



February 2012

# In Touch

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Although this is a relatively short-term it is also an exceptionally busy one. This is particularly the case for all students who are in key examination years as the examinations begin in less than three months time.

Year 11 students are in the process of completing their coursework in most subjects and are now being directed to attend our extensive programme of support and revision which has been running every evening throughout the term and for some subjects well before. Parents of Year 11 students will also be notified shortly of the study programme which will run through the Easter holiday period. We have been very pleased by the students positive response and attendance at these sessions. I am very appreciative that staff in all subject areas are giving of their time so willingly to support students in this way beyond the school day.

Just before half term we enjoyed three evenings of spectacular performance at our annual Gym, Dance and Music evenings. This year had the theme of "The Olympics" and our students and pupils from all our feeder primary schools rose again to the challenge to provide high quality, creative performances to three very appreciative capacity audiences. Well done to everybody involved.

I have been asked to draw parents/carers attention to the matter of student eligibility for free school meals. A large number of the students who join us from primary school where have been in receipt of free school meals but do not continue to receive them at secondary school. We strongly believe that far more students are eligible for free school meals than are in receipt of them.

Advice on how to apply together with the relevant application form is available via a link from the parents section of the school website, alternatively this information is available from the school office. I can reassure you that every aspect of the process from application to receipt of meals is totally confidential.

It is really important that all of our students with an entitlement to free school meals receive them. Listed below is information relating to the entitlement criteria.

You are entitled to free school meals for your children if you receive:

Income Support or  
Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based) or  
State Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit) or  
Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) or  
Child Tax Credit (with an annual income of less than £16,190)  
Asylum Seeker Status

If any of these describes your situation you are strongly encouraged to apply. If you require any assistance please contact the school and we will organise for you to have confidential and individual support with the paperwork if you wish.

Yours sincerely

**P Ward**  
Headteacher

## Going for Gold!

The Olympics in 2012 is going to be one of the biggest events in British history, and Wath Comprehensive really set the mood to get us all in the patriotic spirit!



Movement Evening 2012 was always set to be a significantly brilliant dance show, given that it had been planned for the past six months. But nothing could have prepared us for the dazzling display of dance that both students and teachers alike performed on the sold out three nights.

With comedic stylings from Adan 'The Rock' Osbourne, Vinnie Ogden and Hayla Stanworth throughout the whole show, they got the crowd laughing from the offset with their meagre attempts of preparation for the Olympics. Maybe try for 2016, eh guys?

The opening ceremony grabbed our attention straight away with its fast moving demonstration of all years athletic ability with flipping and jumping around and over vaults to our very own Arctic Monkeys. Flying through the Olympic rings didn't look easy at a pace like that; it really got the audience warmed up for the rest of the show!

The remarkable gymnastic skills of the dancers throughout the whole show were more than impressive; the cheerleaders of Key Stage 3 sporting team GB's colours and the Key Stage 5 BTEC group with their energetic take on contemporary dance. Robin's gym solo was more than inspiring, and from it I'm sure everyone in the room would agree that this young aspiring dancer will go far, and do Wath Comprehensive proud.

The Year 11 Trio was certainly a crowd pleaser, and really showcase the dancer's potential with their routine to 'I've Got a Feeling'. But, with all of the support from the audience, who'd be surprised that they did Wath so proud? It certainly gave of that Friday feeling, and got everyone in the mood to join in!

Energy was flowing through the whole night and it didn't stop when the Year 12 girls came on! The fast moving energetic routine made it difficult to keep up, what with all the twirling and jumping around. It undoubtedly was an impressive display, girls!

Next up was the unknown. Labelled mysteriously as 'Training to Win' by 'Guess Who?' in the programme, it got everyone guessing. But, to everyone's surprise, as I'm sure not a soul in the room guessed it, out came the sports teachers who got a bit physical with their workout! Dressed in their usual gear, I'm sure, the teachers got their knees up high with a lively interpretation of what looked a lot like the workout vid-

After the short and rather hectic interval, the vaulting club made a great effort of creating a chaotic emulation of the Olympic torch being lit. Colours of orange, red and yellow flew past the audience and the acrobatics twisted within it made for an impressive interpretation.

Energy and synchronisation was key with both the Key Stage 3 Dance Club and the Year 11 Dance Group. With such big groups of dancers, it's a wonder they all knew what they were doing, but they pulled it off, and because of the amount of dancers, it made for an even more exciting routine that really set us up for the 2012 Olympics in style.

The younger years did Wath proud too, with their short but fun dance moves. Their adaptation of athletics relays, synchronised swimming and even basketball gave the theme of Movement Evening a real sporty feel to it, and made us realise what the Olympics is really about.

The interpretations of dance were some of the most remarkable elements of the night. Intertwining badminton with classical ballet and hockey with Irish music seems an unlikely match when you say it out loud, but it was managed at Movement Evening. Very creative!

And who could forget the kids from the primary schools? They certainly should be proud as punch with their efforts, they all performed brilliantly to a fantastically supportive audience and everyone enjoyed seeing them dance as much as the older dancers.

The closing ceremony made the room swell with patriotic pride as hundreds of Great British flags were flown in synchrony around the room by all the dancers of the night. The audience burst into applause, thoroughly impressed and stunned at the sheer sight of the dancers all coming together in true Wath style. It was without a doubt a night to be remembered.

But I don't think anything could have prepared the audience for what came next. The Year 13 students made everyone laugh with their ending dance, with inspirations from films such as... erm, The Inbetweeners Movie. The audience looked truly bewildered at the lads' inspiring moves, and the impressive dancing from the girls too! The dance was choreographed with such dancing excellence that the audience was in a pure daze by the end.

Movement Evening 2012 was a night that will probably be remembered for years to come. The choreography and dedication of all involved was something that Wath can forever be proud of. I think the audience of all three nights would also agree that the lighting, and the evening as a whole, did Mr Bilby proud, and he would have been just as entertained as the audience was. Well done, everyone!

**Written by  
Jessica Beever  
12FT**



## Eco Awards

Wath Comprehensive School is applying for the Bronze Eco-Schools Award. To achieve this award, we need to complete an environmental review for our school with questions about recycling, waste management, energy consumption and green spaces in our school. We then need to put an action plan into place to make changes for the better. Our Y7 Student Council members are working on this project and have established the Eco Group which meets regularly.

We are already taking steps to be more environmentally friendly as a school. The recycling bin continues to be filled on a regular basis and we now have battery recycling points. The graffiti art produced during last year's Spring Bank activities raises environmental awareness with its green theme. We're also working with Dearne Valley Eco Vision and RMBC to make further improvements.

We hope to receive our Bronze Eco-Schools Award on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March when we attend the Dearne Valley Eco Day at the new Kingswood Centre (formerly the Earth Centre). Our next eco-project will be to develop our allotment and garden area by planting fruit, vegetables and flowers and encouraging wildlife into the area.

If you'd like to join the Eco Group or the Garden Team, please see Mrs Laite in the Library or Miss Owen in the Language College Office.

## German Art Trip to London

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, Anna the German language assistant took people from Y7, Y8 and Y9 to London to visit an art museum for the day.

Everyone took their own packed lunch for the busy four hour journey that started at 7:00am.

They were all fascinated by the wonderful paintings and drawings by many famous artists. They even tried imitating the canvases.

The day was enjoyed by everyone there and they would love to visit again in their own time.

The students had another tiring four hour journey back home and arrived at 8:00pm.

We want to say a big thank you to Anna and all of the other assistants and teachers that got everyone around safely.

The German art after-school club is run on Thursdays after school until 4:00pm.

By Lauren Hudson  
Y7 Student Journalist.



★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ Do you  
**Love Languages?**  
★ If so, you could take part in  
our annual evening of  
language celebration on 10<sup>th</sup>  
May 2012  
You could be in a play, a dance,  
make up a song and if you try  
hard in your language lessons, you  
might even be nominated for a  
language award!  
Ask your language teacher about  
Love Languages!

**Join the  
GARDEN TEAM**  
Help to design the school  
garden, plant flowers, fruit  
& vegetables, encourage  
birds & wildlife, see your  
plants grow, eat the fruit &  
vegetables, make tasty  
meals with what you've  
grown!!





**Go For It! is a national scheme designed to help more children access after-school and holiday activities**

Our school has received funding from the government to pay for **eligible children** to take part in after-school and holiday activities. Students can choose from the activities the school already offers on-site (after school and in the holidays) or activities available elsewhere like swimming lessons, karate, music lessons, football and gymnastics.

The funding can help to pay fees to attend clubs such as the Scouts, Guides and many other organisations, even to join a local football team or drama group. The funding can also pay for a pass for activities or contribute towards residential visits.

Last year, Wath Comprehensive School students took part in activities like paintballing, graffiti art, skateboard design, cupcake baking, nail art, clothing design, skatepark, climbing wall, ice skating, driving lessons, go-karting, dance lessons, music lessons, horse riding and drama lessons.



If your child is eligible, you should already have received a letter from school letting you know about the scheme. However, if you would like to check this or have any questions about the scheme, please contact Miss S Owen on 01709 760222. Alternatively, you can email her at [wacssowen@rgfl.org](mailto:wacssowen@rgfl.org)

## News from Biology Department

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 13 courageous Year 13 students participated in the National British Biology Olympiad Competition. It involved completing a multiple choice test with questions based on a wide range of Biology knowledge and understanding, often beyond A-level standard. It was an online test and the school's internet system did not let us down and all completed the test successfully. Well done to all the students who agreed to participate, particular congratulations go the following for attaining the following awards. All amazing achievements.

### **Silver Medal**

John D'Silva

### **Bronze medal**

Emma Roughley

### **Highly Commended**

Tara Tareen

Laura Parish

Hugh Sagar

Katie Bostock

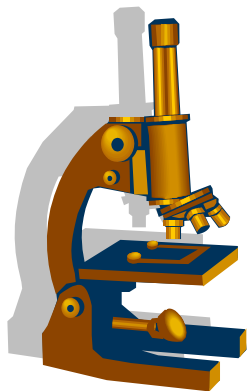
### **Commended**

Lauren Sawdon

Emma Levin

Jack Hobson

Liam Marjai



## Y8 Liquid Science Trip

Liquid night club hosted a science event catering for hundreds of students from Rotherham schools on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Fifteen of them were Wath Year 8 students selected for their excellent motivational levels in Science. The students arrived keen to participate in activities designed to help them learn about the application of Science after a night out.

The day started with our Wath representatives in the spotlight as they found out how engineers use lighting to enhance the dance-floor experience. Experts from Rotherham's drug awareness service then gave our young scientists the low-down on recreational drugs. The Wath science crew were then seeing double as they donned beer goggles for a side splitting egg and spoon race. After they recovered it was time to throw some shapes on the dance floor as they discovered how a regular dance can improve your fitness levels. After causing such uproar with their funky moves, students were taken into custody by PC White and PC Gray where they had their fingerprints taken before finally having a disco session.



## Science Live : Year 10 Students

Having the opportunity to listen to five world renowned scientists talk about their life and work is not an everyday event and it was with excitement 20 year 10 students travelled by train to Sheffield City Hall with Mrs Elston and Mr Avill to make the most of this opportunity.

All the scientists that were seen were captivating and came across as interesting, engaging people who feel passionate about their scientific work.

Professor Lord Robert Winston talked about declining fertility in humans, an amazing contrast to other species which show no such pattern. Professor Steve Jones brought us up to date with developments in genetic research whilst Professor Jim Al-Khalili had every one on the edge of their seat talking about the possibility of time travel. Discussions on black holes and sustainable sources of energy for the future ensured that we had an informative inspiring day. The purpose of the event is to give a deeper understanding of what science is about, and to help students see that being a Professor, working in nuclear research or writing and presenting a television series such as 'The Human Body' is available to anyone who has the passion for the subject and a determination to succeed.

## Y7 Science Week activities

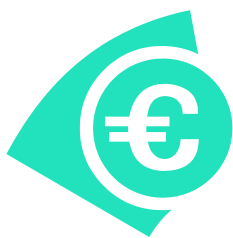
Y7s are getting very excited about the upcoming activities in Science Week. These include:

Dissections  
Fizzes and bangs demonstrations  
Science themed assemblies  
Tutor quizzes  
Cross curricular work with Art and English

Good luck and have fun!  
Ms Hyde, Science Faculty



## Year 10 Enterprise Week



The Year 10 Enterprise days provided students with the opportunity to develop their skills in numeracy, team work, design, business and speaking & listening.



Earlier this year Y10 students took place in an Enterprise day at the Consort hotel. Each tutor group was broken up into smaller working groups and allocated roles within their teams, such as project manager, designer or market research.

One Year 10 student said “it was a fun and enjoyable day for everyone and I learned lots of new things about each job in business. It was fun to make the prototype and the best thing was to know that we weren’t bad to the environment and it cost so little to make.”



We had guest speakers who do these jobs for a living. After hearing their talks it was time to make our own products with an Olympics theme. We then had to prepare presentations to compete in the battle of the tutors. One group was selected to represent their whole tutor group and impress the judges. The judges gave scores out of 10 on different categories.



**Written by Jamie Smith, Year 10.**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Ss</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>TG</u>	<u>Individual</u>
<b>Mon Jan 30</b>	BMC	Ben Cairns, Sara Reid, Jake Kirkham, Shannon Sutton, Natalie Parle, Joe Haywood, Daniel Burkinshaw	Baby mobile – Olympic	BA	Kayleigh Berry SHW
<b>Tues Jan 31</b>	Tymp Drum	Tyler Harrison, Connor Wilkinson, Michael Ward, Billy Blunt, Daniel Moxon, Daniel Robinson	Drum	SS	Kyle Nunn SL
<b>Wed Feb 1</b>	Olympians	Daniel prince, Jodie Lanceley, Katie Smith, Charlie-Mae Edwards, Ella Quinn, Tom Durban, Callum Thompson, Connor Foster, Liam Clayton	Olympic torch/lamp	HY	Billy-Jo Clark SU, Connor Lawford CO

## Coming soon: Science Week!

Science Week will be running from 12th -16th March. Make sure you sure you start earning house points early by entering the following competitions:

## Dates for your diaries:

Science Week—12th-16th March

Y9 Next Two Years' Evening—Tuesday 13th March

Y8 Next Three Years' Evening—Tuesday 20th March

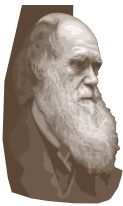


## *Famous Scientists Poster*

Produce a Poster of a  
Famous  
British Scientist Open  
to all Year 7



Entries to Mrs O'Connor  
in F32 by 16<sup>th</sup> March.



## Spring Wordsearch

Can you find ten words in our spring wordsearch?

DWYTCLXKSKFSQFK  
DDZOMSIPZLKURWB  
BOAKUIAFOXICZNW  
ZMTMPPXWENBONLJ  
TREHTAEWGDZRVKU  
SUMXQRMAQVFCFCI  
BVARSTITSYGFLJZK  
SAGNGSTUONTENWB  
NNCESSEONCPHHYFA  
MPOWXISSGPAXONW  
OBQWVDPHKNWARMS  
NJWGDIPIGZIVLNC  
SEMCLRUNEVCRTOE  
ZLWULQOEJ MOTPWQ

## **Mountain Biking Trip**

The PE Department are currently asking Year 7 and 8 students whether they would like to go Mountain Biking at Clumber Park.

There are only 40 places however these 40 places are spread over 4 days.

If you are really interested in going than you need to pick up a letter from the PE office and take it home.

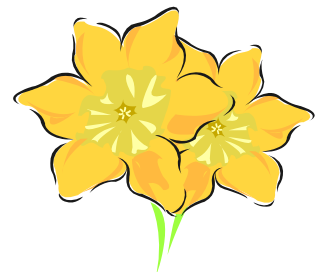
You don't need a mountain bike, but you do need a bike with brakes! You need to be quick because there are not many places left.

By Elisha Padgett Y7  
Student Journalist



CROCUS  
LIFE  
SNOWDROP  
SUNSHINE  
WARM

FLOWERS  
NEW  
SPRING  
TULIP  
WEATHER



## *Fascinating Facts*

If the sun were just a tiny point of light and Earth had no atmosphere, then day and night would each be exactly 12 hours long on a spring equinox day.

## *Comedy Corner!*

What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

*Spring-time.*