 4 Countdown fans may wish to tune in on 11th/12 October 2007 to see programmes that have a particular interest to Wath. A special report will appear in the October issue of 'In Touch'.

SUMMER 2007 WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD—GERMANY

Riesa Work Experience



The town of Riesa in Germany welcomed four new employees at the end of last term - our Y12 German A-level students! For two weeks they worked in the local tourist information office and the town museum to get a flavour of life and language in preparation for their coursework next year.

The four students - Kate Bamforth, Charlotte Green, Kirsty McCormick and Katie Winnell - all gave up the first week of their summer holidays to complete the experience as part of their course. They stayed in the youth hostel in the Boathouse by the River Elbe, which has played a key role in the development of the town - and still does! In 2004 the town was totally flooded after heavy rain - and our students were able to tell stories about our floods in Rotherham and Sheffield just before they left. Riesa has taken huge steps to recover from the disaster and now offers visitors a clean and compact town centre with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.



During their stay, the Wath workers set up an exhibition in the museum, translated some tourist documents for publication and helped to produce games and activities for young visitors to the museum. One of them even paid a visit to the local hospital to check out the emergency services - and Mr



Bemrose is pleased to report that the medical care in Riesa is excellent too! Having made a full recovery, she was able to go back to work and complete a very successful event.

"Language College is proud of the efforts we make at Wath to help students get an experience of another country," said Mr Bemrose. "The best way to practise your language is to try to communicate with those who speak it, either with our Teachers and Assistants in school, or to go to the country itself. Lots of students would say that it's difficult - but if you try, it only gets easier," he added.



Following the success in Germany, Mr Grayel will take the Y12 French students to St Etienne next month - look out for a report in the next issue of In Touch!



WATERSPORTS VISIT—June 2007



On the 23rd June 2007, Y8 and Y12 students set out from school on a twenty-seven hour coach journey to Tossa De Mar, a small holiday resort on the Costa Del Sol area of Spain, for nine days of watersports activities in the sun.

During the day students were at the beach where they participated in a variety of water sports activities which included kayaking, snorkelling, sailing and windsurfing. Many of these activities were new to many of the students but as the week progressed everyone was able to build on their skills, some

becoming quite accomplished. Additionally there was also a chance for a tour of the bay in a Splash Boat and a ride on a Banana Boat.

There was also the opportunity to spend time at a water park and Port Aventura theme park. The fun didn't stop as the sun went down with a quiz, bowling, some rather questionable karaoke and discos in which usually shy Frances Cousins provided entertainment for all strutting her stuff to the amusement of everyone.

On the return journey all the students were given a certificate and title to reflect how they were on the trip, some were humorous like Holly Bristow who got 'Little Miss Dark Horse' and Victoria Bradder who was named 'Little Miss Heart Broken'. Most however reflected the enthusiasm of students on the beach such as Michael and Katherine Garnett who received 'Little Mr and Little Miss Water Sports'.

Everyone had a fantastic time and would like to thank Mrs Thompson, Miss Roach, Mr Hopkins and Mr Gordandhas who accompanied the visit.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st to 5th October 2007—Somme Visit

5th November 2007—return to school

2nd and 10th October 2007— Y6 Parents Afternoons

9th November 2007 —Review Day 1

10th October 2007—Friends of Wath AGM at 7.30 p.m.
in The Young Persons' Centre

**Wath Comprehensive School: A
Language College**

15th October 2007—Start of Earth Science Week

Sandygate

Wath-on-Dearne

15th to 19th October 2007—Assessment week

ROTHERHAM

S63 7NW

21st—26th October 2007— Study visit to Spain

21st—26th October 2007—Y13 Biology Field Trip

Tel: 01709 760222

Fax: 01709 761094

24th October 2007—Y10 Work Experience Parents'
Evening

E-mail:wath.comp@rotherham.gov.uk

26th October 2007—Last day of half term