



April 2014

In Touch

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

As Easter is almost upon us we can reflect upon another very busy and successful term.

At the Governors meeting last week I presented my termly report which included many contributions from subject departments and pastoral staff detailing the wide variety of activities and events undertaken this term. Reading these reports reinforces just how many exciting opportunities are available for our students who benefit greatly from them.

Amongst the many events this year we have had residential visits to Les Deux Alpes, France (skiing), Venice, Italy (Comenius project), London (Travel and Tourism) and Seville, Spain (Modern Languages). In addition we have had many visits by several departments to venues as diverse as the Imperial War Museums in Salford and Duxford, (History), Manchester University (PE), The Deep, Hull (Business Studies) and Alton Towers (Science week). Many of our students have also enjoyed evening visits including a Manchester United match at Old Trafford, theatre visits to see *The Jungle Book* at West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Blood Brothers* at the Alhambra, Bradford and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Sheffield Lyceum. In addition, last week we enjoyed two events of our own, Rock Night, which was a fantastic showcase for the musical talents of a number of our students who are in bands, and A Night at the Oscars dance performance by Y12 students.

Extra-curricular sport continues to be a major strength of our school with many fixtures played every week in a variety of sports across all age groups. In the last two weeks alone we have enjoyed success in rugby in the annual Hall Cross 10-a-side tournament where the Y8, Y9 and Y10 teams all won their respective competition. Last Saturday the Rotherham School's finals day was held at Wickersley School and three of our football teams (Y7, Y8 and 1st XI) and five of our netball teams qualified for this (Y7, Y8, Y9, Y11 and VIth Form). There were some really hard fought close games.

Unfortunately on this occasion we did not win any trophies. Special mention must be made about the Y8 football boys who after a very exciting match which ended 1-1 went to penalties and with honours still even after the first set of five, lost to the ninth penalty in 'sudden death'. Thank you to all the many staff and parents who came along to support.

Finally I would like to thank everybody who contributed in any way to the fundraising efforts for Sport Relief a couple of weeks ago. Worthy of special mention are the sponsored staff bikeathon near Le Rendezvous and the school 'invitation' dance routine to Valerie on the tennis courts at lunchtime which must have involved a couple of hundred staff and students. We raised a fantastic £2178 – well done!

Yours sincerely

P Ward
Headteacher

Y10 Alton Towers Trip

On the 25th March Year 10 went on a trip to the Alton Towers resort in Staffordshire. The reason for our visit was to learn about and discover the science behind the rollercoasters used there; by seeing and using them for ourselves.



The rides that were there included famous ones such as the **Nemesis**, **Air**, **Rita** and, obviously, the **Hook 'a' Ducks**. When we arrived and got our tickets, we were allowed to freely roam around the Resort, where we quickly had to queue for as many rides as we could to go on as many as possible!



At midday, we all met up together, and went inside for the scientific part of the day; a lecture discussing the different things that allow us to use rides and how they move. This meant discussions about positive and negative G-force, acceleration, terminal velocity and even how to fry an egg on **Rita**. After the presentation, (and a food break), we continued with other rides and attractions like **The Smiler** and the **Nemesis Sub-Terra**, before finally meeting at the entrance to leave Alton Towers. But while it was fairly short, I have to say that will honestly be one of the best moments of year 10 – if you get the chance, go to Alton Towers; you never know, maybe YOU'LL get to see Mrs Pritchard's face on **Rita**!

By Tomás Rocha Lawrence

Wath Titans

A group of Y9 boys are involved in an exciting new project with the Rotherham Titans. Mr Grayel is leading the project with his team: Mr Bemrose, Mrs Rooney, Mr Allonby, Miss Hardeman, Mr Taylor and Miss Gooder.



Four out of six teams have already been to the stadium to meet the Titans themselves and take part in some challenges. The other two teams will be going next week.

The players are very pleased to be working with they boys and they say: "We very much hope that all the boys will achieve their potential through teamwork, discipline and hard work and buy into our core values of Inspiration, Respect and Success."

Sport Relief

The PE department organised a cycle challenge, raising £176.73 going to a great cause.

Staff cycled a total of **344km**!! Students paid money to guess the distance cycled by the end of the day, the results were as follows:

1st place - Rory Anderson, closest guess with 345km

2nd place - Holly Boardman, guessing 350km

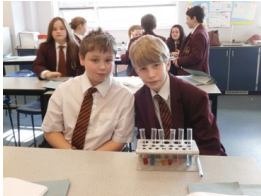
All staff and students supported sport relief by dressing 'sporty' and donating a pound for a wristband.

Some form tutors and students took part in the aerobic dance at lunchtime – led by Miss Anyon and Mrs Roebuck. Students donated money to take part in the dance.

The total collected from Sport Relief was £2178!

Science Week 2014

National Science week took place in the week beginning the 17th March. This year's theme was 'Exploring the Future'. Students at Wath Comprehensive school experienced lots of cross curricular lessons within this week linked with this theme. There were lots of activities, competitions and prizes within the week that students could get involved with including: Y7 Science club, Y8 / 9 STEM club, Y9 Planetarium sessions, Y10 visit to Alton Towers to study the Physics linked with rollercoasters, KS5 talks from NHS ambassadors about potential career pathways, Science themed assemblies, tutor quizzes and competitions. Well done to all students involved!



During science week we have had lots of fun doing some very exciting experiments. Here are a few members of 7LR making pH rainbows. A very good entry from Connor Davies and Alfie Bocock and our winning pair with the best rainbow (as judged by Mr Boyd) Megan Jackson and Jessica Cooke.



Outside of lesson has also been full of excitement. In science club for the last few weeks we have been making volcanoes which we erupted last week using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. The boys made excellent volcanoes and had great fun trying to find the best combinations of powder and vinegar to get the most effective eruption.

Science club runs every Monday after school in F41 until 3:30. Please come along and have some fun with science.



Y9 StarDome

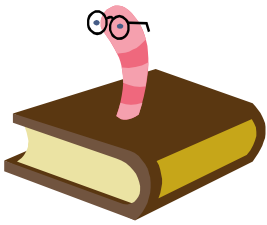
The Y9 Science groups were treated by the governors to a visit from Stardome. It is a portable, inflatable planetarium, 6 metres in diameter, 4 metres high with enough space inside to fit 30 students to take part in a session.

We followed the life of a star from birth to death and discovered different types of star. We then explored different examples of these in our night sky and looked at images of the Northern Lights. We also looked at worldwide 'Star Stories', including mythology from Ancient Greek to Hindu stargazers.

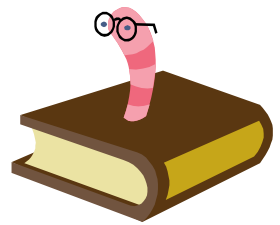
The night sky may look peaceful and unchanging, but these tiny stars are the powerhouses of the universe—blazing, gargantuan fireballs with fascinating life-and-death stories, full of creativity and destruction. We found out that Betelgeuse, the largest of the red giants, may explode once the star has run out of hydrogen and could turn into a black hole. Our sun is at least 1000 times smaller than Betelgeuse, but will eventually do the same: all stars will, except for a minority.

We found the experience utterly awe-inspiring and would like to thank our teachers, governors and Andy Green, as well as the students that contributed to the presentations.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



Literacy Corner



World Book Day!

On Thursday 6th March, Wath Comprehensive School celebrated World Book Day in STYLE! Thirty-five lucky Y7s were invited to spend the day in the library to spend the day celebrating all things to do with reading. Students were selected for excellent motivation and attitude in English lessons. Several year six were also invited to join in the fun.



During the day we created bookmarks, book reviews, wrote stories, decorated biscuits to look like characters from books and even watched some films of classic novels. However the best part was the fancy dress!



The whole day was a huge amount of fun and the behaviour from all of the students was outstanding. It wasn't just the students that had a good time – as both the English and Science faculties dressed up as characters from their favourite books.

Top Tips for Parents for engaging teenagers with fiction

Encourage them to create something new from their favourite books.

Many teen readers enjoy interacting with the content of their favourite books. One great way to do this is by writing fan fiction, which means writing something new which features some or all of the characters from a book. Good fan fiction sites include:

<http://hungergamesfanfiction.com/>

<http://www.twilighted.net/>

<http://www.squidoo.com/fanfictionsites>

Encourage them to read different types of fiction.

Graphic novels, for instance, are a great way to get teens reading and appeal to both reluctant and keen readers. The genre has given readers a whole range of classic characters and stories: the website below gives you a good starting point!

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/aug/19/malorie-blackman-top-10-graphic-novels>

Help them find places to discuss books

It's often the case that young people feel much more comfortable talking about books without adults in the mix, and there are plenty of websites available to help them do this – you'll find a few suggestions below.

The Teenage Book Forum: <http://theteenagebookforum.proboards.com/>

The Spark (competitions, reviews, blogs, and more) - www.facebook.com/thesparkpage

This doesn't mean you should stop talking about books with your teens – just that young people may appreciate a range of different people to share their thoughts with.

Model yourself as a reader

Teens are more likely to read if they are surrounded by reading role models, so make sure they've got a chance to talk to you about your reading choices and the reasons behind them. Talk about everything: why there are some books you didn't finish, why you re-read certain books, how you go about choosing a new read, etc.

World Book Day

World Book Day was a celebration of books and reading, that was a great opportunity to get involved and inspiring reading. Students were asked to come in fancy dress costumes as book characters. There was a great variety, from classics such as Jacob Marley, to the more modern Katniss Everdeen. *Alice in Wonderland* was a popular theme for teachers, although my favourite was Mrs Demetriou, who dressed as Miss Havisham from Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*.

The day allowed us to be really creative; we made bookmarks, book covers and cards to our favourite author. For me, the highlight of the day was decorating biscuits with a book character theme—the best thing was that we could eat them! Before lunch, we did some creative writing: a 100 word fairy tale twist story, which we entered into a real competition.

We spent the rest of the day in luxury, watching Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*. Finally, we finished the day with prizes: the winner for best costume was Jacob Marley and the prizes ranged from novels to remote control scorpions!

By Lauren Hollingsworth-Smith

Dates for your diaries:

Year 7 Review Day: Tuesday 29th April
Year 8 Review Day: Wednesday 30th April
Year 9 Review Day: Thursday 1st May
Year 10 Review Day: Friday 2nd May
Love Languages Evening: Thursday 8th May, 7pm
Year 12 Study Leave: Friday 9th May



This half-term's Featured Read

This book is the first in the ground-breaking HUNGER GAMES trilogy.

Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed.

When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.

The book follows Katniss and her fellow competitors, including her team mate Peter, in their fight for survival through many dangerous challenges. Who will survive?

For those of you who love it, you will be pleased to know that there are 2 more exciting follow ups and a film franchise, currently filming the third book.



Fascinating Facts

There are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth. That's at least a billion trillion!

Comedy Corner!

Atom: I'd like to report a missing electron.

Policeman: Are you sure?

Atom: Yes, I'm positive