



December 2013

In Touch

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

As the end of term approaches students and staff are very much looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas holiday.

Y11 preliminary GCSE examinations have recently ended and the results will be given to students after the Christmas holidays. These examinations have added significance this year as following Mr Gove's (Education Secretary) announcement earlier this term the structures and protocols for examination entries are significantly different from previous years. The preliminary examination results will therefore be the basis for many examination entry decisions for our students. We have similar challenges with the post-16 AS and A level courses as there are now no January examination opportunities. Instead preliminary examinations will be held in most subjects and the outcome of these will inform decisions about the Summer entries.

At the end of November we held our Presentation Evening for the Year 11 students who took their GCSE examination results last Summer and as reported in an earlier edition of 'In Touch' achieved record results. Many of these students have progressed to our Sixth form. It was lovely to welcome them and also those students who left to pursue courses, training or employment elsewhere.

The last two weeks have been exceptionally busy. Last week we enjoyed three performances of our pantomime, "Snow White, Three Dwarves, Three Elves and a Hobbit" offering a slight variation to the more traditional story! The show played to full and very appreciative audiences and was very entertaining. Congratulations to all students involved in any way (on stage and behind the scenes), to the staff who undertook cameo roles and special thanks to Miss Anyon for her choreography and Mr McHale and Mrs Hardwick in the drama department who wrote, directed and produced the show.

On Thursday we look forward to our annual Christmas Concert where many of our gifted musicians and singers will have an opportunity to showcase their talents in a programme of traditional and contemporary music. Always a very popular and enjoyable evening which for many of us marks the beginning of Christmas.

All tutor groups are currently busy putting the finishing touches to their hampers for our annual Christmas Hamper competition. Once the judging has taken place the hampers will be distributed to senior citizens living in the areas which the school serves and to a couple of nominated residential centres. With the incentive of a prize for the best hamper in each year group and a trophy for the 'best in school' staff and students have once again risen to the challenge and the results are amazing. The results of the judging will be announced in the next edition of 'In Touch'.

Finally may I take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

P Ward

Welcome

Nothing says it's nearly Christmas like the opening of the pantomime season. Our very own 'Snow White' didn't disappoint: look out for the review later on in this edition. We have had another jam-packed half term, with trips, competitions and Enterprise events.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Christmas hamper competition; we are sure that everyone's entry was fantastic and we can't wait to share the photos with you in the next edition.

Stay safe over the Christmas holidays and good luck to all those revising for exams in the January period: don't leave it all until the last minute!

What to buy an RE teacher for Christmas!

Each year the SMSC faculty put money together and buy an Oxfam Unwrapped gift for Christmas rather than individual gifts. Oxfam Unwrapped is a charity gift whereby you buy a gift on the recipients behalf and in doing so you help to lift the lives of others in poverty. This gift is something useful to those less fortunate in other countries for example chickens so a family can have eggs, bringing more of a guarantee of food.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

This year we have been teaching about the parable of the sheep and the goats so much that this even influenced our choice of gift. We have bought a sheep and a goat! We hope that we can all be a bit more sheep like this year.

For more information about the project, visit the website below:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped/animal-lovers>

ATTENDANCE TUTOR GROUP COMPETITION

The results for the first half term competition were encouraging. The year group winners were as follows;

Year 7	SL	Miss Sheldon	98.9%
Year 8	WL	Mrs Wall	98%
Year 9	HU	Miss Hunter	98.7%
Year 10	RD	Mr Riddle	97.9%
Year 11	HD	Mrs Heselden	97.6%

Overall School Champions = 7SL

In the New Year, the competition will be altered to celebrate those students who have achieved 100% attendance from September. Prizes will be given on a rolling draw basis to several students from each year group. The tutor group competition will return for the March Attendance Assembly

I would also like to notify you that Mr Grayel is to have a change of responsibilities and will no longer oversee Attendance at Wath Comprehensive School.

The responsibility is now being handed over to a new Assistant Headteacher Mrs Saeed who joins us from Wickersley Comprehensive. Both Mrs Holmes and myself would like to thank Mr Grayel for all the great work he has done.

Mr A. Clapham
(Attendance Office)

Christmas Panto



This year's pantomime had a lot to live up to, with last year's offering of Little Red Riding Hood having been a roaring success. However, this year's combination of Sleeping Beauty and characters from Lord of the Rings was equally as entertaining. The all-star cast included students from all year groups in a variety of forms, from forest animals to Thriller zombies.

There was some amazing talent showcased: dancing, singing and joke-telling to make it fun for all the family and Santa's special guest appearance at the end, along with his elf army got everyone in the festive spirit. One Y8 student, who participated in the show said "Taking part was brilliant, we had lots of fun and really enjoyed it. At times we all had a laugh practising what we had to do. It was very funny at times, and extremely entertaining." Well done to all those students and teachers involved and we eagerly anticipate next year's dose of Christmas cheer!

Baking



On 5th of December we came over to Wath Comprehensive School to bake scrumptious gingerbread men and sell them for our enterprise work, which we really enjoyed doing! When we were baking, the students at Wath Comprehensive School and the teachers were exceptionally helpful and we are grateful for their assistance.



We would like to say thank you for an amazing day and we cannot wait until year 7!

Written by Y6 students from Wath Central Primary School.

Hitting the High Notes



We are very proud of a number of students who have recently passed their Music exams with flying colours. Congratulations to the following students:

Selling

When we came back to our school, everyone who could smell the gingerbread men came flooding into our classroom and bought stacks of delicious biscuits. Surprisingly, our mouth watering batches sold better than ever.



Georgia Edwards	Grade 3 Piano (Merit)
Megan Swift	Grade 4 Piano (Merit) Grade 4 Saxophone (Distinction)
Melissa Shepherd	Grade 1 Piano (Merit) Grade 4 Clarinet (Merit)
Hannah Robertson	Grade 1 Piano (Merit)
Frances Leeson	Grade 3 Piano
Noah Savage	Grade 3 Trombone

Forensics Day

Y10 students took part in a Forensics day this half term, organised by Nathalie Grima.



It was a full day Forensic Science day, for our 30 highly motivated and more able Y10 students. Within the day they carried out a range of activities to help them solve a crime. They looked at the job requirements of forensic scientists and their level of qualifications (as well as their level of earnings!)

Students loved the workshop, they developed investigative skills which is essential for the highest grades in Science. Most students also mentioned that this workshop raised their interest in Science and that they would now consider Science or Forensic Science as a career choice.



They learnt about the different types of evidence and how to collect them safely, Including:

- Analysing blood spatters to identify the weapon used and how many times it was used

- Using crime scene samples to identify different types of fibres using microscopes.

- Collecting finger prints and shoe prints correctly from a crime scene.

- Wearing forensic scientist suits, students had a specific role such as a crime scene photographer and a crime scene manager.
- From the crime scene, they then worked out different scenarios of what had happened, before finally interpreting all the evidence to have a prime suspect.



Get Involved!

Wath Comprehensive School believes in the benefits of getting involved in extra-curricular clubs and activities. We offer a wide range of enjoyable clubs to suit a range of different needs and interests.

Things to REMEMBER if you want to join a school club:

- *You **MUST** get a permission slip or a note in your planner from the member of staff running the club before you come along.
- *You can bring your packed lunch or buy a sandwich to bring to MOST clubs – **NO HOT FOOD** though!
- *Don't be afraid to try something new, if you think you might be interested just give it a go!



GENERAL

*Le Rendezvous is open from 7.45am until the beginning of school for breakfast. You can purchase hot and cold breakfast foods and drinks. Students on Free School Meals are entitled to 55p towards any items at breakfast or morning break.

Monday:

ICT Lunch Club in G28
Jazz Group in F1 at lunchtime
Sew Easy in F41 at lunchtime
Club de cine Español - Spanish Film Club in G3 at 2.45pm
Club de cinéma Français - French Film Club in G6 at 2.45pm
KinoKlub - German Film Club in G5 at 2.45pm
Y7 Science Club in F41 at 2.45pm
Y7 and Y8 Dance Club in Gym 1 at 3-4pm
STEM Club in F35 at 2.45pm
AS & A2 Level Maths Study Support in F16 at lunchtime
Citizenship Club in G31 at 2.45-3.45 (from Feb 3rd)

Tuesday

Media Club in F24 at lunchtime
A Level Chemistry Drop In Clinic in F47 during P3
A Level Physics Drop In Clinic in F37 during P3
Sax Group in F1 at lunchtime
Y7 Enterprise in G2 at lunchtime
KS3 Writing Club at 12.30 in F27



Wednesday

MFL Games Club in G10 at lunchtime
Ballet Class in F3 at 3-4pm
Scrabble Club in F28 at lunchtime



Thursday

A'Level Biology Drop In Clinic in F36 during P3
Fame Academy in F4 at lunchtime
Cool Crafts Club in G22 at lunchtime
School Band in F1 at lunchtime
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Age 14+) in S2
AS & A2 Level Maths Study Support in F16 at lunchtime
Y7 Reading group in library at 2.45-3.45



Friday

Flix on Friday in F2 at lunchtime
ICT Lunch Club in G28 at lunchtime
Boxercise for KS4 and KS5 in the Top Gym at 3-4pm
Guitar Group in F1 after school.

****PE extra-curricular timetable is on the next page!**

Dates for your Diary:

Y13 Presentation Evening: Tuesday 7th January

Y11 Review Day: Monday 13th January

Y10 University Challenge: Friday 24th January

Y7 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 4th February



Fascinating Facts

Chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil, commemorates St. Nicholas / Santa Claus who gave bags of gold coins to the poor.

Comedy Corner!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?
Because he had a low Elf-esteem!



Extra-Curricular PE @ Wath



TIMETABLE Winter 2013-14

WHEN?	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LUNCH 12.30 - 1.00pm	Girls Badminton Club - 5H Sept: Y9,10,11 Jan: Y7, 8 (PK)	Y8/9 Netball Practice - 5H (SL)	Y7 Netball Practice - 5H (TP/GF) Y9 Boys Futsal Gym 2 OL	Indoor hockey (GN + OW)	Y10/11 Netball Practice - 5H (TP)	Boys fixtures
AFTER SCHOOL 3.00 pm	Hockey Mixed - Y7/8/9 Astro (GN + OW+ 1) Dance club KS3 (AN) Y8 Boys Football (OL) KS3 Basketball (PT) 1 st Team Rugby Practice Y13 A2 level revision and catch up (TP)	PRIMARY EVENING (GF/DB) Y12 Leadership CSLA (GF/DB)	Girls fixtures Netball - All years (TP/SL/CN/GF) (3.00 - 5.30pm) Fit for Fun club (GN) Senior Football Astro (TA) 4-5pm Boys Football fixtures	Girls Football * [from Oct 10 th →] All Yrs - Astro (MB+TK+1) Boys Football (OL) Y9: 3-4pm Y10: 4-5pm Sept x 6 weeks: Cross-country [WE/PK] Oct → Girls Trampolining All Yrs (PK) [AS revision post Feb] BTEC Club (SL/PT) A5 level revision and catch up (TP)	Netball Club Sept: Y7 Oct: Y8/9 (TP/GF/SL) Girls Football All Yrs Astro * [first 5 weeks only] (MB+TK+1) Boxercise / Boxing Gym 1 [Mr Grayel]	Additional Recreational activities (PE Staff)