

CONNECTIONS

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Welcome to your new edition of **Connexions**, the magazine that links home and school, keeping you up to date with all of the events and people that have made headlines during the year. Our cover photograph shows the students and teachers on their study trip to Paris – read about this and more, inside your new edition of **Connexions**.....

Lots more happening inside

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These girls have the business edge

Two Y12 students, Hayley Edge and Jessica Leyland have been remarkably successful in the world of women in business, and their involvement was recognised at the Rotherham Chamber of Commerce Athena Awards in March this year.

They competed against 20 other young women for one of four junior awards in the Young Athenian category. Their business knowledge and acumen set them in good stead because both Hayley and Jessica left with a junior award each. They were rewarded with an excellent prize each – a high-spec laptop computer, which we are sure they can put to good use. Congratulations girls on your awards – a remarkable achievement.



Scaling the heights of Musical Success

Congratulations to the following students on their music exam successes. We wish them well in their musical careers.

Autumn Session 2006

John D'Silva	Grade 3 ABRSM Theory
Alice Thorpe	Grade 5 ABRSM Theory
Nicholas Moss	Grade 6 ABRSM Theory
Lewis Gray	Grade 2 ABRSM Piano
Nicola Roden	Grade 4 ABRSM Flute
Charlotte Cutts	Grade 5 ABRSM Flute

Spring Session 2007

Rachael Cook	Grade 7 ABRSM Piano
Harrison Gregory	Grade 5 ABRSM Theory
Thomas Paskell	Grade 4 ABRSM Clarinet
Deanna Wilson	Grade 4 ABRSM Flute
Amy Usher	Grade 3 ABRSM Singing
Ashleigh Turner	Grade 4 ABRSM Singing

Victoria College of Music

Elliott Ormondroyd	Grade 2 Keyboard
Jake Moore	Level D Keyboard

Rotherham Music Service Exams

Michael Thornton	Intermediate (Merit) Eb Saxophone
Sarah Blow	Grade 1 Flute

University Successes 2007

We would like to congratulate all of our Y13 students who have been successful in obtaining a university place next September and that is everyone who has applied!

We would particularly like to mention the following students who have obtained places at universities or on courses where competition is particularly fierce:

Phoebe Oliver	Spanish and Portuguese at Trinity College, Cambridge
Alice Thorpe	Medicine at Sheffield University
Hannah Wakefield	Medicine at Newcastle University
Richard Gentles	Medicine at Newcastle University
Daniel Leung	Dentistry at Leeds University
Yvette Bell	Veterinary Science at Royal College, University of London



World Book Day

Thursday March 8th was World Book Day this year. As usual, the school and particularly the English Department, celebrated this day with a series of activities led by Miss Hardeman and Miss Marshall. These took place, fittingly, in the school Library, with a number of pupils. In addition, the teachers in the department dressed up as characters from well known books. Amongst them were Miss Hardeman as Miranda from Shakespeare's

'The Tempest', Miss Marshall dressed all too convincingly as Cruella de Vil from Dodie Smith's 'One Hundred and One Dalmatians', Miss Piddock was a charming Adeline Yen Mah from 'A Chinese Cinderella' and Mrs Shurdhi was disguised rather frighteningly as Thumper from Adams' 'Watership Down'. The day was good fun and in addition, all pupils were presented with World Book Day book tokens, entitling them to a pound reduction on a book of their choice.

Senior Students

We would very much like to thank our Senior Students, Katie Crundell, Head Girl, Harrison Gregory, Head Boy, and the Deputies Nicola Cook, Nicholas Grayson, Daniel Leung, Gamuchirai Mavengere, Kathryn Meehan, Lorna Slasor, Alice Thorpe, Hannah Wakefield and Hannah Ward, for the sterling work they have undertaken this year in supporting the school. They have represented the school at various meetings with the local authority, taken part on the Y12/13 Year Council and on the School Council, helped out at various evening performances and at Parents' Evenings and have even found time to arrange the Y13 Leavers' Prom.

Thank you very much for everything you have done and we wish you every success in your 'A' level exams.

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE

Charity volunteer Matthew Leyland, Y9, has given up his free time to work with a Millennium Volunteer group called 'Kidz du Care' who in turn have supported the charity organisation Aurora, who support those recovering from cancer and chemotherapy. Matthew took part in the Aurora Fashion Show in April, which was held at the Doncaster Dome. He played the part of a bridegroom and in a separate sketch, he played the role of a Scotsman, complete with kilt, where he had to perform a jig, conduct a bit of slapstick and then be carried off.

Matthew is currently rehearsing an Around the World show for Aurora, which will be a journey around the world and an opportunity to show other cultures and different fashions in a positive light. Matthew willingly gives up Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons to rehearse – the rehearsals for the Around the World show began in May and the show will be performed next January. Congratulations and well done Matthew for what you are doing. It is, after all, all in a very good cause.

Coming up smelling of roses (and other scents)!

The Young Enterprise group this year have come up smelling of roses (and other delightful scents) as the group have manufactured their own soaps, bath oils and other related scented bathroom products which they have sold at school events and at trade fairs across the county. The group, which is called 'Inscentives', is made up of twelve Y12 students, with Hayley Edge acting as Managing Director, Charlotte Lord as Finance Director and Thomas Mower as Director of Marketing and Sales. They have designed, made and wrapped the products themselves and gone about successfully selling their perfumed wares and as a result of their success, they have traded profitably and will pay out their shareholders – usually we have donated the profits to charity and this is what we intend to do again this year. Well done everyone on a successful year's trading.

Wath's First Rock Night



On March 15th, the school held its very first Rock Night and loud it certainly was!

This was an excellent opportunity for our budding rock musicians to show off their considerable talents and they did not disappoint!

Four bands made up of pupils from school including one band made up of former school pupils, entertained a near capacity audience with each of the bands performing a short set of well known cover versions. For some of the bands, it was their very first public performance – a daunting experience I'm sure you will agree – and The Lunatics held their own against the more seasoned performances of Dirty Fashion and Violent Sisters. There were plenty of groupies following the bands and this added to the atmosphere on the night. Rock Night was even mentioned in 'Kerrang' magazine!

OUR VERY OWN X FACTOR

Following the marvellous success of the Staff X Factor, the school's Music department is involved in the process of conducting preliminary rounds of our own Student X Factor, loosely based on the famous TV programme. 52 acts performed to the judging panel in the First Round, held on May 2nd. June saw the 30 acts which made it through the first round reduced to 12 and we are now waiting for the all 12 to undertake the performance of their lives in the Grand Final on July 10th. We wish all the contestants the very best of luck on the night.

Mock Trial Competition

Congratulations to the Y12 Bar Mock Trial Team on their magnificent performance in the Nottingham heat of the competition.

The competition involved a group of Sixth Form students using carefully constructed witness statements to prepare arguments for the prosecution and defence of two specially written criminal cases. Students took on the roles of being lawyers, witnesses, court staff and jurors and competed directly against other schools, with one school team defending and the other school's team prosecuting.

Wath's team were worthy winners of all of their three rounds in League One. We had a nail-biting wait to see if our nearest rival had also won their last round, which they had. This meant another nerve-wracking wait because Wath and our nearest rivals had won three rounds each but Wath had a clear victory

when all of the points were added together. This meant that we were through to the final round.

In a lengthy and hard fought case in Court One, in front of four circuit judges, we provided challenging competition to the team who were the winners of last year's final, Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School. Despite some brilliant questioning from our barristers, we ended up as runners-up. The organiser from the Citizenship Foundation commended us on our excellent performance. This was especially so as we had only found out that we would be participating just four weeks earlier. The students worked incredibly hard and thoroughly deserved their success.

Well done to all concerned. We would like to thank Language College, Mr McHale, Mrs Shurdhi and Miss Bramhall for all their support.





The Language College has had another active year promoting international links at home and abroad. There have been some exciting new developments in the last twelve months which place the school and its students in a brilliant position for the future.

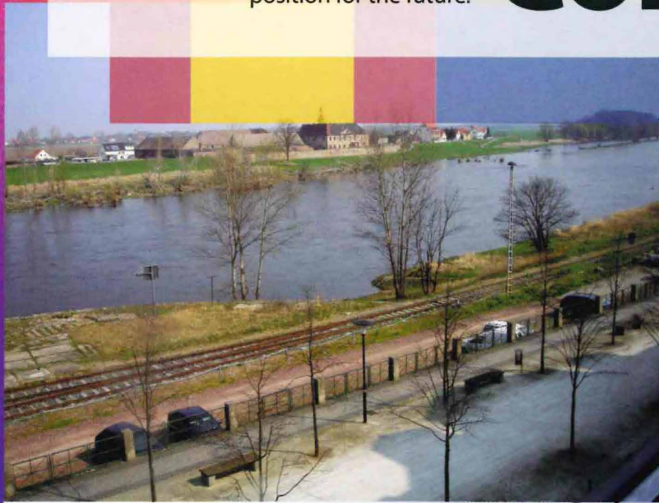
Language College

France, here we come!

After the success of the German Work Experience link, Mr Grayel has developed contacts with French schools in his home city of St Etienne. His discussions have established a key link for a possible work experience exchange with Sixth Form students in France. Y13 A level students from Wath are travelling to St Etienne by Eurostar to work in local schools, where they will have to speak French all day!

Apart from having a well known football team, St Etienne is actually twinned with Coventry in the UK. It is the main city in the Rhône-Alpes region of the Loire Département [42]. It lies about 40 miles from Lyon, where our group will get off the Eurostar for the last stage of the journey by TGV, the high-speed French trains which travel up to 220mph!

Later in the year, we hope to be able to host a group of French students who will arrive to do a similar work experience project in the Primary schools which send pupils to Wath in Y7. Growing international cooperation and the increasing reputation of the Language College at home and abroad mean that the opportunities for our students continue to improve – will YOU be one to benefit in the future?



Sprechen Sie English? We do too!

When a delegation of German businessmen and women arrived in Rotherham last November from Riesa, our twin town near Dresden, they visited the school as part of their programme. They were so impressed they asked whether the Language College could help them to improve their English because when they were at school they learnt German and Russian! As Mr Bemrose happens to speak German and Russian, and a little English – he accepted the challenge, and a group of six adults – three men and three women – returned in February for a two week crash course in English.

The TV Executive, Company Boss, Business Coordinator, Local Government Officer, Surveyor and Educationalist all had a great time, and made excellent progress in their studies. They were so pleased that the Coordinator is planning a repeat experience next February for more of his colleagues. The reputation of the Language College continues to grow ... But that's not all! Read on ...

Never one to miss an opportunity, Mr Bemrose suggested that our visitors from Riesa could become the hosts ... as Wath Y12 German students completed a work placement abroad. The response was a very enthusiastic yes – Ja gerne! – and arrangements began as soon as the Germans arrived home. Our students worked in the tourist information office, the local administration and in the museum, which has been fully refurbished. Accommodation was in the lovely Boathouse hostel, on the banks of the river Elbe, a short walk from the town centre. Mr Bemrose and Miss Ackerley travelled to Riesa at the beginning of the Easter holidays to make sure that all health and safety issues were addressed, and they were pleased by the welcome they received.

Riesa, named after the German word for "giant", lies beside the river Elbe near to Dresden and the pretty town of Meissen, best known for its quality porcelain. The region has seen significant changes in the last 30 years, which is one of the reasons for the twinning with Rotherham. All of the old brown coal mineworkings have disappeared, and, like the Dearne Valley, new industries have moved into the area. Since the reunification of Germany in 1989, businesses have turned more to the West than to the East, and Riesa is keen to welcome tourists and visitors.

During the two weeks of their work experience, our students tried to speak as much German as possible, including conducting interviews with local residents for their A level coursework. Mr Bemrose would like to offer the opportunity again in the future.

Languages for All

Following the success of the Languages for All project in the Sixth Form, Language College has opened its doors to the community to offer the experience of working with ICT to learn a language. Throughout last year, adult learners came to school to try their hand at languages from Arabic to Turkish as they prepared for their summer holidays. In the same way that our Comenius project students are working to master some useful phrases to become the perfect hosts, so people in Wath are realising the value of a few words in communicating when they are abroad. Almost 40 adult students have taken the decision to return to the Language College to develop their skills, because, unlike our students today, they never had the opportunity to learn a language when they were at school. And now that travel is so easy and affordable, they see the need to make the best out of their experiences in Europe, and beyond...

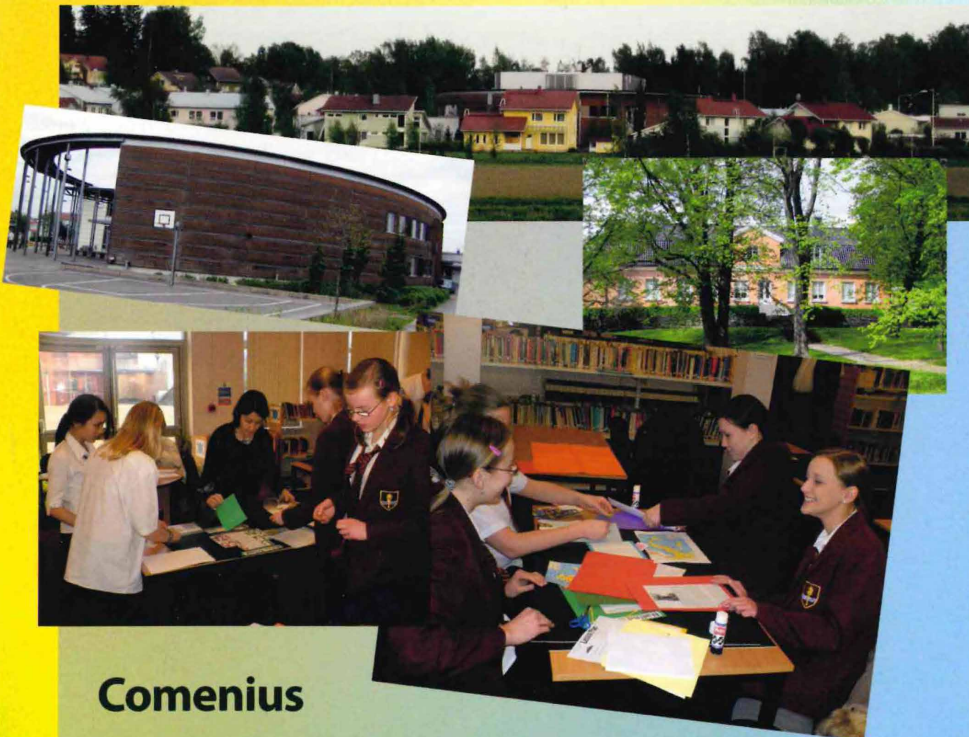
Do YOU know anyone in your family who might like to learn a few words of Italian? Or Russian? Or even Welsh?! The Language College courses are running again this year, and it's not too late to join. Ask them to telephone Mr Bemrose or Mrs Schofield on 01709 879029 to find out how the Language College can help them to get more from their holidays.

Arabian Nights (And Days)

In February, the school was invited by the British Council to take part in creating links between schools in Britain and schools in the Middle East - Kuwait, Qatar and Yemen. Mr Naylor represented the school at the Middle East Seminar, which was held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The first day of the visit was an orienting day in which all 22 British teachers took part and learned about life and conduct in a strict Muslim country. On the second day, all participants had to put on a display about their school and local area and prepare a short talk. Mr Naylor took photographs, prospectuses, pupil planners, copies of Connexions magazines and examples of student work. He also took examples of Yorkshire food, such as parkin, Pontefract cakes and Wensleydale cheese. After the presentations, the delicate art of linking up with schools took place and this was to be negotiated by the teachers. Mr Naylor got his first choice of schools, both from Qatar. Our school now has links with two schools in Doha, Qatar: Muaither School for Girls and Khaled Bin Alwaleed School for Boys (there are no mixed schools in Qatar). Mr Naylor had the opportunity to visit both schools and meet staff and students. The girls' school is considered to be old and due for demolition - it was built five years ago - and is situated in a modern residential area of Doha. The boys' school is only eighteen months old and is situated in a desert area just on the outskirts of Doha. The project which the schools have agreed upon initially and which needs approval from the British Council, is based upon the different foods we eat.

The photographs show the outside of the Muaither Girls' School and Mr Naylor, the Principal and senior staff of Khaled Bin Alwaleed School in the school's main entrance.



Comenius

Once again Wath is involved in a Comenius funded project with our partner schools in Poland, Sicily and Hungary.

The Comenius activities are awarded a grant from the European Union to promote and develop international links between students. The theme of the collaborative project this time is to identify the challenges facing teenagers in Europe today. We hope to create a collective voice for young people across Europe so that they can share their experiences.

This time our partner schools will have a great deal to compare, because both Hungary and Poland are countries which used to belong to the "Eastern Bloc" of Europe.

Like East Germany, where our new contacts in Riesa have brought so much benefit to the Language College, they

have seen great changes in the last generation, and we hope students will see a different future from the one their parents had.

Wath is the host school for the project again this year, and will welcome students and teachers from each of the countries later. Mr Bemrose has made it possible for our Comenius volunteers to use the Languages for All computer programmes, so that they can say a few words in each of the languages - Italian, Hungarian and Polish - when the visitors arrive.

All contributions from partner schools will be displayed during the visit in Wath, and perhaps even in Rotherham. Would you like to be involved in Comenius next year? Contact Mrs Gracey in the Technology Department, or Mrs Sanders in the library to find out more.

Y13 Farewell

The school said its farewell to Y13 students on Friday 25th May, during break and period 3, in a final assembly for the year group. There were contributions from Mr Taylor, their Head of year in Y12, Mr Naylor and student contributions: Adam Woodbridge played the guitar and Matthew Goodwin had put together a video/DVD tribute to the year group, comprising of a series of photographs, and video clips of students during their time at the school, from Y7 through to the present day. It was a fitting finale to the assembly and we wish our Y13 students every success in their 'A' level exams.

Investigating The Environment

Y7 students had the opportunity to explore and investigate the environment of the Wetlands area at Manvers/Broomhill as part of their environment module for Science. They learnt all about the wetlands, how it came into being and the range of creatures that now inhabit it. The pupils themselves had the opportunity to observe the many varied birds that visit the site and they were able to investigate two very different habitats. They also took part in pond dipping and investigated the varied range of creatures that live in the ponds and on which the birds also feed.

It's just like being in Brazil!

On February 26th, pupils from Y7, 8, 9 and 10 took part in a music workshop about samba music.

Mr Birkby introduced himself and told us some interesting facts about samba music and that it originated from Brazil. He taught us some of the basic samba rhythms and then he showed us how to play some of the instruments. We were taught how to play the agogo, the tarol, the timba and many other Brazilian instruments. I played the timba, which is a drum that holds all of the song together. It is the main drum that keeps the same beat all of the way through. There were many other instruments used, such as the maracas and scrapers amongst many. In the afternoon session of the workshop, we set up a mini parade in true Brazilian style. We played the samba around the hall and for a few minutes we were transported to the streets of Rio de Janeiro and its carnival.

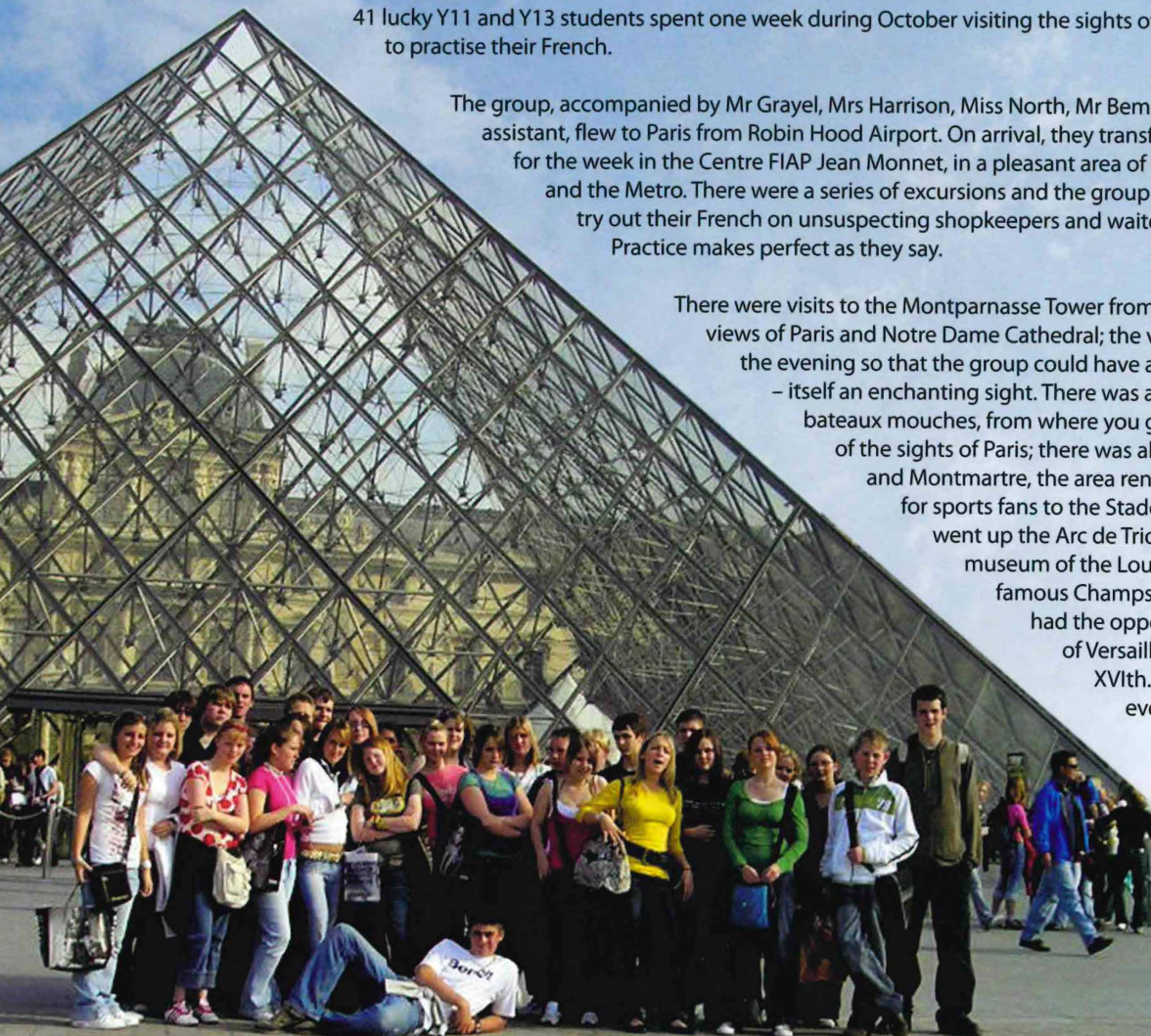
It was a fantastic day all round. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot about samba music as well. (Josh Bartle)

Une Semaine A Paris (A Week In Paris)

41 lucky Y11 and Y13 students spent one week during October visiting the sights of Paris and using the opportunity to practise their French.

The group, accompanied by Mr Grayel, Mrs Harrison, Miss North, Mr Bemrose and Mr Xavier, the French assistant, flew to Paris from Robin Hood Airport. On arrival, they transferred to their accommodation for the week in the Centre FIAP Jean Monnet, in a pleasant area of Paris, and close to a park, shops and the Metro. There were a series of excursions and the group had plenty of opportunities to try out their French on unsuspecting shopkeepers and waiters and waitresses. Practice makes perfect as they say.

There were visits to the Montparnasse Tower from where you have outstanding views of Paris and Notre Dame Cathedral; the visit to the Eiffel Tower was in the evening so that the group could have a bird's eye view of Paris by night – itself an enchanting sight. There was a boat trip on the Seine, on the bateaux mouches, from where you get a very different perspective of the sights of Paris; there was also time to visit the Sacre Coeur and Montmartre, the area renowned for its artists and a visit for sports fans to the Stade de France. The group also went up the Arc de Triomphe, visited the well-known museum of the Louvre and walked down the famous Champs Elysees. In addition, Y13 also had the opportunity to visit the royal palace of Versailles, the grand home of Louis the XVIth. There were language activities everyday and the teachers commented on the excellent behaviour of the students, in and around Paris and the centre where they were staying.





House Report 2006-7

For the third successive year the Mediterranean style sun shone strongly over the Dorothy Hyman Stadium for the 2006 Sports day. Toasted pan tiles heated quickly on the roof of the glistening stadium which offered a cooling refuge within its shade. This was in contrast to the surging heat of the track, caused by both natural elements and that youthful determination to win. With an electric atmosphere of rubbing oil smells, nervous tension and camaraderie encouragement from those gathered, each competitor gave their all as a gladiator within the coliseum.

Results were 1st ATHENS, 2nd Carthage, 3rd Thebes, with Rome and Troy 4th = and Sparta in the final position. Victor Ludorum Winners were Y7 Alec Davies (Ca) Y8 Josh Bartle (Ca) Y9 Sam Beard (A) Y10 Christopher Ng (Sp) Victrix Ludorum Winners were Y7 Laura Sharman (Sp) Y8 Rebecca Brown (Ca) Y9 Katherine Oliver (Th) Y10 Stephanie Howells (Th). The Outstanding Performance Cups were presented to Matthew Baggaley (Sp) and Amber Merrills (Sp)

The September term saw the idea of House activities after school on Tuesday nights. This idea had not been tried since 1970's and proved more popular with the boys (year groups 7 to 9) who managed to field football teams for every house and competed in their normal manner, as though it was the world cup final. The girls' activities were less successful number wise in that all Houses struggled to put out full teams.

The afternoon of October 17th did see the Y7 take part in full activities and have their first blood of the system when full teams were out for both girls' netball and boys' football. Netball saw ROME conquer all with Athens and Carthage equal second followed by Troy Sparta and Thebes. In the boys' football the Romans were beaten into second place by the victorious TROJANS with Carthage and Sparta equal 3rd and Athens and Thebes trailing.

September also saw the European Awareness week and the house system invited teams from each year 7 to 10 to take part. With a new approach which included use of power point, music, Euro word recognition via Mr Bemrose and 'A Question of Sport' style rounds, the House teams were active throughout the afternoon. Best Individual results were Sam Drury, Jack Ramsey (both Carthage) and Archie Ogden (Rome). Team results were Carthage, followed by Rome, Athens, Sparta, Thebes and Troy

October and November brought Art class work and homework together for the Annual Christmas Card Competition. As with the Art Department rules, one point was awarded per entry with 2 points for merited cards and further points for the best four in each year. This year's presentations were superb and the Art Department decorated the side of the Hall with them in the Christmas weeks. Rome, Troy and Thebes had the most entries, but after judging, it was THEBES who easily brushed into First place with Troy 2nd and Rome 3rd, followed by Sparta, Carthage and Athens.

Individual winners did not get Monet prizes, but they did receive a certificate and chocolates. Winners included;- Y7 Zoe Lever (Troy), Jessica Degney, Jodie Shaw and Charlotte Hall (all Thebes) Y8 Danyal Mullen (Rome) Holly Caine (Th) Liam Hodgson (Sp) Chloe Baxter (A) Y9 Rebecca Wilson (Ca) Ashley Spencer (Th) Lauren Duke (Th) Emily Thornhill (Tr)

March 17th saw the annual swimming Gala at Wath Baths with a disappointing attendance. Y9's were missing due to SATs revision so the results were thoroughly diluted. The competitors who took the plunge certainly gave their all for their House. Results were ATHENS 1st (the first time in many years) with Carthage 2nd Sparta 3rd, followed by Rome Thebes and Troy.

The attendance cup organised by Mr Bailey saw Rome and Sparta equal Healthiest with Carthage 3rd followed by Thebes Athens and Troy. As last year, it was the Y7 who were best attendees with declines in each consecutive year to Y11.

As another year closes on the House System it is hoped that the weather is kinder and that more outdoor activities will be available on the allotted afternoons.

'Meliora Spectare'

Mr G D Longley.



Wath music students entertain the community

As well as being involved in the Rock Night and the Recital Evening (both reported on in this edition of Connexions), Wath's musicians have been out busily providing the local community with musical entertainment. On May 3rd, musicians took part in the Wath Festival. There were exciting performances from Simply Sax, Rachael Cook played a clarinet solo, William Price performed on the electric guitar and the young audience looked on in amazement as they listened to a vocal duet undertaken by Lindsey Goodwin and Jenna Birch. The keyboard group also performed for the very first time in public and they played a pleasing rendition of Pachelbel's Canon.

On July 3rd, the school's Y10 music GCSE group took part in the events surrounding Milton School's Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations. The group spent considerable time planning and rehearsing a range of songs and tunes from well-known Disney films which they had especially selected to entertain the young audience.

Mrs Hole

An extremely lucky group of students from Y9 to Y13 had the exciting opportunity to travel to the Calabria region of Spain in October last year. The study visit was to improve their Spanish and get to know more about Spanish life and culture.

The group flew to Santander in northern Spain, transferred to their very pleasant hotel and in the late afternoon and early evening had the opportunity to try out their Spanish as they went to the local shopping centre to see what was on offer. Four further action packed days followed.

The following day the group visited the typical picture postcard Spanish village of Santillana del Mar, with its cobbled and winding streets and traditional white houses. Here they were also able to visit the Inquisition Museum, a gruesome place that gave an insight into Spanish history. They also visited a replica of the nearby Altamira Caves to see the impressive pre-historic paintings. The next day saw the group exploring the centre of Santander and had fun following a treasure trail through the old town. They went on to visit the Planetarium and from there travelled to the peninsula to enjoy the Palacio de la Magdalena. Here there was also a mini zoo complete with seals, penguins and other animals and the park also contained the original boat used by Vital Alzar who sailed across the Atlantic using the techniques used by 15th century Cantabrians. The group had time to relax in the afternoon as they spent time on the nearby beach, playing football and enjoying the last of the warm sun.

The penultimate day was spent at the Cabarceno Nature Park that is now home to a variety of European and African wildlife and in the afternoon there was time for some last minute souvenir buying. That evening, before the journey home the next day, the group relaxed and had fun with a fancy dress competition. Miss Prada remarked on the excellent attitude and behaviour of the students and commented that they were excellent ambassadors for the school.



**Y VIVA
ESPANA!**



SOMME BATTLEFIELDS VISIT

At the beginning of October, 48 pupils and from Y10 to Y13 and 5 staff left school on the 24th History study visit to the Battlefields of Flanders and the Somme. The group was based in a Youth Hostel in the Belgian town of Kortrijk.

The first full day concentrated on visiting major sites associated with the Ypres salient and especially the 3rd Battle of 1917. The following day saw an early start followed by a drive into France to visit many of the positions where the British fought during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Each pupil will have their particular memories but no doubt they will include the peaceful Newfoundland Park which was left the way it was at the end of the war and where many young Canadian students guide you around. There is also the impressive Thiepval memorial to the British dead who have no known grave and on which over 73,000 names are inscribed.

After two intensive days, the group was given half a day to relax in the medieval town of Bruges where the main aim of most of the pupils was to buy all the available chocolate!

The afternoon saw a resumption of the history as we returned to Ypres to visit the impressive Cloth Hall Museum followed by an evening meal in a local village. After this came a sombre time as we returned to Ypres for the short but very moving last post ceremony. Every night, Belgian buglers play The Last Post underneath the vaulted roof of the Menin Gate memorial which is inscribed with the names of 54,900 men who have no known grave.

On the last morning, we visited Vimy Ridge for a guided visit through the underground tunnels that brought so many Canadian soldiers to the front line for the famous Battle of 1917. It was then time to head home. *Mr Goodman*