

IN TOUCH



The Wath Comprehensive Student Newspaper

Issue 37, October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have enjoyed a very busy and extremely positive start to the school year following our excellent examination results this Summer.

The key results were:

i) GCSE	*1
5 A*-C with English and Maths	71%
5 A*-C	78%
5 A*-G	99%
1 A*-G	100%
EBacc (A*-C in En, Ma, Sc, MFL and Hi/Geog)	42%

*1 The published result in the 'league tables' will show 60% because of the then Education Secretary Mr Gove's late decision in October that only the first attempt would count in league tables and not what students achieved by the end of the year. This has caused huge controversy in schools across the whole country. Fortunately, it is the result that students actually achieved which will be on their examination certificates and which will inform decisions on their future options and pathways.

- ii) **A Level**
98% pass rate
46% A*/B grades

These are very impressive results which allowed the vast majority of students to access their chosen courses at universities across the country. We very much look forward to hearing how they are finding university life at their Certificate Presentation Evening in early January.

Across our school community, we continue to focus on raising academic standards and attainment and we remain committed to our aim of ensuring that all our students receive a high quality educational experience and leave us **able, active and qualified**.

Over 300 students have joined the school in Year 7 and seem to be settling in quickly, adjusting to life and routines in our very large comprehensive school. In order to gain the maximum benefit from the extensive opportunities available, we encourage all students to get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as possible. Year 7 really seem to be stepping up to this challenge.

We also welcomed several new members of staff at the beginning of term and we offer them our very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable career with us.

Many of you will also be aware that from Easter, I have also been undertaking the role of Executive Headteacher at one of the schools in our learning community, West Melton Primary School, following its disappointing Ofsted Inspection. I am pleased to report that the changes now in place appear to be having a considerable impact and our first monitoring visit by HMI last month was very positive and encouraging. The report of this visit is available on the Ofsted website. I am very appreciative of the help and interest shown by the staff at Wath in support of West Melton whose pupils will of course transfer to us when they reach Year 7.

As parents/carers, you still have a huge part to play in your child's success and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

P Ward
Headteacher

European Day of Languages

On Friday 26th September, Wath Comprehensive School celebrated European Day of Languages, a day for celebrating and encouraging the learning of languages. It has been celebrated all over Europe since 2001.

The day started off with tutor group quizzes in the morning, and the winners were: 7SG, 8KB and 8PD, 9CR, 10MS, 11SA, 12SMH, 13CE. Later, there was a European-themed meal in the Le Rendezvous, serving a range of delicious foods from around Europe.



A yummy change to the school diet.

Members of staff from all departments were also encouraged to speak a foreign language for the day, and students voted for the members of staff who made the most effort. The winners were: Miss Champion (English), Miss Gillatt (Social Sciences), Miss Grima (Science), Mr Moore (Maths), Mr Murtagh (Geography/Travel and Tourism) and Mrs Owen (TA).



The Languages department dressed up in stereotypical outfits.

News in Brief

Y7 Movie Mondays

The first Y7 Monday Movies, held in F2, was a roaring success on 6th October. It was so popular (more than seventy students attended) that around twenty students had to be sent away.

In future, Movie Mondays will be limited to fifty-five students for each sitting. Tickets will be issued from the PYL office at break time, and they will be given out on a first served basis. The ticket will entitle you to a fixed number of showings, and then new tickets will be issued to allow other students a chance to attend.

So, if you're in Y7 and you're interested in watching a film at lunchtime on Monday, get your ticket from the PLY office as soon as you can.

Well done from Science

A huge congratulations to the 220 Y11 students who completed their Science A GCSE at the end of Y10. Students achieved some of the best results that Wath Comprehensive School has ever had in Science, with 76% of the cohort achieving grade A*-C and 22% of the cohort achieving a grade A* / A. This is a fantastic achievement and reflection of the commitment from students in revising thoroughly at home, attending the many after school revision sessions and interventions that took place. A great way to start Y11! Keep up the excellent work!

West Yorkshire Playhouse

On 8th October, a number of Year 12 and 11 Drama students were lucky enough to watch a fantastic evening production of "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller at West Yorkshire playhouse. All of the students commented on how brilliant the acting was and were impressed by the imaginative staging that was used throughout the production. This was a fine example of how live performance can engage with its audience on a completely different level.

Pantomime Auditions

The auditions for this year's Pantomime took place at the start of this term and Mr McHale and Mrs Hardwick were thoroughly impressed with the 78 acting auditions that we saw. So much so that they have decided to have two casts this year and all of the students involved have been working hard in the rehearsals on Mondays and Thursdays after school. Again, it promises to be an excellent show. The performances take place on the week commencing Monday 8th December.

Further to this, there will be opportunities for more Key Stage 3 students to get involved with our production in the summer and you should look out for auditions around Easter time.

Drama Workshop

On 21st October, our Year 11 and 12 Drama students will be taking part in a practitioner workshop from Splendid productions that focuses on the works of Brecht and the style of Physical Theatre.

Psychology Film Club

Psychology film club will be launched on Wednesday 5th November at lunchtime starting with A Beautiful Mind. This will be open to all Y9-Y13 Psychology students.

Bodyworlds Exhibition

On Tuesday 4th November, the BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care students will be going to the Centre for Life in Newcastle to see the world famous Bodyworlds exhibition. This will be an opportunity for these pupils studying the Anatomy and Physiology unit to experience real life human bodies and study their cells, tissues, organs and body systems. They will also take part in a heart dissection in order to further their knowledge of how the heart works.

Y13 BTEC Health and Social Care

On Monday 20th October, Kirsty Grant from Rotherham Bridges Project and her associated social worker came to speak to Y12 and Y13 BTEC Health and Social Care students studying the Caring for Children and Young People unit to talk about provision in Rotherham to support looked after children, including that provided after leaving care.

Christmas Coffee Morning

As part of their GCSE controlled assessment, Citizenship students will be running an event to promote intergenerational respect.

The event will be a Christmas Coffee Morning and will take place on Thursday 11th December in Le Rendezvous.

It will be organised and hosted

by twelve Y11 Vocational band students for elderly residents from the Sandycote Residential Care home.

KS5 MFL Clubs

French, Spanish and German film clubs have been taking place each week for KS5 students. Students come along and watch a film in the target language whilst they enjoy refreshments.

Y9 French Day

A Year 9 Intensive French day took place at the Holiday Inn for Year 9 students doing GCSE Early Entry. Students took part in activities to improve their spoken French before completing a speaking controlled assessment the following day. A Spanish Intensive Day will be taking place in November.

MFL Peer-Coaching

Key Stage 5 linguists are peer-coaching students in KS3 and 4 and have been helping them in MFL classes with learning controlled assessments, carrying out speaking assessments and explaining grammar points.

Photography Trip

Some current Y12s and Y13s were recently involved in an ICT Photography Trip where 15 students visited Wentworth Garden Centre and Wentworth Church in order to gather photos for their ICT qualification. Students used modern SLR cameras in order to use a variety of different features to expand their current skill portfolio in their studies. The students were a pleasure to take, and represented Wath Comprehensive School brilliantly; well done to everyone involved.

Technology Updates

E-Praise

By Luke Stanley

One major change the school has undergone this year is the adaptation of the merits system to the new E-Praise system. Merit stickers now have a code on them which can be redeemed on the E-Praise section of the Learning Platform to acquire funky prizes such as school pens, house badges and even iTunes vouchers! Obviously, this is a vast improvement over the previous rewards schemes, as now you can be frequently and justly rewarded for your hard work and endeavour!

Parent Pay

By Aaron Duce

Parent Pay is a new system due to take effect in November. This convenient service will let parents complete a variety of transactions from home. Payments can be completed using the majority of credit, debit or switch cards:

- Visa, Visa Debit or Visa Electron
- Mastercard Credit Cards
- American Express Cards
- Solo Cards
- Maestro UK or Maestro International (Includes International Cirrus cards)

This system can be used for paying trips, adding money to your child's dinner card; it's even expected that you will be able to pay for items from the School Shop!

When the system takes effect, your child will receive a username and password for the Parent Pay website. When you first log in, you will be able to input your credit, debit or switch details. From then on, you will be able to pay the money your child requires straight to the relevant teacher (or onto their dinner card, of course!).

This system is not only convenient for you, but for us as a school. This means that we don't need to take in checks or cash and manually input them into the system.

We hope that this service benefits you all in many ways.

Y8 Beatles Trip

By Lauren and Mia Hollingsworth-Smith
and Robert Johnson



To prepare for the following half term, a selection of Y8 students underwent an educational visit to the Beatles Museum, Liverpool. The day commenced on Monday 13th October, at 8:30, as 54 eager students boarded the coach in apprehension and anticipation, awaiting their exclusive journey. After the laborious two and a half hour coach trip, weary students and staff arrived at their destination, marked by a prominent yellow submarine. The Beatles museum had a modern design and offered a 36 exhibit audio tour, available in numerous languages. The exhibitions were presented immaculately—a series of expertly decorated rooms which cleverly combined fun interactive objects with information. The distribution of the rooms gave the illusion you were walking through the Beatles' lives as they ascended from the band formation to disbanding, as well as including significant places and people in their lives. "My favourite part of the trip was going into the submarine inspired room and singing Yellow Submarine with my mates," said Rheanna Webster, Y8. The museum tour lasted approximately one hour, then pupils were allowed to wander the museum at

their own pace, in order to take useful notes and pictures. On completion, they enjoyed lunch in the chill out zone, and Starbucks cafe. After lunch and a short visit to the gift shop (a popular souvenir was the notorious pair of John Lennon inspired glasses), students and teachers trekked to the 4D cinema, where they watched a unique animation, which introduced a taste of Beatles music with impressive effects such as water, bubbles and unexpected chair jolts, which created a breath-taking experience. Finally, the day was commemorated with individual and group photos. "All very interesting, helped me learn about the Beatles, liked the 4D cinema, and disliked the long coach rides," said Thomas Westerman. Lewis Miller added, "I liked everything that much I couldn't pick a best bit, but I didn't like the coach ride back." And Rheanna Webster concluded, "It was really fun, there was a lot of walking because we had to walk all the way round the museum and then to the cinema. I learnt that museums have more information than I expected, we were surrounded by it."

Somme Trip

By Ruth Bradbury, Hannah White and Natasha Stansfield

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The Somme was an unforgettable experience in which we commemorated the Great War by showing respect to the people that died for peace. It made us reflect on how fortunate we are to live the lives we lead today.

When we arrived, we stopped off at one of the smaller cemeteries on the Ypres Salient in Belgium. Seeing all of the individual names and learning about their stories made us realise that in school we memorise statistics and facts, but that learning about individual stories made us understand the enormity of the War in a much deeper way.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

This is one of Ursula's sculptures which was in the first part of the museum. All of her work was made from wood as shown in the picture above. She even created two sculptures that were based on spoons and shovels.

By Mollie Garside and Luke Shaw

On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd October 2014, three groups of students went on an art trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This trip was organised so that it could help students with their future projects in their art classes.

Tesco Trip

By Abby Crump

As part of Y9 and Y10 Food Technology, students visited the local Wath bakery to learn about industrial manufacture of bread.

Our visit to Tesco started with a tour of their bakery, which gave us an insight into how bread is made commercially. We were shown how they used all of their bakery equipment.

Also, we got the opportunity to create our own bread, and we watched all the ingredients bind together to form dough. After the mixing process was completed, we could shape our bread how we wanted and add tiger or salt and pepper paste to give it that unique look and taste.

While we waited for our bread to prove and bake, we were given the chance to taste several types of delicious bread that Tesco produce, as well as other tasty treats, such as cookies and doughnuts.

Overall, it was a really great day.

The trip to the Sculpture Park was a great day out as there were many different and unique sculptures that were free for the public to look at. I remember that there was an electronic horse on a huge screen that moved backwards and forwards; plus, it was glowing in the dark.

After we had walked at least a mile, my friends and I came to a huge lake and at the other side of the lake was a huge field that was filled with sculptures made out of thick copper and iron. The sculptures looked beautiful, even though they resembled blobs! They were smooth and curved in all different angles.

In the second part of the trip, we looked in the inside museum that was filled with wooden art by a woman called Ursula Von Rydingsvard. In fact, the whole museum was filled with her sculptures and it had an audio DVD that played on a TV, which showed you how she made such brilliant art work.

There was also another museum which had a cafe and a huge gift shop with almost everything that you could imagine!

Overall, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park was a great day out and I would go again. I am glad that I had the chance to go on this trip as I saw some great and inspirational pieces of art. I highly recommend visiting!

Meet the new staff at Wath

Seeing a lot of new faces around school? Finding it hard to keep track of all your new teachers? IN TOUCH know. Read on to find out all about them!

Mr Austin



Mr Austin, a Maths teacher, chose to come to Wath because of the great students who attend this school.

His last school was called Netherwood. When asked about his experiences of Wath Comprehensive so far, he said, "Very good. I have met some really great people so far." He believes himself to be thoughtful, caring and a little bit funny. In his spare time, Mr Austin enjoys singing, drama, sports and spending time with his family.

Mr Brechany

Mr Brechany, a new IT teacher, worked here on a temporary basis from November last year, before arriving full time in September. He has very much enjoyed his time at Wath since deciding to move, with the reward of several students doing well in their GCSE computing last year. He describes himself as fair, very ambitious for his students and a gamer. He is a big gamer outside of school, board games and computer games alike. He is also a fan of travelling and is going to America soon!



Miss Bryce



Miss Bryce is a new dance teacher, who has always been a huge fan of dance. Ever since she was young, she helped out the younger children at her dance school, so knew teaching was the job for her! After her

interview at Wath she knew she wanted to work at here with Miss Anyon. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Wath so far, and loves the students she gets to work with. She sees herself as energetic, approachable, and organised. She dances outside of school, as well as engaging in amateur drama with young children.

Mrs Gillatt

Mrs Gillatt is the new Head of Faculty in Social Sciences, and wanted to teach because of her love and passion for her subjects, and wanting to inspire and help children to make the most of themselves and school. The opportunity to become faculty leader was very enticing! She has had a really positive experience of Wath so far, with great students making her experience a pleasure. She describes herself as caring, energetic and focused. She loves running and going to the gym, and spends a lot of her looking after her three sons! She loves music, and is spending an increasing amount of time marking work!



Miss Hardy



Miss Hardy wanted to be a teacher because she wanted to make people excited about learning English, and working with children means that every day is different. Miss Hardy used to work at Hungerhill School in Doncaster. She moved because Wath Comprehensive is where she went to school when she was younger

and she enjoyed her time here. She also wanted to teach A Level. She said her experience of Wath so far has been very busy, really interesting, fast paced, and enjoying, as it brings something new everyday. In her spare time, Miss Hardy likes to go to the cinema, watch superhero films like Batman, Spiderman and Lord of the Rings.

Mr Hart

Mr Hart is the new Head of Humanities and comes to Wath Comp after working at various locations around Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. He trained as a teacher after going to university in the USA and was inspired to teach following an assignment that involved working with small groups of pupils from a local school. Describing himself as friendly and philanthropic, Mr Hart recently completed a charity parachute jump over Ben Nevis; the highest mountain in the UK, which stands at 1,344 metres tall.



Mr Moore

An ex-steelworker, Mr Moore's calling came later in life after he was already in work at British Steel, in Sheffield. Following his tutorage of a friend's daughter, Mr Moore retrained at university and has since worked locally in Barnsley and Rotherham. A competitive lad, Mr Moore is a semi-professional kickboxer, who has won several competitions at county and national levels.



Comprehensive School

journalists caught up with the newest recruits to the teaching staff, to ask them the questions we all want to

Miss Nuttall



Miss Nuttall, a geography teacher, came to Wath Comprehensive this year. Before working here, she worked at Radcliffe Oldham, City School and Mexborough School. Miss Nuttall's experience of Wath Comprehensive so far has been great. She said, "The staff and students are friendly. I teach some really lovely classes." Miss Nuttall has wanted to be a teacher since she was seventeen, because she loves geography so much. Miss Nuttall described herself as "happy", because she thinks it's important to enjoy what you do, "hardworking" because you have to work hard to achieve anything good, and she thinks she is a chocoholic. In her spare time, Miss Nuttall enjoys baking, walking in the countryside and seeing geographical features.

Miss Price

After two placements at Swinton and Oakwood, Miss Price decided to



come to Wath for her first year of teaching because of how great the school is, and how brilliant the students are. So far, her experience of Wath Comprehensive has been "fab and fantabulous, it's hard work but worth it!" She would describe herself as "quirky", "fun" and "hardworking", because she believes that they are all needed to be a good teacher. In her spare time, Miss Price enjoys playing sports, like hockey and cricket, and watching sports. However, she

doesn't like to watch Formula One because she thinks it is just noise.

Miss Slasor



A caring individual, Miss Slasor has been at Wath for the last three years while completing her teacher training. She was inspired to teach following a string of volunteering she completed, which involved setting up peer mentor schemes and reading with younger pupils. On her position at Wath, Miss Slasor notes: "Not a day has passed where I have regretted my decision to teach here." In her free time, she enjoys sitting down and watching a boxset.

Miss Tarmey

Miss Tarmey wanted to be a teacher because she liked the idea of working with children rather than having an office job. Miss Tarmey



came here as a sixth former and really enjoyed it, so when she saw there was a vacancy here at Wath, she decided to go for it. When we asked Miss Tarmey about her experience at Wath so far, she said, "It's been good. I don't have any dull classes because all of my pupils have character!" She would describe herself as "happy" because she loves her job, "enthusiastic" because she loves English and teaching and "crazy" because sometimes the weirdest lessons are the best. In her spare time, Miss Tarmey enjoys reading, going out to the cinema and for good food.

Miss Taylor

Miss Taylor told us that she wanted to be a teacher because English is her favourite lesson and she loves helping people to improve their work.



She also told us that she used to work at All Saints Catholic School in Sheffield, but she decided to move as she isn't Catholic. When we asked Miss Taylor about how her experience has been at Wath so far she replied with, "Really good. I've enjoyed all of my classes this year and they have made me feel welcome." Miss Taylor used "creative", "determined" and "passionate" to describe herself. In her spare time, Miss Taylor tries to read 50 books a year. She also loves writing and is trying to become a published author!

Mr Thomas



Mr Thomas wanted to be an English teacher because he wanted to share his experiences about English with others. He chose to work here when he visited for nine weeks last year. He liked it so much that he stayed this year. He said his experience at Wath has been very good: challenging and very rewarding. When we asked Mr Thomas what three words he would use to describe himself, he replied with, "Patient, creative and determined." We asked him what he did in his spare time he said "Reading, playing guitar, walking, going on trips out and listening to music."

Creative Zone: Halloween Haiku

This month, students were asked to express their creativity by writing a Halloween Haiku. The haiku, which originated in Japan, is a poem characterised by its very tight structure: a total of just three lines, with five syllables in the first, seven syllables in the second and five syllables in the third. Here are the winning entries.

**Halloween is bad:
I have to answer the door
And it takes the mick!**
By Kaelan Smith, Year 9

**Over the crooked tree,
Monsters roam among the living
Asking for sweet candy.**
By Joshua Scott, Year 9

**The pumpkins glowing,
As screams deafen the neighbours,
And doors creak open.**
By Oliver Cunningham, Year 9

**Sweets are given out
Costumes are what it's about
"Trick or treat," they shout**
By Libby Hearsum, Year 8

**The owl hoots alone,
The wolves cry to the moon.
The undead are out.**
By Jessica Thomas, Year 9

**Faces carved into pumpkins:
A little flickering flame sits inside,
Smirking at someone.**
By Christopher Longfield, Year 9

**Undead creatures wake,
Making our bones shake and quake.
Better stay awake.**
By Mya Taylor, Year 9

**Stood round a table,
Blood squirting everywhere,
A dead sacrifice.**
By Abigail Savage, Year 9

**Dark nights, children out
Boo – give sweets to us right now!
Dark nights, children out**
By Casey Bartholomew, Year 8

**Monsters filled the streets,
Undead creatures were feasting.
Masked children ran scared.**
By Isabelle Parkin, Year 9

**The devil worshippers,
The sacrifice ready to die,
To keep demons calm.**
By Mya Taylor, Year 9

**There was a graveyard
With spirits coming to life
Fires burning on.**
By Abigail Jones, Year 9

**Graveyard at night
Can cause quite a lot of fright,
Witches at their height.**
By Olivia Boddy, Year 9

**Dark, gloomy witches,
Boiling concoctions galore,
Evil shamanism.**
By Max Wilkinson, Year 9

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**Next month's theme will be:
Seasonal Sagas!**

**Write a minisaga (50 word story)
about something related to
Christmas.**

**Winners will be published and
receive e-Praise Points!**

Deadline: 11th December 2014

The Beeches Care Home

By Bethany Birks

As part of my BTEC Health and Social Care work, I have to complete one hundred hours of placement in two or three different Health or Social Care settings. Currently, I am working as a volunteer at a care home. To give you an insight into the wonderful work undertaken every day at the Beeches Care Home, here is a diary entry I wrote during my time on this placement:

shone through ever since I have known her. She is just great! The new resident seems to fit in well with the other residents; the majority of them are bubbly and continuously smiling and laughing.

Being around all the residents and helping them gives you a major lift. I leave the care home at the end of my shift feeling truly blessed and satisfied that I am helping someone even by doing the slightest thing such as making them a cup of tea. The residents are all

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

The Beeches Care Home: may not look like much from the outside, but it's what happens inside that matters.

'Today, I was welcomed by the Manager of the care home. I went upstairs to find the supervisor responsible for volunteer staff and the activities that take place within and outside the care home, such as the trips they take the residents on. For example, carers at the care home will organise trips for the residents to visit Wentworth Garden Centre. The supervisor was in the social activities room with two residents, one which I know really well now. I got to meet a new resident that had only been in the care home a couple of days so she was still finding her feet around the home and was getting used to the company of others. The resident I was familiar with was well. She is quite small and looks very frail. She is always happy and has an amazing personality that has

so appreciative. I thoroughly enjoyed sitting with the new resident and helping her to create Christmas cards. Supporting her and observing her smiling and laughing throughout this activity made my day. The resident I knew well needed a toilet break during the activity but when I went to find her she was asleep in her chair! She is such a comical character.'

I am thoroughly enjoying my time volunteering and supporting the carers in the work that they do at the care home. I find myself learning how to deal with a range of situations every time I attend the setting. It is an amazing experience for people of my age, to be able to work alongside carers and experience first-hand what the job involved and the challenges that come with it.

Clueless about Media Studies?

By Natalie Higgins

Right, that's pretty much all of you - unless you're Mr Bishop or Mr Naylor who teach the course. Media Studies is a new A Level at Wath with an enigma behind it, which is what I'm here to explain.

I'm one of the "media guineapigs" - I suppose you can call us that - along with the six other people in my class. This is because it's a brand new course, not just for us but the teachers, too! You wouldn't think that, though.

I've always had an interest in the media, more so journalism, which is what I would like to study at Higher Education. So, when I heard that the school was going to offer this course, it seemed a great learning opportunity which can also expand your English ability - I've noticed this in my English Language lessons.

The course has loads to offer: it's not just writing articles and watching the news - which most people assume it to be. If you're into music, films or production, then the course is great for you, too. For coursework, you get to create your own media production - it could be anything from a movie trailer to a magazine cover and its inserts or even a music album cover or music video. The variety is huge and sure to fit anyone.

You might think, "Oh, just a bit of colour, typing, cutting and sticking. Easy!" I'm sorry, but no. It's an A Level; none of them are easy. Don't be silly. Media Studies, however, is very enjoyable. It's one of my favourite subjects. Don't get me wrong, at times I've thought, "What the hell are they talking about?" but don't worry. It will take time to get used to, but it's extremely beneficial. Plus, it's not something you've done since you can remember, such as English or Maths.

We get a choice to study what we like as well, so your coursework could end up being about your favourite band or TV programme. Whether it's messing with audio tracks, annotating your favourite magazines or constructing your own movie trailer, you're sure to have a laugh.

So, don't be dismissive just because it's new; everything has to start somewhere. If you are currently in Year 11, you should definitely contemplate choosing it. If you still feel unsure about the concept, make sure you ask at the open evening and go to an induction taster lesson. Also, find out from students on the class - we won't bite, I promise.



Theatre

A View from the Bridge – Arthur Miller

By Charlotte Palmer

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The first thing that greets the audience as they enter the auditorium is the presence of a colossal black box on the stage – or rather, a black box that is the stage. Ivo van Hove presents his version of Miller's tragedy in an empty space. As opposed to most interpretations depicting a typical home and the street outside, van Hove uses only a blank, rectangular set surrounded by a low wall, and a basic doorway through which the characters enter and exit. Alfieri moves around the exterior of this; an outsider, watching the events, his presence separates to the series of flashbacks that tell the story. The bright lighting only adds to the harshness of the scenes that play out there.

Alfieri himself (portrayed by Michael Gould) is an allegory of his role within the play. As the physical embodiment of the law, he is helpless and weak in the face of the occurrences that take place in the Carbone household. While starting as a lawyer should look (formal, smartly dressed), his appearance becomes increasingly dishevelled with the progression of events he cannot prevent. He mainly narrates the action, instead patrolling the "street" outside of the set's wall. This depiction seems to make more sense than having him as a strong, confident man, as he reflects the law; something that is powerless in the face of justice in Red Hook.

While this portrayal could be seen as an alternative one, the characters who deviate most from their representation in the original text are Rodolpho and Catherine (Luke Norris and Phoebe Fox respectively). The former is typically the victim in the script; the shy, submissive young man is the receiver of Eddie's anger. He seems pleasant enough in this version, but when he and Catherine are alone, he takes on a more

Review



aggressive demeanour than his written counterpart. This is met by a more flirtatious and forward Catherine than the girl who loves her uncle a little too dearly. A daring – and almost outrageous – depiction of their time alone results in Catherine literally throwing herself at Rodolpho, only to be interrupted by Eddie.

This ultimately helped change my view of Eddie. I had originally seen him as the enemy – a jealous man who betrays his family and goes against the unwritten justice of his community because of his obsession with his niece. However, having watched Mark Strong's performance, it is easy to see him as the victim. His metaphysical presence crumbles as Rodolpho and Catherine's relationship grows, and he is left a broken man by the end of the play.

The most interesting of van Hove's representations is the ending, in which Marco stabs Eddie. Instead of a typical, easily visible view of this happening, it is shown in a very different way. Once the fight begins, the whole cast present on the stage form a sort of huddle, similar to that of a rugby match. They struggle against the other, with no two clear sides showing, while blood rains from the ceiling. Eventually, they disperse, leaving a dying Eddie in Beatrice's arms, and Alfieri's closing speech, while the black box-like curtain begins to take over the stage once more, and Alfieri dreamily moves his hands through the pooling blood. It could almost be as if van Hove blamed them all for Eddie's death, with even the most minor of characters being left – literally – with blood on their hands.

Blood Brothers — Willy Russell

By Hannah Steele



I personally think that Y9s are lucky because they are currently studying Blood Brothers which is a very interesting musical written by Willy Russell. As a year group, they all get an amazing opportunity to go and see

the musical and get a feel of what it is really like. I watched the musical twice last year and I thought it was fantastic. The musical helps you to understand the plot in more detail. Blood Brothers was fantastically written in 1983. Not only was the musical written by Willy Russell, he also composed the music himself. Blood Brothers was set in Liverpool during the 1960s. It tells the story of twin brothers who are separated at birth. The mother of the two boys works with a woman who cannot have children. The woman wants a child more than anything in the world; however, when she suggests adoption to her husband, he clearly states that he wants his own child and no one else's. The two women make an agreement which takes an unexpected turn. The musical contains elements of humour but it can also be a heart warmer. Mrs Johnstone who is the mother of the two recently born children is already the mother of seven others at the age of 25. She feels under extreme pressure because of daily life and then she feels the strain of trying to keep her job as well. At some point during the novel, the Johnstone family are able to move away into the countryside where it is quiet; however, along the way something is bound to go wrong. This amazing musical has an ending that people might not expect.

The people who act as the main characters play a fantastic part within the musical; for example, the people who play Edward and Mickey Johnstone. They play characters who go through different stages during their lives. They all experience different events taking place.

Blood Brothers is a fantastic thing to study within school. It is one of the most popular musicals to study within school. The Y9 trip for this musical will be happening shortly, so anyone who hasn't handed in the letter yet, you still have a little bit of time left. Hand in the letter before the deadline.

The IN TOUCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Eve Spurr, Lauren and Mia Hollingsworth-Smith, Robert Johnson, Mya Taylor, Abigail Jones, Ruth Bradbury, Hannah White, Natasha Stansfield, Charles Lord, Luke Stanley Hannah Steele, Aaron Duce, Abby Crump, Mollie Garside, Luke Shaw, Ruth Bradbury, Bethany Birks, Natalie Higgins, Charlotte Palmer, Miss Taylor and Miss Perry.

If you are interested in helping to produce IN TOUCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

Sport and Music



Sports Day 2014



Exhausted but exhilarated: the Athenians celebrate their success and brandish the Sports Day trophy!

After a very close contest between all the houses, Athens stormed to victory in last year's successful Sports Day.

Students across the year groups took part in a range of sports activities with successes being recorded and tallied to find the overall winner.

It was great to see the commitment of everyone in Athens' house secure the trophy, and particular thanks should be given to the present Y11 students (Y10 last year), who have been so committed to house activities ever since they first arrived at Wath Comprehensive.

Particular congratulations should be given to Tom Calladine, who won the trophy for the best overall boy's performance.

Latest Year 7 House Football Results

Athens 1—2 Troy
Athens 0—1 Thebes
Carthage 3—1 Thebes
Carthage 3—3 Rome
Thebes 2—1 Sparta
Rome 0—3 Sparta

Team	Points
Troy	6
Carthage	4
Thebes	3
Sparta	3
Rome	1
Athens	0

Well done to everyone who has taken part so far!