



IN TOUCH



Wath Comprehensive School A Language College

April 2008

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

I approached the writing of my monthly contribution to In Touch a little differently this time, more by accident than design if I'm honest. This time I received the draft copy of all the different articles before I'd written my contribution, usually I submit it in advance.

Reading about all the different activities in advance of publication reinforced just how many exciting activities and opportunities out of the classroom there are for our students and how many students get out of them. There really is something for everyone and the old adage remains true 'the more you put in the more you will get out of it.'

As I write there are additional activities being planned such as our drama and music contributions for the Annual Wath Festival, the school production of *Grease* to be staged later this term, residential study weekends for Year 11 students and our GCSE and 'A' level art exhibition. These and more in addition to revision and support classes held every day for those taking examinations soon.

Those of you who have been on site recently will have noticed that as well as the ongoing construction work for the new swimming pool additional work beyond the tennis courts is now underway.

Work has now begun on our long-awaited artificial turf pitch which will be ready for use when we return after the Summer break. This will provide a valuable facility for our students during the day and will be available for community users to hire in the evenings. With this pitch and the pool on site our facilities will be second to none.

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Anyone interested in hiring the pitch should contact Mrs J Newell at the school in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing Year 9 good luck in their forthcoming SATs examinations.

Yours faithfully

P Ward
Headteacher

Congratulations Arrison!



Pictured above is Arrison Smith (7TE) receiving an outstanding citizenship award from South Yorkshire Police. This was in response to Arrison finding an elderly person's stolen cheque book and handing it in at Wath Police station. Arrison was described by Police Support Officer as a 'conscientious, honest and caring young man'.

Well done Arrison!

Kelford School Project - Every Child Is Special



11A1 (14 Students) sat their French GCSE in Y10. This year we have continued to learn French with Mr Grayel but in a less traditional way. One of our projects was to share our knowledge with Kelford School, a school for children with special needs.

On our first visit, we attended a few of the lessons where the children were currently being taught and during this time, we sat with the children and learnt about their abilities, which would help us decide our activities. After these lessons, we met with the Headteacher and discussed the project.

In our French lessons after the visit, we planned the activities we would be undertaking and got the resources we would need for the day. We decided that we would have stations around the room where different groups of children could move around and take part in each activity. The activities included ordering food giving the French word, finding animals in tubs filled with different textures and saying them in French, using picture cards to pronounce colours and numbers in French and using blocks in the colours of the French flag to identify the colours. Each of the activities helped the children with pronunciation of words and developed their speaking abilities in French, but most importantly, as well as our visit being educational, the students at Kelford enjoyed taking part in the activities just as much as we enjoyed leading them.

Each member of our class found the project a great experience and a fantastic opportunity to be able to work with other students of different abilities, and I'm sure all of us would like to take part in a project like this again.



Leah Watson

Extracts from a letter received by Mr Grayel from Mr N Whittaker, Headteacher from Kelford School

I would like to thank you and your students for planning and running the excellent MFL session at our school last term. They did a fantastic job of planning activities which were interesting and accessible for all our pupils. Their thinking about the communication needs of our pupils was particularly well developed which, given they had only visited the school once, was a remarkable achievement.

It was great to see your students' confidence grow through the morning and wonderful for us to see our pupils enjoying and achieving in a new area of learning. As you know, Modern Foreign Languages are often seen as being of little value to our pupil's learning and development. This is clearly not the case!

I really hope that this is the beginning, rather than the end, of a positive partnership between us and our schools. It is clearly a project which has added tremendous value for everyone.

Semi-finals of the Netball Tournament.

On the Saturday 15th of March 2008 all five years took part in a netball tournament. After playing in five previous tournaments all years from Y7 - Y11 got through to the semi-finals at Wickersley Comprehensive School. When we arrived on Saturday morning it was cold and early but with Y10 and 11 in their new kits everyone was looking forward to the challenge ahead.



The first matches were played by Y9, 10 and 11 against Wickersley, Wales and Aston respectively. Fortunately Year 10 won a victory despite a brilliant effort from years 9 and 11 who lost narrowly. The second matches played by Y7 against Swinton and Y8 against Brinsworth were again closely fought but with great skill and effort both teams won. This meant Y7, 8 and 10 had places in the final.

The Final Matches

Y7 - Wath vs. Wales

Y8 - Wath vs. Wickersley

Y10 - Wath vs. Wickersley

All the final matches were fierce, with excellent play from both teams. The matches were nail biting right to the end and the support was better than ever both from parents and members of the P.E department. All years brought out their best performances with the result of Wath winning all their final matches. They were crowned Rotherham Champions 2008. As a result of these matches Y8 and Y10 represented Rotherham in the South Yorkshire Finals with Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster schools. The Wath teams came runners up in this tournament with Sheffield winning hard played games.

Y7

Evangeline Harrison, Helena Leather, Eve Chaplin, Ria Steele, Paige Manderson, Laura Booth, Shay Murray.

Y8

Naomi Roche, Aleya Hadden, Rhian Evans, Georgia Sanders, Sam Hope, Abbie Bembridge, Lucy Sowerby, Emily Weatherstone, Betty Ding and Ashleigh Rowlands.

Y9

Alex Hunter, Hannah Beard, Katrina Pugh, Katie Boshock, Katie Johnson, Laura Parish, Ellie Osguthorpe, Jessica Smith.

Y10

Chloe Osguthorpe, Nia Evans, Becky Ball, Becky Gough, Charlotte Josephs, Laura Josephs, Rebecca Brown, Abigail Kelly and Lathviar Kaur.

Y11

Emily Sowerby, Victoria Bell, Jody Heathcote, Adele Foster, Loren Parton, Stacey Nolan, Chantel Kidd.



Y12 GIFTED & TALENTED MASTERCLASSES

Genetics Lecture - March 2008

On the 11th March, a friend and I attended a lecture entitled 'Genetics and Disease' at The University of Sheffield, one of the leading researchers into genetically inherited disease in Sheffield. The morning was split into two halves, the first hour and a half consisting of the lecture, the second being a practical, based on the information we had learned in the lecture, in one of the university's Biology labs.

The lecture was designed to teach the students who attended about how specific genes can be identified and potentially modified to overcome genetically inherited diseases, and the process this involves. The talk went on to give some examples of how genetic engineering can potentially help sufferers of some diseases, including Cystic Fibrosis and Myotonia (a disease characterised by the world famous 'fainting goats') but also the additional problems this could cause. The lecture covered both scientific and ethical issues, and was therefore very relevant to the AS Biology syllabus, covering some things we had already studied and some that we covered later in class. The lecture also introduced us to some of the courses Biology students could study at the university as well as some possible fields of employment available to Biology graduates both at university and in industry itself.

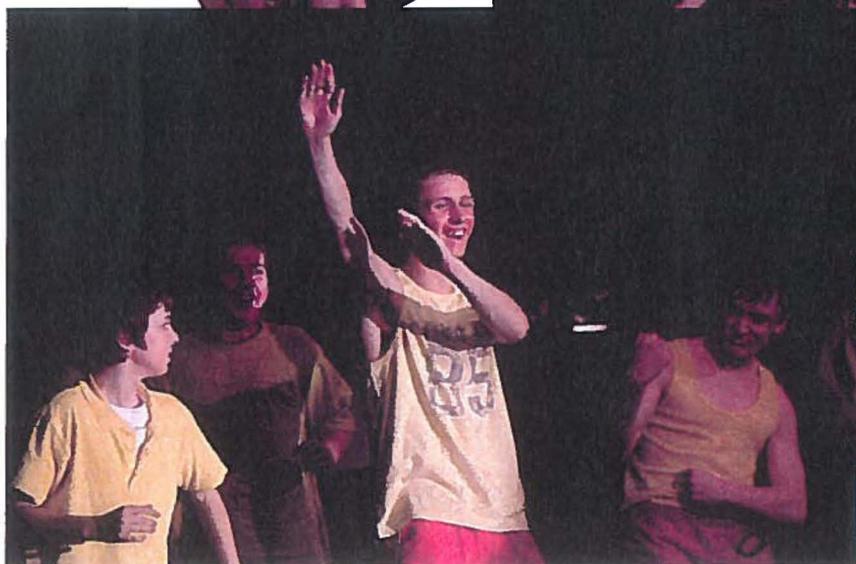
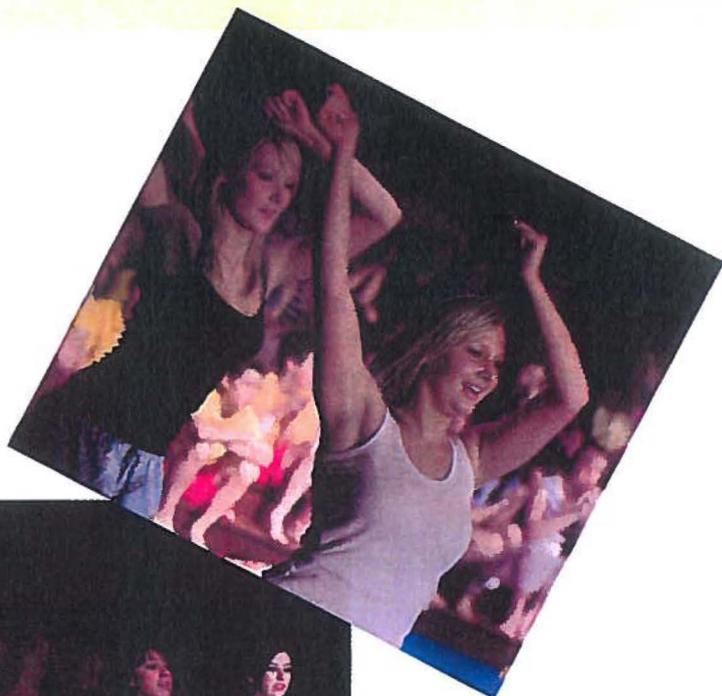
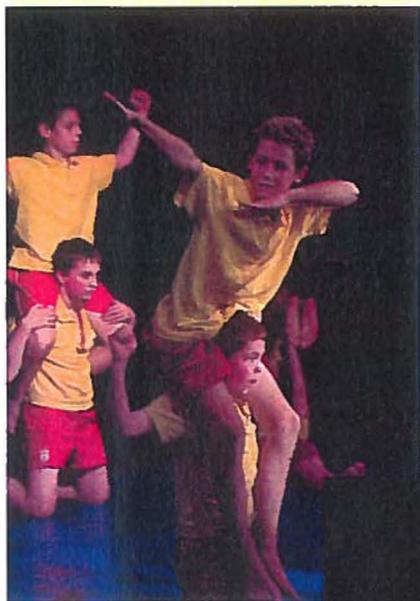
Some of the courses seemed very attractive as a result of the lecture and at the end there was a chance to ask some of the staff of the university any questions you had about the lecture or any of the courses that had caught your eye. There was also the opportunity to speak to some of the current students who were studying at a variety of levels from First Year Degree to PhD, who were happy to answer any questions about the science involved, or the courses and life at the university.

The practical part of the morning took place after a short break, after which another member of staff lead us to the biology labs. We were directed to work stations where all the equipment we would require and a set of instructions were ready for us to begin. After a short health and safety briefing, we were told to perform the practical according to the instructions and the students and staff moved around the room assisting us in anything we weren't sure of, giving a little more information about why we needed to do each step and other more general information on genetics. The aim of the practical was to extract our own DNA from cheek cells and transfer it to a small bottle, which we were allowed to keep.

Everyone at both sessions was extremely helpful and we learned a great deal not only about genetics, but also about Biosciences at the university in general. It was definitely a morning I would recommend to AS level Biology students of any level as the information was designed to be accessible and interesting to all students regardless of previous knowledge of the subject. We had in fact already covered in class some of the material, but even here it was interesting to see a different slant to the teaching of this subject and acted as an excellent revision session, as well as teaching very effectively the parts that we hadn't yet covered. It gave a little more depth of knowledge on top of what we already knew, and gave inspiration to all the students involved as to possible programmes of study and future careers in Biology.

By Nisha Gill

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE GYM, DANCE
AND MOVEMENT EVENING



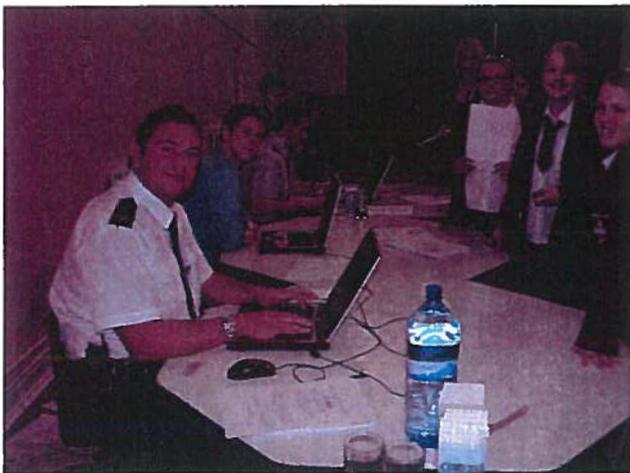
REGISTERING STUDENTS' MOBILE TELEPHONES

On the 18th of April Wath Comprehensive took part in a joint initiative with South Yorkshire Police headed up by the schools new Police Officer PC White 738.

The programme was facilitated in school by Mrs Hutton from the Student Support Team and was delivered by PC White, PCSO Mike Jenkins and a student from Dearne Valley College who was engaging on a pre-uniform services course.

The aim of the initiative is to encourage young people to register their mobile phones on a database that is used nationally by the Police to search for stolen property. If a young person's phone is stolen, the chances of recovery are greatly increased if it is registered on The 'mmobilise' web site.

Also, this introduces young people to the web site and how to manage their property on line and register other valuable items such as bikes or games' consoles in case of theft.



The longer term benefits will be to teach young people about the importance of crime prevention and protecting their own items which could have a significant impact on future crime figures.

The result of the day was fabulous and a total of 269 phones were registered which was a massive success!

PC White is now attached to Wath Comprehensive from the Safer Neighbourhood Team Wentworth North based at Wath Police Station and the Town Hall and will be seen around school on a regular basis.

YOUNG ATHENA AWARD

Young Athena is an award-winning scheme where pupils have the opportunity of creating their own company, raising money towards different charities or just doing something good for our community. Pupils who take part can receive an award for their efforts and achievements. The judges gave the Athena Award to four young girls from different schools, for their business ideas which resulted in donations to several charities.

Last year on the 16th March, Hayley Edge, Jessica Leyland both from this school, Lydia Catterall and Hira Malik (from other schools) all entered Young Athena and all won a laptop each! Last year, Hayley Edge made a business commonly known as ' Soaps, Suds and Salts', which was set up in the library. She sold bath products such as lip balms, bath bombs, soaps and shampoos, chill pills and lots of other products all in different scents. Jessica Leyland also worked hard to raise money towards surgery for cancer sufferers.

Young Athena began again this year in March. Maybe you could be one of the lucky ones taking part.

Written by Fern Duffield, Student Journalist.

THE WATH EXPERIENCE!



Katrin Brüning isn't just an average student from Germany. She's just spent **six weeks** in England on a work experience project - and had such a good time she didn't want to go home!

Katrin, 18, is a student at the Business School near the small town of Reine in Germany. She is studying Economics, Business Management and English, but has already learnt some French, Spanish and Italian to prepare for her first job. She had already completed a work experience placement in the local engineering firm Windhoff when the school approached Mr Bemrose in the Language College.

"It was a great opportunity to promote the work of our own school," said Mr Bemrose. "Wath students learning a language here can see how students in other countries value that skill too. We organise work experience for our Y12 students in Germany and France, but I think Katrin is very brave coming for six weeks!"

Katrin arrived in Yorkshire on 9 March, and spent two weeks in school before the Easter holidays, before returning for a further two weeks up to 18 April. She worked with Mr Bemrose and Mrs Schofield in Language College, supported students in German lessons, and helped out in the main office. Teachers and students were impressed by her knowledge of English, and the enthusiasm she showed for all aspects of her work. After Easter, she visited other lessons too - ICT, Business Studies, and - her favourite - Food Technology.

So what did she think of our school?

"It's really big! My school only has 300 students . . . And the sports fields are so big too!" she said. "But there are also some differences - in my school we have no uniform, and I think that we need it - sometimes I cannot wear my clothes for school because I want them for the evening too. If we had a uniform, it would be so easy, and all the students would look the same for school, and I think this is better."

And the students?

"Everyone is so kind and friendly. It's difficult when you are a stranger, because you don't know the people, but the welcome was really nice. Sometimes the accent was a little difficult for me, but I want to thank all of the students and teachers for their help, especially Mrs Renner and Mrs Schofield."

And England?

"I came to England before, but I was in Hastings in the South. The North of England is very nice, and the people here are so helpful. I like Meadowhall and Sheffield, and Whitby is very beautiful. I would like to come back again to see you when I finish my studies. If you ever come to Reine, you must visit me in school - thank you once again for everything."

ROTHERHAM YOUNG JOURNALIST PROJECT

We reported in the December issue of 'In Touch' about the school's involvement in the Rotherham Young Journalists Project. This work has continued, under the leadership of Miss L Hardeman and on Friday 11th April 2008 another group of budding Journalists were given the opportunity to write articles for inclusion in one of the local newspapers.



Students arriving at Johnson Press Media in Dinnington



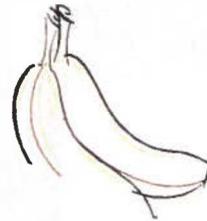
Students discussing which articles to include in the newspaper



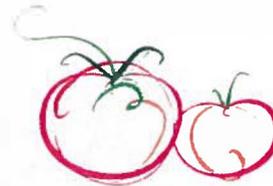
Wath

A Healthy School?

At Wath Comprehensive School we want all children and young people to be healthy and achieve both at school and in life.



Therefore, we will be participating in the National Healthy Schools Programme, hoping to achieve National Healthy School Status by Summer 2009.



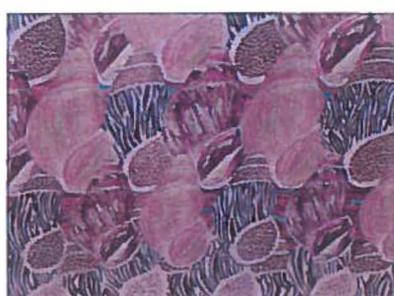
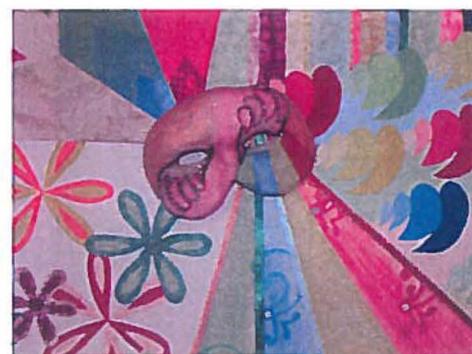
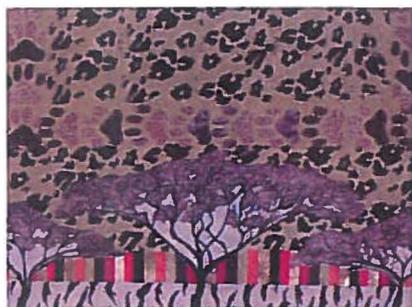
Keep posted for regular updates on our progress.

**Miss Wilson
Healthy Schools
Co-ordinator**

KS4 AND KS5 EXAMINATION WORK

2008

Over the past few weeks students in Years 11 and 13 have been putting their finishing touches to their art work. Below is a selection of their work which is going to be displayed in Wath Library.



Extra- Curricular PE @ Wath

SUMMER TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES

WHEN?	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12.30 to 1.00 p.m.	Y10 cricket	High jump—all years Y7 Rounders	Y8 Cricket Y7 girls' athletics KS5 revision class with Miss Wilson	Cheerleading (Y8/9) Y9 cricket	Cheerleading (Y7)
AFTER SCHOOL 3.00 to 4.00 p.m.	Athletics practice (girls) Cricket fixtures (boys) KS5 revision class with Mrs Thompson	Athletics practice (Boys)	Athletics fixtures Y11/12/13 cricket Girls' fit club Girls' trampolining Y6 Talent camp	Rounders practice and fixtures Y7 cricket KS3 trampolining and table tennis BTEC/GCSE revision club	Tennis practice (Y7–9) Senior cricket KS4/5 trampolining and table tennis Boys' fit club

Friends of Wath Update

At the last meeting of Friends of Wath the following requests for money were received and granted:

1. £65 to purchase a shredder for the Science Department
2. £30 to purchase wool, threads etc for the Knit and Natter Club which is organised by Mrs Haw

Evening is to go towards buying some new sports' kits. A fuller report will be in the next issue of 'In Touch'.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday 11th June 2008 at 7.15 p.m in The Young Perons' Centre. If you have any ideas for fundraising please come along—you will be most welcome.

On Thursday 24th April 2008 a Race Night was held at Wath Rugby Club in conjunction with the Schools' Sports Council. The money that was raised from this

END OF YEAR MEAL AT FRANKIE AND BENNY'S FOR 11 AC

On Thursday 24th April 2008 students from 11AC went out for a meal at Frankie and Benny's in Sheffield before they start the final preparations for their GCSE examinations. Accompanying them were Miss D Ackerley (Tutor), Mr D Bestford (Head of Year) and Mr D Boyd (Student Support Worker). As you can see from the photographs below a good time was had by all.



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

The photograph shows two year 8 students taking part in one of the many lunchtime activities that are presently being supported by Student Support Workers.



You can see that they are both engrossed in a game of chess. Although the game is new to the boys, they are showing a good grasp of the game. Well done: this is most impressive.

Wath World Book Day 2008

Readathon

The Readathon has been running in schools since 1983 and it was created to improve the reading skills of young children. Readathon is a fun and exciting way to read and everyone enjoys it immensely. Through sponsorship, it also improves the lives of many children with life threatening illnesses, so it is a very important part of the school year.

In March every year, the Readathon takes place in Wath Comprehensive School. Students, who are specially selected for one day are off timetable and take part in a range of fun activities: this builds up to a sponsored read event lasting for 3 weeks where students have to read as many books as possible in that time. The money raised by our Readathon is donated equally to CLIC Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation, who between them spend it on caring for children and young people in the UK who might be suffering from illnesses such as cancer.

Readathon is an event that Wath introduces and promotes on World Book Day, which is a way to promote reading and its benefits across the world. Each participating student receives one World Book Day token on this special day every year, equalling £1 off a book or a free book with a World Book Day logo. The books to choose from this year were: Paddington Rules the Waves, Princess Poppy: the Fancy Dress Party, Magic Kitten: A Very Special Friend, Adventure According to Humphrey, Where's Wally?, Jane Blonde The Perfect Spylet, Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets, Odd and the Frost Giants and finally CHERUB: Dark Sun.

Wath Comprehensive School has become very interested in this event and Miss Hardeman has organized it for the fourth time this year. This year Mrs Exton, who has recently been using her teaching skills in Egypt, has also helped organise the event. On the day, pupils from year 7 did activities such as making book marks, writing plays, doing quizzes, private reading and making biographies on their favourite authors. All the English department staff were involved and dressed up as characters from fairytales such as 'Cinderella' and novels such as 'Pride and Prejudice'. They did this to promote to us the many characters that we can meet in the books we read. Students who were off timetable also participated by dressing up as characters from a book and prizes were available for the best efforts. There were many prizes to be won including a wide range of books, Easter eggs and stationary sets. Prizes were won not only for costumes, but also for bookmarks, drama productions and a quiz.



In past years, the Readathon has been open to years 7,8 and 9 but this year so many year 7s were interested they took up most places. As year 8s, we were fortunate enough to be able to attend and to write this review for our Student Journalist Group. We were very happy to be taking part again in this event, as we had been lucky enough to enjoy the activities the previous year as year 7s.



Also lucky enough to attend were 6 Wath Church of England Primary School pupils. They took part so they could learn about how Wath Comprehensive School celebrated World Book Day and to also be able to write about the events as part of their Student Journalist Project.

Everything ran smoothly and everybody loved it. Readathon and World Book Day is definitely something that we hope will continue to be celebrated for years to come here at Wath Comprehensive School : A Language College.

Written by Natalie Edwards and Shona Hayes Mackenzie
Student Journalist Project

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5th May 2008	School Closure—May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th May 2008	Start of Vocational Arts Performing Week
Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th May 2008	KS3 tests
Friday 9th May 2008	Study leave for Y12 students begins
Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th May 2008	Comenius visit to Finland
Monday 12th May 2008	GCSE and 'A' level examinations begin Assessment week 5
Monday 19th May 2008	Y10 Performing Arts Week
Friday 21st May 2008	Last day of half term
Monday 2nd June 2008	Return to school after half term Y7 Wetlands visits

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