

# CONNEXIONS

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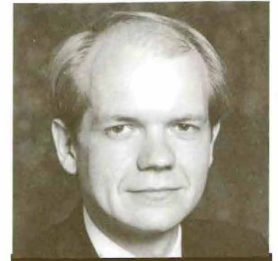


read about:  
**The New Head  
School Productions  
It's My Party  
and more ...**

Welcome to the third edition of **Connexions**, the News Magazine of Wath Comprehensive School, keeping in touch with students, parents and friends of the school. Featured inside are items on people, events, achievements.



**Derek E. Kirby  
Headteacher:  
Wath  
Comprehensive  
School: 1991-97**



**It's My Party**

Derek Kirby retired as Head of Wath Comprehensive School this summer. Unlike any of his predecessors, he had served on the staff for many years prior to his appointment, arriving as a teacher of Religious Education in 1962 after 3 years at Whitwood Moor School in Castleford. In 1971 he became Senior Master, with responsibility for the timetable and 'boys' discipline', and his duties expanded two years later when he became Deputy Head. He acted as Head during Mr John Brothwell's tragic illness, and succeeded him on 1st July 1991.

The early 90's were difficult years in secondary schools, and we needed his legendary commitment to Wath to guide us through: chronic underfunding, our first OFSTED inspection, together with huge changes in the curriculum and the way schools are managed. At the same time though, the numbers of pupils continued to rise: Wath has been a popular school under Derek Kirby's leadership. Faced with the challenges of the time, he fought his school's corner very hard, always putting the welfare of Wath school youngsters first.

It is fashionable to portray modern headteachers as 'managers' and they have to be, but Derek Kirby has always seen himself as a teacher and even in his final year as Head he took GCSE classes in Religious Studies; we have lost count of the young teachers he has guided through their first years in the classroom. As retirement approached, his desk was laden with cards, many from former pupils. He takes with him an immense pride in the school he has led or helped to lead for over a quarter of a century, and we wish him and his wife Judith a very happy and peaceful retirement.

Wath had another 'first' back in June, when William Hague (WCS 1972-79) became leader of the Conservative Party and of Her Majesty's Opposition. To achieve this at 36 is especially remarkable and there is no doubt that he has his work cut out, so devastating was the Conservative defeat at the General Election, but William Hague has a track record of achieving the unlikely - starting with his now famous speech to the Conservative Conference at 16.

During the leadership contest, the school came under the media spotlight, and obtained some very favourable publicity. Mr Godber, who taught William Hague in the Sixth Form, spoke to 10 journalists in one day! Some wanted to see the rooms where he had his lessons, and others the 'Honours Board' recalling his successes on the sports field. On that one we could not oblige - William never looked like opening for Yorkshire!

Wath takes a natural pride in the achievements of its pupils, be they politicians, journalists, teachers, lawyers, sportsmen and women, businessmen or trade unionists or whatever; most of all perhaps are those who achieve against the odds, and who would have thought that a South Yorkshire schoolboy would become the youngest party leader in modern times? Whatever we think of his politics, that is remarkable.

**Main Calendar Dates  
Autumn 1997 - February 1998**

- M 15.9.97 School Photographs
- Tu 16.9.97 'Friends of Wath School' Barbecue for New Parents
- Tu 23.9.97 (to Tu 30.9.97) Scholastic Book Fair - Library
- M 29.9.97 Pre-Inspection Parents' Meeting
- W 1.10.97 'Friends of Wath School' AGM
- F 3.10.97 School Closure - Staff Training Day
- W 8.10.97 'Friends of Wath School' Inter-school Quiz
- W 22.10.97 Governors' Annual Meeting 7.00pm
- M 3.11.97 (to 7.11.97) OFSTED Inspection
- Th 6.11.97 Y13 Parents' Evening - 4.15pm
- Th 20.11.97 Y11 Parents' Evening - 4.15pm
- Tu 25.11.97 (to 27.11.97) School Production: "The Wiz"
- W 3.12.97 'New Sixth Evening' - 7.15pm
- Tu 9.12.97 An evening of Sixth Form Drama
- Tu 16.12.97 Carol Service - 7.15pm at Wath Parish Church
- Th 18.12.97 Christmas Concert - 7.15pm in School Hall
- F 19.12.97 End of Autumn Term
- M 5.1.98 Start of Spring Term - GCSE 'Mock' Exams Begin
- Th 8.1.98 Speech Day - Mr D. Davison, Principal of Deame Valley College
- M 19.1.98 'A' Level 'Mock' Exams Begin
- M 2.2.98 Y7 Parents' Evening - 4.15pm
- W 4.2.98 School Closure - Staff Training Day
- W 11.2.98 } Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings
- Th 12.2.98 } Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings
- F 13.2.98 February Half Term Holiday Begins

**New Year -  
New  
Headteacher**

The new academic year sees Mr Robert Godber take over as Headteacher, having been Deputy Head since 1983. He joined the staff as a teacher of History in 1965 after gaining a Politics and History Degree at Manchester University.

One of the first to be appointed as a Head of Year in 1973, he then went on to become Head of Sixth Form in 1980. Mr Godber has always taken a keen interest in drama and has starred in many Gilbert and Sullivan performances - as well as directing many.

Outside school he is extremely active in the Secondary Heads Association, being an Executive Member and Publications Officer.

We wish Mr Godber the very best of good fortune - it promises to be quite an introduction, with the attempted sale of school land and the Inspection due in November - Good Luck Sir!

Pictured with the Senior Students: Head Boy Stephen Wesson, Head Girl Abigail Wild and Deputies David Bray, Samantha Christie, Laura Dainty and Matthew Swallow.



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# 6th Form Matters

The following appointments have been made:

Head Boy  
Stephen Wesson

Head Girl  
Abigail Wild

Deputies  
David Bray  
Samantha Christie  
Laura Dainty  
Matthew Swallow

## Maude Laliberte

One of last year's great successes was Maude who came to us on the ASSE exchange. She arrived from Canada last September knowing very little English (her native tongue is French as she is from Quebec) and she was plunged immediately into a demanding 'A' level programme of Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

She was a real asset to the school and we were very sad to lose her after just one year; she would have liked to stay with us but no funding could be found. Her achievements during the year were considerable, both socially and academically. She passed 'A' level Maths and 'AS' level Chemistry and now speaks and writes English fluently.

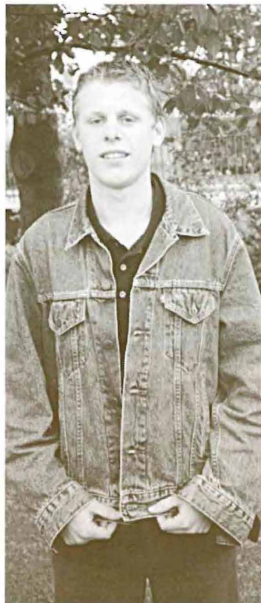
Back in Canada, she has enrolled at College before going on later to study Medicine or Physics at university. Deputy Head Girl, Laura Dainty, spent the summer with Maude and her family in Quebec and had a great time.

We are proud of Maude; she was an example and an inspiration and we wish her every success for the future.



## Ryan Sandberg

Ryan, who joined us in the Lower Sixth from Wombwell High School last September, was awarded a Sixth Form RAF Scholarship in January and is now being paid to be here (I won't tell you how much as you might go green with envy!). He can now choose to go directly into the RAF after 'A' levels or take a sponsored university course; at the moment he is expecting to take the latter route, studying Physics or Aeronautical Engineering. We congratulate him on his achievement so far.



## Roll over Beethoven, it's Wathstock '97!!

Several Upper Sixth students wanted to mark their escape/ departure from school last July and they offered to give a rock concert in aid of school funds and charities. On Friday 27th June the afternoon was given over to four bands we had in Year 13 and the event was combined with a non-uniform day. A very loud afternoon was had by all!! Many thanks to all those who took part.

## Gone to Jesus and a Saint

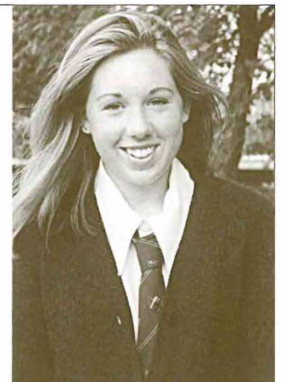
The four students who were offered places at Oxford and Cambridge gained 'straight' A's at 'A' level in August, and they will study a wide range of subjects. Chris Watkin and Richard Lawton are going to Jesus College, Cambridge, Emma Baldock is going to Jesus College, Oxford and Simon Fallis is taking another 'holy' route, to St Catherine's, Oxford. We congratulate them and wish them well.

## Rebecca West

Upper Sixth student Rebecca West was selected as one of just 64 students from all over the UK to attend a summer school at Oxford University. This was the first year the programme has run and Rebecca spent a week at Brasenose College studying Modern History; she had a demanding but exciting week, she tells us.

## Waterbabe with Brains

Last year's Upper Sixth student Rebecca Nicoll has many sporting achievements to her name; she has played netball for school, town and country for many years but now seems to be spending as much time on the water as on the netball court. A couple of years ago she went on holiday to Majorca and decided to have a go at windsurfing; it was quickly realised that she had a natural talent for the sport and she rapidly passed several windsurfing exams. This summer she was employed as an instructor at Puerto Pollensa in the north-east of the island and from what we've heard, had a great time. She's now back home ready for her P.E. and Art course at University.



## New 'Soap' product!

David Martin, who joined the Lower Sixth from Kirk Balk School last September, must be spending as much time in the TV studios as in class here! In recent weeks he has appeared in two episodes of Emmerdale, one of Coronation Street and one of Heartbeat. Can you remember seeing him? He was shaking it all about in a disco in Emmerdale, was a prisoner with Don Brennan in 'Coro' and a student getting quietly 'plastered' in a pub in Heartbeat! His next appearance is in The Ward on Children's ITV.

## Squeeze! What a Squeeze!

The budget costs which the school was forced to make this year meant that we have had to reduce our provision in the sixth form. Wouldn't you know - we have had record numbers from all over the Deane Valley and from our own Year 11 wanting to do 'A' level with us! (and with a 90% pass rate, who can wonder?). Mr Bacon and Mrs Grant, Head and Deputy Head of Sixth Form, have done a wonderful job of fitting people in, but with large classes not everyone gets their first choice.

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## THE SERVANT OF TWO MAFIAS

The Drama Department staged this adaptation of Goldoni's classic masterpiece 'The Servant of Two Masters' last November. The cast, consisting of mainly Year 10, 11, 12 & 13, students worked long hours to perfect the art of comic acting. That they succeeded could be heard in the rewarding laughter of the appreciative audiences over the four nights, even if at times it wasn't quite planned for! Although one doesn't like to pick out individuals - everybody played their part extremely well - mention must be made of Matthew Guest who, as the luckless Dino, showed tremendous comic technique and held the audience in the palm of his hands. Credit should also go to those members of staff and pupils who managed to transform our stage into 'The Pink Flamingo', Acapulco. With flying Pizzas, bell boys being flung over cliff-tops and a ridiculously impossible plot this really was an evening to remember and warm the heart on those cold November nights.



## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

For our third production this year we thought we'd give Rotherham a touch of culture. This production was staged by Y13 students at Rotherham Arts Centre in April as part of their A-Level Drama Examination. The production was deliberately challenging; the students didn't want to take the text as gospel, and what they created was an incredibly imaginative and creative piece of theatre in which the audience found themselves bombarded by striking visual imagery, highly inventive use of language and clever use of music and sound. Nothing was sacrosanct in this production; the rustics were played as if Mrs Merton and her ladies had decided to put a play on; the fantasy of the play became Theseus' drug induced hallucinations. The cast handled the language superbly, displaying a fine appreciation of character and pace. This was a highly stimulating evening of sinister evocation and hilarious comedy all wrapped up in the confusion of love's 'bright young things'. An enchanting experience warmly appreciated by the audience.



# P R O D

## JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

Having seen what the older students were capable of, our younger 'starlets' weren't going to let the school down, and with this joint production between the Music and Drama Departments they did themselves proud. Again many hours were spent under the 'sympathetic' and 'understanding' direction of Mr Higgins and Mr McGrath working towards the week of the performance. The cast, consisting mainly of Y7, 8 & 9 students communicated the humour, pathos and spectacle of this famous musical with energy, imagination and comic invention. The singing was of the highest order, the dance numbers simple, but effective (they had to be). The band of school pupils with a couple of outside singers was as professional and accomplished as anything they have at the Lyceum. Many outstanding memories from a superb evening, the highlight of which was a fifteen minute finale where nobody was allowed to stay in their seat and the hall was really rocking, notably some distinguished members of staff.





## From School Talent Competition to T.V. Appearance - One Month!

Singer! Dancer! Is there no end to the talents of Sarah Schofield, a winner of the Y7 Talent Competition in July, when partnered by Claire Garner, she performed a dance to music from "Beauty and the Beast". This was followed two days later by her appearance in the School Variety Show and then, on August 8th, Sarah was the winner of the Karaoke Competition for Calendar, Y.T.V., which took place in Doncaster and was later televised from an open-air stage at Doncaster Dome for the evening programme.

Other Wath Comprehensive pupils who took part in the Karaoke competition were Shelley Schofield, Leanne Newrick and Camille Catherall who all gave the judges a hard time coming to a decision as the event attracted a large number of entrants and the standard of performance was high.

It is hoped that the Talent Competitions and Variety Show will become annual events in the school calendar.

## Gym, Dance and Movement Evenings

A packed house on both evenings saw yet another magnificent display of gym, dance and movement from all ages, ranging from Y7 gym and movement to Y12 dance (if that's what you call dancing Rugby lads!).

The kamikaze kids performed their usual feats of daring, whilst a special feature this year was the tumbling routines and trampolining. Over 180 students took part with special appearances from Wath Central Junior and Wentworth C of E. A combined audience of over 800 watched the two performances. Book early next year!

# U C T I O N S



## Land Sale

Can you believe it? After failing in a bid to sell off our 1st X1 football pitch, Rotherham Borough Council now want to sell off land on the top field bordering the cricket wicket. What makes the issue more difficult to

understand is that our local councillors are supporting the sale.

The people of Wath just won't stand for it; already a poster campaign is active and a petition has attracted

hundreds of signatures - if you have not signed it yet please do so soon.

This short-term, quick fix is not the answer councillors - school land is precious and once sold it has gone forever.



## HANDS OFF OUR LAND!!



### Lucy's Shape of Things to Come

Our own Lucy Clarkson could be the next supermodel after being selected to work with one of Britain's top designers.

Fifteen year old Lucy has been chosen to model Vivienne Westwood's new autumn collection and is all set to take the first step on the catwalk to stardom.

Lucy caught the eye after she was chosen as one of 12 finalists in a Daily Mirror Elite modelling show - watch out Naomi, Cindy, Claudia and Kate - our Lucy's in town!

## Bouncing Along

Great news for the school early in the summer term when the P.E. department was successful in its bid to have 4 outdoor basketball posts erected on the tennis courts following an initiative by the English Basketball Association - supported by the Sports Council and Adidas. They are already being used after school and will be used during curriculum time this year. Why not shoot a basket or two at lunch time?



adidas

## Expedition to Pakistan 1997

In April this year, Mrs Morley, Judith Lakin (Y12) and Laura Campey (Y10) had the once in a lifetime opportunity to go on an expedition to Pakistan along with 8 other pupils from Rotherham Secondary Schools. Accompanying us were two other teachers, Police Officers and education advisor Kevin Robinson.

The purpose of the expedition was to develop links between the communities of Rotherham and New Mirpur in Pakistan and to experience the culture and community of

a very different part of the world.

During our visit we went into schools and talked to the students about life in South Yorkshire as well as giving out various gifts typical of British culture. Our experience of Pakistani Schools is that they have very limited facilities, yet they place great value on their education. The students were very eager to learn and delighted to show us they work they had produced.

Throughout the two weeks we travelled around the country seeing both a wealthy aspect and extreme poverty. The whole experience was tremendous and the memories of our visit will remain with us for the rest of our lives.



## Save the Children

Every year the school makes a special effort to raise money for the Save the Children Charity. Mr Goodman co-ordinates the project and has done so for 17 years. So highly has the school and its efforts come to be regarded that a special award was given to the school this year for our "exceptional support". Pictured are members of 8GD who this year raised £274.89 in a sponsored swim and two

pupils, Greg Batty and Adrian Love, who raised £106.00 doing a sponsored bike ride.

The Director General of Save the Children, Mr Mike Aaronson presented Mr Goodman with the certificate at a special presentation ceremony.

Well done, keep up the good work!

## The Magnificent Seven Ride into the Sunset

Sadly at the end of the summer term, seven of our most experienced teachers took early retirement, which together with Mr Kirby's retirement will leave a large space that will be difficult to fill: Mr Ward, Mr Bareham, Mr Swift, Mrs Bacon, Mr Haynes, Mr Davies and Mr Bell. The Magnificent Seven will all be sadly missed as they ride off into the sunset!!



## Wath Comprehensive Insurance

A fantastic new scheme which generates income for the school (£5 per policy) has been introduced. Have you taken advantage? Do you realise you could save £'s?

Rotherham Insurance Brokers offer to beat any quotation given by 10%, placing your insurance with

General Accident and give the school £5 commission for every policy taken out. Car, home, holiday, caravan, medical. All you have to do is show the membership card. YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE.

If you have lost or misplaced yours, ring school for another one.

## Honours Board Summer 1997

### Cricket

U13	Rotherham Schools	Matthew Burrows Greg Batty
U13	Yorkshire Schools	Matthew Burrows
U14	South Yorkshire Schools Yorkshire Final Trialist	Martin Bray
U15	Rotherham Schools Yorkshire Schools	Matthew Kinaston
U19	Yorkshire Final Trialist	Ryan Tingle

### Golf

U18	Yorkshire Schools Champion	James Clarke Y10
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### Tennis

U13	Rotherham Schools League Winners	Jonathan Oxer Matthew Price David Jones Ben Stevenson David Bailey
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### Athletics

	Rotherham School Champions	Y8 Boys and Girls Y9 Boys and Girls
	Individual Champions	Y8 100m Javelin Boys Relay
		Mark Hepworth David Jones Simon Cadman Mark Hepworth Steven Hepworth Liam Kay
		Girls Relay
		Helen Roberts Suzanne Elvin Claire Wilkinson Carly Youren
		Y9 Shot Discus
		Andrew Hirst Rachel Green
	Rotherham School Team	*Hurdles *Shot *Discus *100m Discus 200m 400m *200m Steeplechase 200m Triple Jump Javelin 300m Hurdles Shot *Long Jump *200m *Javelin
		Martin Bray Andrew Hirst Andrew Chafen Steven Wilson Siobhan O'Hara Paul Hunter Carl Spencer Steven Inglis Rachel Elliott Jamie Hughes Chris Plume Amy Ridsdale Gemma Worthington Lucy Kerr Louise Foster Rachel Green

### Rounders

England U16 Rounders Team	Kerry Blockley
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\* South Yorkshire Schools Team

# HONOURS BOARD

**SPORTSMARK  
AWARD**



**ENGLISH  
SPORTS  
COUNCIL**

**NATIONAL  
JUNIOR  
SPORT  
PROGRAMME**

## Hot Shot Fergie

Physical Education teacher Miss Ferguson is causing quite a stir on the hockey field - representing Doncaster in the National Premier League and Captaining the Club next season. She was 5th top scorer in the country last season outdoors and top scorer indoors. Miss Ferguson has represented Yorkshire at Senior Level and Captains the North of England U21's. Well done Miss!!



## Sportsmark Award

This prestigious award has been gained by the school for its outstanding achievements in sport, for the quality of its P.E. curriculum and for the quantity of pupils participating in sports at a variety of levels: club, house, school, town, district, county and national.

Only 400 schools have achieved the award nationally - quite an achievement for the P.E. Department - keep up the good work!

## Top Play / Top Sport

The Wath Partnership of Schools has been selected to pilot the new TOP PLAY and TOP SPORT initiative developed by the Youth Sport Trust and the Sports Council. Mr Price is co-ordinating the delivery of the scheme to Primary teachers during training days this term.

The scheme is designed to help develop sport in Primary schools, providing an opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities.

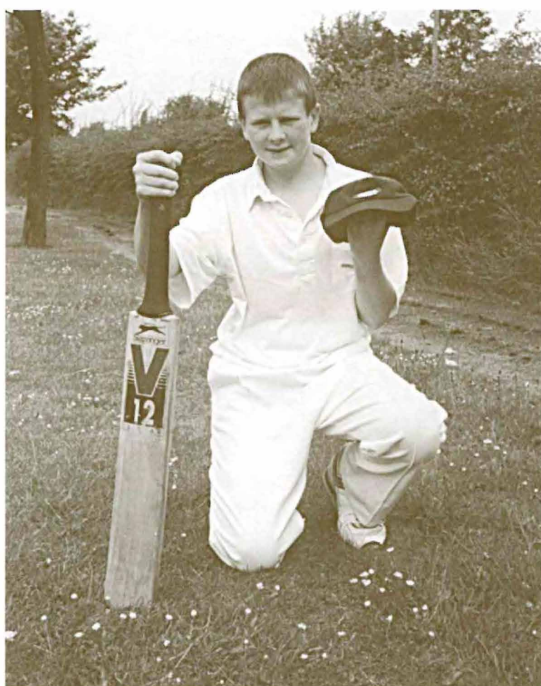
## Golfing Ace

Year 10 pupil James Clarke achieved a great first for the school in July when he managed a two over par round of 74 in the Yorkshire Schools Under 18 Golf Championships at Lightcliffe Golf Club, Bradford. James who has a handicap of 5 plays at Wath Golf Club and as a result of his win will go on to represent the Yorkshire Schools Team.

Golf is enjoying a surge of popularity in school with 30

boys and 3 girl members at local clubs. The second annual School Golf Tour returned to the East Lothian coastline of Scotland in late July, playing courses at Musselburgh, Gullane, North Berwick, Kilspindie and Longniddry.

This year 4 more golf scholarships are on offer at Wath Golf Club (free golf and coaching for one year). Sorry boys - the scholarships are for girls only!



## Spinning for Yorkshire

Year 8 pupil Matthew Burrows is spinning his way to success in the Yorkshire Schools U13 Cricket Team. A leg break bowler in the mould of the great Australian spinner Shane Warne, Matthew has been baffling batsmen all summer long

and has produced some excellent bowling figures playing for Yorkshire and for Wath Cricket Club Senior Teams. Well done Matthew! **HOT NEWS!** Mathew has been chosen for North of England trials-next step-England.

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