

CONNEXIONS

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Welcome to your new edition of 'Connexions',
the magazine that links home and school.
Our cover reflects the range of activities
that pupils take part in -
read all about these and more inside...

AN INNOVATING IDEA

The Y10 Young Enterprise group came up with some innovating ideas - and picked up some awards along the way!

The group, made up of pupils Debra Robinson, John Housley, Tern Walton, Brittony North, Chantelle Windle, Katie Griffiths and Adele Bradwell, decided on the name 'Innovations' for their card and gift for every occasion business. The group has made cards and gifts for Christmas, birthdays and Valentine's Day and will make bespoke cards and gifts to suit, whatever the occasion.

Their enterprising venture led them to winning the Rotherham Young Enterprise area final and ensured that they had their place in the South Yorkshire final.

At the final in Sheffield, they held their own, giving presentations about their company, and were competing against students much older than themselves. It turned out that the other area finals had all been won by Sixth Form students. They did themselves proud and came away with the award for the Best Set of Accounts. Well done to you all.

Y10 ENTERPRISE DAY-THE FINAL SHOWDOWN

Following the three day Enterprise event at Cudworth, the winning Y10 team from each of the three days went head to head in a final showdown in the school hall the following Tuesday.

The morning event began with a presentation from Asda about how they go about recruiting staff, the requirements of their employees, their corporate image and how they go about promoting the stores, their special offers and competitions.

Each of the three teams were then given roles such as manager and accountant and each team had to promote the healthy lunchbox that they had decided on in the previous event. Each team had to devise a name for their lunchbox company, design and cost a uniform or workwear for their staff to wear, decide how they would go about recruiting staff, and to devise a radio jingle advertising their particular company. The three teams decided on the names of L'il Munchkins, Munch Box and Meal Deal. L'il Munchkins won the uniform design section, Munch Box won the radio jingle section and Meal Deal won the staff recruitment section for their interview techniques. Overall, Meal Deal were judged to be the winning team and won a glass trophy donated by Business Enterprise South Yorkshire and presented by Mr Marsden. They also won Meadowhall vouchers. Congratulations to the winning team and well done to all of you who took part.



DEBATING REALLY DOES MATTER

Four Y13 students, Dzikamai Mavengere, Jessie Seekings, Tom Silverton and Liz Thornhill, supported by Mr Taylor and Mrs Shaw took part in the 'Debating Matters' competition in Sheffield. The wily Sixth Form students put on an excellent performance, debating subjects given to them on the day in a reasoned and hard-hitting way. Their performance was good enough for them to win the area final and to go forward to represent the school and South Yorkshire in the regional final at the University of Leicester. Here, the Sixth Formers were up against Uppingham School from Oakham, The Beauchamp College from Leicester and All Saints School from Mansfield. Again they were given topics on the day to debate, amongst which were the advantages of alternative fuels and whether the skills involved in computer games are just as important as reading skills. Our students performed excellently and although they were runners-up in the final competition, they did manage to win two further awards: Jessie Seekings won a special award for her incisive contributions during the day and Tom Silverton won the award for Best Individual present from all of the participating teams. I'm sure you will agree that the students were marvellous ambassadors for the school and that they deserve our congratulations on their excellent achievements. Well done!

Y9 HIGHER EDUCATION ROADSHOW

The Higher Education Roadshow drove into town (well Wath Comp anyway) to inform, entertain and suggest to Y9 pupils that staying on in education after 16 and 18 is the best thing for their futures and will set them up for life in a rapidly changing world. The bus contains information, much of it interactive, on choices post 16 and 18, what college and university life is like and gives an indication of some of the skills pupils could gain to prepare them for the big wide world of work. Pupils visited according to teaching group and came away with some ideas for their choices after compulsory schooling.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY STARS TAKE OFF!



Two teams from Y10 took part in a food technology challenge against other schools in April and May of this year. The first challenge took place at the Consort Suite at Thurcroft where the teams were asked to design an airline in-flight meal. After much debating, thinking and designing time, the overall winning design from Wath consisted of pizza, with a side serving of potatoes, a side salad and for dessert, fresh fruit and yoghurt.

The winning team then went on to represent Wath and of course Rotherham, at a final held at North Nottinghamshire College at Worksop in May. Here, the group had to design another food item, but this time it was to come up with an innovative sandwich! At the competition, a very wide variety of ingredients was there to use and the group was able to experiment with different kinds of filling. They could be as experimental as they liked. It was obviously a very tough day, because all of the sandwiches also had to be tasted and Mrs Morley said that she thought it was about seventeen different kinds in total! Wath's sandwich design consisted of chicken tikka masala on poppy seed bread. Sadly, we did not win, but the winning design from another school was then put onto a production line and our students were able to get a taste of what it is like to mass-produce sandwiches. The group, accompanied by Mrs Morley and Mr Coles, had an enjoyable and by all accounts, very filling day!

MATHS CHALLENGE



In May, groups of Y8 pupils pitted their mathematical wits in a national competition called the Junior Maths Challenge. It is a series of questions and problems designed to enable pupils to show off their mathematical ability. At the time of writing, we do not know the results, but we wish the Y8 pupils well and hope that they are all successful.

THE WORLD CUP KICKS OFF - IN WATH!

Friday June the 9 saw the start of the World Cup in Germany and it also kicked off in grand style in Wath as well. Pupils paid £1 to come in football kit for the day, which will go towards our preferred charities and in addition, pupils were asked to bring in old football boots as part of the 'Boots for Africa' campaign. It was good to see nearly every pupil entering into the spirit of the day and coming to school in football kit. The day did not stop at 2.45. After school there was a football competition for Y8 pupils and there was then German style food available before the screening in the school hall of the first match of the world cup. It was a highly memorable day and a perfect way to kick off the world cup.

ENGLISH REVISION

Among the many departments to offer revision sessions and special provision for C/D pupils, the English department organised a two-day event using the Elton Hotel in Bramley as their venue. The days consisted of reinforcing the techniques needed in the exams, the right and wrong things to do, tips for making a good job of certain answers and finally, what the examiners are looking for. English staff took the different sections and our photograph shows just what the day was like. Many thanks to all those staff across a wide range of subjects who gave up time to run revision and extra sessions for Y11.

Y11 PRESENTATION

In May, Y11 received their final Record of Achievement and Leaving Certificate in a special presentation in the Hall. Mr Senior and Mrs Morley presented their year group with their certificates and the event was made more memorable with performances from Y11 musicians and dancers. A buffet was available at the end and it was then time to say goodbye to tutors and heads of year. We wish Y11 every success in their GCSE exams and in whatever they choose to do in the future.



IT PAYS TO READ!

Wath pupils were seen celebrating World Book Day in style on March 2nd, with a sponsored Readathon event and the English Department dressed as characters from well-known books promoting their love of fiction. The idea of the day was to promote reading and raise money for the children's charities Clic Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation. A group of 40 year 7 and 8 pupils were off timetable all day, taking part in fun reading activities in the library, from private reading to play reading and acting! The day was to start a 3-week sponsored Readathon for these pupils, and in total the pupils raised £196 for the children's charities.

Due to the enormous success of the event, pupils will certainly want to make sure they book their place on it next year!

Wath Comprehensive School

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH? YES, WE DO!

In October last year, the school was contacted by Rotherham Chamber of Commerce to see whether, as a Language College, we could help with translating and interpreting to and from German, as a company based in the Dearne Valley, Advanced Sewer Products, was holding talks with a company from Germany and their representative. The representative, unusually, spoke little English, so a German speaker was needed. What a good idea to use our 'A' level German students! So Laurette Wright and Laura Ivill stepped in to undertake the tasks of interpreting and translating, with Mr

Bemrose on hand to deal with anything particularly technical. Rachel May, the Business Development Manager from ASP arranged the day, which also included a social meeting the evening before to help break the ice, at Tankersley Manor.

The hard work began the following day, as detailed negotiations got underway, helped by Laura and Laurette. Mr Bemrose said that they did an excellent job, which must have been the case, because the German firm placed a substantial order for products with ASP. Well done girls!

FRANKENSTEIN - A MONSTER OF A PLAY!

In October, the Firewalk Theatre Company was invited into school to undertake a performance to Year 8 of 'Frankenstein', that sad tale of a monster looking for love. But this was a performance with a difference: it was all conducted in Spanish! Schools from around Rotherham were invited to attend and we had a full hall, including some Y11 pupils who were studying Spanish at GCSE. It was an action packed performance, with lots of visual appeal and the language had been tailored to suit the age and knowledge of the audience. It was a monster of a play that was enjoyed by all and the audience was certainly Igor for more!

Y12 ARE MASTERING WORLD LANGUAGES

As part of their general education, all of Y12 have had the opportunity this year to learn another language, using the ABC courses, and at the same time, improve their ICT skills. During the ordinary school week, Y12 have worked at their own pace, and acquired conversation skills in another language. The languages have been many and varied. Yes, we have had some students studying Spanish and German, but we have also had students studying Russian, Swedish, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and even Arabic!

What a wonderful opportunity, and nearly 200 students have taken advantage of this. Lets hope that they are inspired enough to continue learning their chosen language in the future.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

The school's three year International Award was up for renewal last November. It is a prestigious award in recognition of the school's links with schools abroad, with our visits to other countries and cultures and of course our work with the Comenius project (see the article about Comenius in this edition of 'Connexions').

The award was presented to the school at a grand ceremony in London which was attended by Mr Bemrose and one of our students, Michael Thornton, from Y10. The awards were presided over by Anna Ford, the newsreader, and Michael Thornton went up to accept the award on behalf of the school, the only student from all of the schools present to do so. He also received a standing ovation! Mind you, he had to wait a long time, as the awards were presented alphabetically, by geographical region and then by school -Yorkshire and then Wath - and yes, we were the last school to receive the award, but of course, the best was saved until last!



A Language College

GETTING TO KNOW JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS

From last September to this April, the school was very fortunate in being able to have a Japanese intern, Shinya Yamada, arranged for us by the British Council, with the intention of fostering knowledge and understanding between different countries and cultures-and if you really think about it, you cannot get much more different than English and Britain, and Japanese and Japan! Whilst he was here, Shinya ran clubs available to all pupils, in Japanese, Japanese writing, the art of origami, demonstrated a tea ceremony and spoke about life in Japan and how different it all is compared with life in Britain. Those pupils who participated found it to be fascinating and a remarkable insight in a culture which is very different to theirs in all respects.



SCHOOL LINKS WITH WATH WOOD HOSPITAL

Our school has linked with Pope Pius and Wath Wood Hospital as part of a Lottery Fund project to promote awareness in young people of issues dealing with mental health. The links got formally underway a few months ago when a group of Y13 students went up to Wath Wood Hospital for a seminar on mental health issues. It was hosted by the staff of the hospital and pitched at just the right level, dealing with things such as making new friends in different surroundings, through to coping with being without friends and family when you first go to university. The students found it a thought provoking and enjoyable day and the staff were very complimentary about our students -just as it should be.

To continue the link, the school will have a stall at the Wath Wood Hospital Summer Fete to promote Wath as a Language College, and it has already donated some art work to the hospital which will go on display in their main reception area. The artwork was produced by Y12 students during the visit to the school by German art students last October.

The project will develop next year with further joint ventures between the school and the hospital, and Pope Pius will also be included for the first time.

FIRST STEPS TO LEARNING A LANGUAGE

On Thursday evenings, in a joint venture with Rotherham, Wath hosts language learning for adults. In September, 18 adults signed up to learn a foreign language, and the languages chosen ranged from Spanish, Italian through to Portuguese and even Dutch! The First Step courses last 10 weeks, during which time learners develop their language knowledge and skills, and they also develop their knowledge and skills of ICT as all the language courses are ICT based. On top of this, learners also go at their own pace. 11 adult learners came back for Second Step, which lasted a further 8 weeks and during which they gained some essential phrases for their holidays!

So, does this whet your appetite? Fancy learning a language? Even one you've never experienced yourself? Come and have a go. We'll be enrolling again in September, so come and join us then. Hasta luego as they say in Spanish!

THE GREAT ESCAPE - TO PARIS

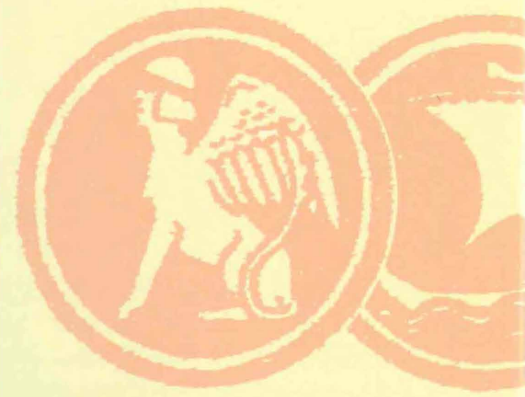
In September, a group of Y10,11,12 and 13 students, accompanied by modern language teachers, took the opportunity to practise and improve their French and see at first hand the sights of this splendid city. Staying at a central location, visits were made to the Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre and the Tuileries as well as the bateaux mouches sailing along the Seine. Pupils were encouraged to use their French as much as they could, by ordering food and drinks themselves, and of course, buying presents for friends and family back home. A highly enjoyable time was had by all, pupils' knowledge of French improved, and hopefully, the visit will be remembered for many years to come.

Y7 BIRDS OF A FEATHER AT THE WETLANDS

In June, over a period of three days, Y7 pupils had the opportunity to investigate the environment with a visit to the Old Moor wetland site down at Manvers/Broomhill. The visit was intended to complement the environment module that Y7 pupils were studying in their Science lessons. During the day, pupils conducted investigations into wildlife habitats and compared two quite different habitats. Pupils used Quadrats and Pooters in their work and only a few pupils sucked the wrong tube while pootering so not many spiders were eaten! Pupils also took part in pond dipping to investigate the different kinds of creatures that live in the ponds and on which the birds also feed.

During the afternoon, pupils were involved in bird-watching and of course they used the hide to observe the birds in their environment. On one of the days, pupils were lucky enough to see an osprey sitting on its nest where it was protecting its young.

Over the three days, the weather could not have been better - plenty of water was drunk and plenty of sun-cream used.



As the academic year of 2005-6 comes to a close, it marks the first full year in the new school, but the House activities have continued. Though some of the activities have changed over this period, the system continues to offer individuals the opportunity to discover their new and developing talents. The system is geared to Y7 to Y10 so as the last Y10 group "retired" to become Y11 and the new incoming Y7 replaced them. As is now usual, the Y7 group was introduced to the system in a September assembly with an explanation of the historical background of the place names of the Houses. Students are offered a lapel badge showing their House emblem as was originally designed by Mr Leadley who was the Head of Art in the 1930's.

For the third consecutive year, a larger badge version was offered to the sports day athletes in July of 2005. These help to identify the House of the competitor and are becoming collector items amongst the most loyal of the pupils. Following the success of the 2004 Sports day held at Herringthorpe, the PE Department chose to use the Dorothy Hyman Stadium at Cudworth on July 18. The athletes and staff were bussed out to the venue, which took place under a hot bright sun, so not surprisingly, records tumbled on the all weather surface. Well done to the record breakers who included Amber Merrills, Michael Stanton (both Sparta), Sam Beard (Athens) Katherine Oliver and Chloe Aucott (both Thebes), and Deanna Wilson (Rome).

As with the previous year, it was the superior Sparta who surged into an early lead and held it to become the overall winners. Second was Rome followed by Thebes, Troy, Athens and Carthage.

The Inter house EuroQuiz was held in the school Hall on Tuesday afternoon of 27/09/2005. This was to celebrate European Week and attracted some 80 competitors who were able to win prizes as well as score points for their House. Special mentions for outstanding rounds



House Results 2005-6

went to Dominic Court and Francesca Scrachard (Athens), Ben Hague, Leigh Marrow and Hannah Wall (Carthage), Laura Clarkson, Sam Hunton and Sean Hopper (Rome); Simon Howard and Lauren Fairman (Sparta) Piran Oliver and Matthew Parker (Thebes), Matthew Brammer and Josh Heenan (Troy). Overall winners were Carthage followed by Thebes and Troy joint second with Athens, Sparta and Rome trailing behind.

Y7 events held on 18/10/05 included boys' football, with Carthage winning group A and Thebes Rome and Athens tied first in group B. Overall results were 1st Athens and Carthage; 3rd Rome; 4th Thebes; 5th Troy; 6th Sparta.

Girls Y7 Netball results were 1st Troy; 2nd Thebes; 3rd Athens; 4th Rome; 5th Sparta; 6th Carthage. As always, our new pupils soon found the excellent spirit of helping and supporting each other within their teams.

Y8 events held on 18/11/05 included boys football superbly organised by PE staff with Y12 pupils. Carthage won group A and Troy group B. Overall results were 1st Carthage; 2nd Athens; 3rd Troy; 4th Thebes; 5th Rome and 6th Sparta. Y8 Girls were engaged in their Hockey extravaganza which saw the closest finish for years. The top three teams all tied on points and had to be separated by goal difference resulting in 1st Thebes; 2nd Troy; 3rd Carthage; 4th Sparta; 5th Athens and 6th Rome.

On 08/02/06 the pupils trickled from the school and swelled in numbers outside Wath Baths on Moor Road for the annual swimming gala. For the third year in four, it was Carthage who proved to be the "Krazee Frogs" of the day, again due to having a full team who were eager to keep their title of 2005 and croaked support for each other. Jumping behind them in 2nd place was Athens with Troy 3rd followed by Rome, Sparta and Thebes.

Year 9 activities were held in March 2006 and saw the girls participating in Basketball and boys in football. Results of the girls were 1st Thebes, 2nd Athens, 3rd Troy 4th Rome followed by Carthage and Sparta equal 5th. Boys finished 1st Troy, 2nd Rome 3rd Athens 4th Thebes and Carthage and Sparta equal 5th" again!

At time of writing the Y10 activities have not taken place but will be reported in the 2006-7 edition.

The overall Games cup, for the most successful sporting House throughout the year of 2005/6 was therefore won by TROY with Athens 2nd and Thebes in 3rd These were followed by Carthage Rome and Sparta.

For a second year Mr Bailey and Mr Longley brought attendance figures into our House system. Each pupil who achieved 100%

attendance was awarded an attendance point. These were added together to give House totals and were announced in Year assemblies. Of extra interest to the pupils was that their 100% record put them into a prize draw, which gave the opportunity of winning a voucher for £10. In January the healthiest House was Carthage followed by Athens, Rome, Sparta, Troy and Thebes. By June Thebes showed the most improvement, but could only manage 5th equal position with Troy; 4th' was Rome, 3rd Sparta 2nd Athens with Carthage 1st, having knocked the spots off the rest!

The month of November saw the sharpening of pens and pencils for pupils to enter the spirit of Christmas in the Xmas card competition. Once again our Art Department bristled with activity in organising this festive event. Homework was set to complete the work and some class time given over to help and advise the children. Hundreds of cards were produced, each gaining a point for the House, with many showing exceptional quality and talent. The winners were: -

Y7 1st Chloe Baxter (A) 2nd Matthew Ellis (R) 3rd Sarah Bishop (C) 4th= Hollie Smith(C) and Jessica Hardy(S)

Y8 1st Laura Clarkson (R) 2nd Thomas Norris (A) 3rd Becky Gough (Th) 4 Katie Jackson (C)

Y9 1st Suzanne Kitchen (A) Stephanie Bulman (R) 2nd, Georgina Dent (C) Emma Gill (C) 4th

Overall results were Athens 1st, Carthage 2nd Rome 3rd followed by Sparta 4th, Troy 5th and Thebes 6th.

As is traditional, almost all the cards were displayed in the art corridor in the period before and after the Christmas vacation. Well done to all who participated.

2005/6 saw a return of the House Work Cup, given to the House with the best overall effort marks. This has been possible due to the organisation of tutor groups into Houses and to the computerisation of the system. Results are 1st Sparta,- 2nd Athens, 3rd Troy, 4th Thebes, 5th Carthage, 6th Rome.

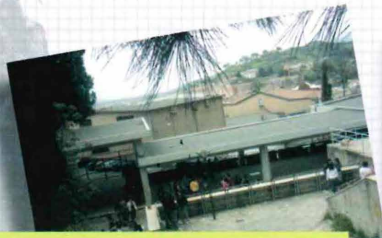
With such non-sporting events taken into account, the Deeks Trophy, presented to the House for best overall achievement in non-sporting events, is won in 2005-6 by Athens and Carthage followed by Sparta, Troy, Thebes and Rome.

Staff have continued to motivate and promote self-confidence of pupils. The system helps students to seek out and find success in newly developed skills that they may not have known about. Many thanks to Mr Harper as House Co-ordinator for his organisational work, and to Mrs Cunningham (Athens), Mr Longley (Carthage), Miss Marshall (Rome), Mr Troughton (Sparta), Mrs Hole (Thebes), and Mr Demetriou (Troy) for their motivation of teams throughout the year.

G D Longley.

Comenius

2005-2006



I joined Comenius because I thought it would be great to hear what different schools are like in different countries. I thought it was a great idea to learn about and talk to different people in different schools around Europe. *Laura Josephs Y8*



I joined Comenius because I thought it was a great way to connect and interact with people our age in different countries and find out what they like and dislike. I also thought it would be loads of fun and I would make lots of new friends.
Charlotte Josephs Y8

It has been a busy year for the Comenius team with many changes. We said *arrivederci* to our Sicilian partners at Liceo Classico who left the Comenius group after seven years. We have many happy memories of our time spent working with the school. Fortunately we have not severed all ties; we still have some of our pupils in year ten e-mailing the Sicilian pupils and we hope to establish a link with them through the Geography department in the form of a Geography field trip and exchange next year.

We have three new schools joining us from September. From Cosenza, Italy. Liceo Classico is a small school in the south of Italy with pupils aged 14 to 18. From Krakow, Poland we have a comprehensive and technical school with pupils aged 14 to 16. From Transylvânia, Romania we have Coala Gimnazial. This is a small school of 326 pupils and 26 teachers aged 6 to 14. Continuing with us are our old friends from Blois France and Batonyeterenya Hungary. Our proposed project for the next four years will focus on Teenage culture titled 'Don't Waste Your Life'. The Comenius team at Wath have been busy producing an outline for the project to present to our partner schools at a preparatory meeting to be held at Wath in late September.

This year Mrs Mitchell has devised a project, which has focused on 'Sport as a Universal Language'. Pupils have been researching the impact of sport on teenagers, the local community through to national and international teams and events to compare the impact sport has on teenagers and the communities of our partner schools. A big thank you to our PE department and Mr Ashmore for supporting us this year with our project. This work will also contribute to our teenage culture project next year.

Laura Josephs, Charlotte Josephs, Leigh Marrow and Shelly Wong have been working on a powerpoint presentation to introduce our school to our new partners. You will be able to see pictures and information from our new partner schools next year in the LSC.

The European Union set up funding to enhance the learning in schools across Europe. It promotes the use of other languages,

equal opportunities and information technology. Comenius acquired its name through the Czech Philosopher John Amos Comenius.

John Amos Comenius 1592 - 1670 was born in Moravia, which is now in the modern day Czech Republic, he is known today as the father of 'Modern Education'. He taught that education began in the earliest days of childhood, and continued through life. His philosophy of Pansophism (all knowledge), attempted to incorporate theology, philosophy, and education into one. When Comenius referred to the Via Lucis (way of light), it was the pursuit of higher learning and spiritual enlightenment joined together. During his lifetime, he published one hundred and fifty four books dealing with educational philosophy and theology.

In our school we have a Comenius group who takes part in various projects, Students who take part in Comenius have many opportunities to learn about life in Europe, our differences and similarities. The Comenius students at Wath have the chance to take part in exchanges, to present the work of the whole Comenius group to our partner schools. This work involves a lot of research and fact finding. We have acquired many skills such as giving interviews writing letters and preparing presentations.

In the past the Comenius group has studied Careers and Jobs, Religion, urban development, Food and music. Our most recent topic was the study of Sports titled Sport as a Universal Language. We have studied an array of sports including Tennis, Netball, Extreme Sports, Rugby, Rock Climbing and Snow Boarding. Different groups have studied different sports and have researched their origins, famous players, and general information about the sport. We will be comparing our findings with our partner schools at a later date.

Our project for the next four years is about teenage culture and what affects teenagers in the community today. We are at the planning stage of this project.

Report by Charlotte Cowen Year 10

MONET? GOYA? TURNER? KNOW ANY GERMAN ARTISTS?

Yes, we do! In October, Wath played host to a group of German students from our partner school Hildegardisschule in Hagen. All of the students were from Y12 and were studying Art for the German equivalent of our 'A' levels-the 'Arbitur'. The group chose to stay at the Youth Hostel in Castleton in the Peak District and travelled into Wath on most days during their week's stay. They used their base in Castleton for landscape drawing, attended Y12 Art lessons in school, and went on two visits-one to York and one to the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London. The trip to London, which Wath Y12 Art students also went on, was of

course a very busy day, with the journey there and back by coach and a brief sightseeing tour of some of the main sights in London-Hyde Park, Marble Arch, Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye-before a tour of the National Gallery with its priceless collection of artwork. Everyone had an enjoyable day and firm friendships were made between the Y12 students from both countries.