

CONNEXIONS

10



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Welcome to your brand new edition of Connexions, the magazine that keeps you in touch with the news and achievements of students at Wath Comprehensive School.

Our cover photographs show students and staff 'on top of the world' during their recent ski visit to Italy. Read Mrs Thorpe's report and more, all inside your Connexions magazine!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2004



As in previous years, the music department channelled their energies into producing a marvellous and highly entertaining Christmas Concert, which took place this year at Montgomery Hall, an unusual venue for us but this was because of the rebuilding work at school. The evening was varied and ranged from beginners through to very experienced musicians. The choir sang Christmas songs and carols, and there was music from brass, violin, flute, clarinet and saxophone sections through to guitar instrumentals, performances from the stage band and individual performances from Oliver Stevenson, Harry Gregory and Katie Hogan. The audience also had to take their turn as well and sing three Christmas carols during the evening, finishing with 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', accompanied by all of the usual actions! A huge thank you to all of the musicians who took part, and to Mrs Hole and the peripatetic music teachers who gave up their time to produce a very enjoyable evening.



A CHIP OFF THE OLD BREEZE BLOCK

The school was fortunate to have the services of artist and sculptor Simon Kent in October last year. He worked with Y9 and Y10 Art groups to produce faces and patterns sculpted from breeze blocks. Simon demonstrated how to work with the material and create the desired effect, and with much chipping away at the blocks, students created their own faces and produced designs using patterns. The material was difficult to work with at first and students realised that you had to chip away at the breeze block carefully, otherwise you could lose whole sections! The end results were entirely fascinating and some wonderful and intricate faces and patterns emerged.

Y11 PRESENTATION

On Friday 20th May, Y11 were presented with their Records of Achievement in a special presentation assembly in the Hall. The Record of Achievement contains a history of their time at Wath, a personal section for hobbies and interests and a statement about themselves. There is also space for their examination results which they can of course add to in the years ahead. The presentation was led by the Heads of Year, Mrs Swallow and Mrs Cooke, and entertainment was provided by a dance performed by a troupe of Y11 girls. After the presentation, there was time for a farewell chat to Heads of Year and tutors over a light lunch provided by the school. We wish Y11 every success in their GCSE exams. Good luck!

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THIS ENTERPRISING COMPANY

Y12 students, Tom Silverton, Christian Wilde, Toni Needham, Jessica Bowen, Rebecca Yates, Lynzi Jacquett and Kirsty Power, following the Young Enterprise scheme, set up their own Young Enterprise company, to learn about how a business is created and managed so that it can produce goods and make a profit. The group has been involved in manufacturing and selling two different types of goods – one seasonal and the other topical. At Christmas, they created and sold Christmas cards at very reasonable prices and they also sold framed photographs of Main Block, the original grammar school building. The photographs sold like hot cakes and most were going to be kept as mementoes of an important building in the area. Now that Main Block is completely demolished, the photographs will act as pleasant reminders of the classic façade of the old school.

The group will go on, in July, to represent the school at the Yorkshire Show, where they will sell cards and clay animals made by Bethany Harrison in Y9. We hope that the company will put on a good show at the Yorkshire Show and we wish them every success.

MUSIC AID

Musicians from Wath Comprehensive School reached out to help others in May 2005 at the parish church, as part of a music concert to support All Saints Parish Church and in particular, to help the victims of the devastating tsunami in Asia, in Unawatuna, Sri Lanka. The evening was introduced by the Reverend Leach and Mr Staton and Mr Naylor acted as comperes for the evening. The school and stage band played a number of different songs, including one of their choice which was dedicated to the memory of John Arnold. There were fine individual performances from Clare Oates, Oliver Stevenson, Alex Craven, Sarah Hardy, Kirsty Lazenby, Fiona Brett, Aimee Ward, Katie Hogan and Autumn Harrison, and there were accomplished group performances from guitar, violin, flute, clarinet and saxophone players. A special mention must go to Danny Palmer of Y13 for his enthusiasm in his final performance for the school. It was a very enjoyable evening and over £500 was raised, half of which will go towards the parish church and half to the people of Unawatuna. Thank you to all those who took part and a very big thank you to those of you who bought tickets and raised a very fine sum of money.

Y10 ENGINEERS GET MOTORING

In October, a group of Y10 engineering students were put to the test by a visit from the soldiers of The Royal Engineers. In previous years, the soldiers have worked with students on the varying strengths of different types of bridges, but this time, the students were involved in car design and its varying problems. The students worked hard at finding the solutions to the problems presented to them by the soldiers and they commented favourably on the students' work rate, levels of concentration and behaviour. Well done!



CONNECTIONS

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DONATIONS TO CHARITY

This year has been an absolutely fantastic year, thanks to the students, their parents/carers, staff and members of the wider community. Over £8500 has been raised and donated to various charities.

Spellathon

Last year's grand Spellathon raised a total of £452 which was donated to Cancer Research in a special school assembly. Students took part by raising money through sponsorship for a grand spelling test, made up of 'Words of the Week' that students had learned throughout the year.

This year's Spellathon takes place at the end of June – lets hope that we can exceed last year's marvellous total.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Staff brought in cakes, biscuits and raffle prizes, and donated them to this worthy cause during the world's biggest Coffee Morning. Staff bought tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits and took part in the raffle during morning break and raised a superb total of £600.

Great North Run

Ten staff braved the elements for months as they trained hard for their epic test of stamina, energy and sheer willpower. Cheered on by other members of staff (mostly from the comfort of their sofas at home), this brave band of runners performed their very best and lived up to the challenge of the Great North Run. In completing their task, they managed to raise an absolutely brilliant total of £1581.73 all of which has been given to Leukaemia Research. Congratulations and well done.

Helping the Victims of the Asian Tsunami

Following the awful events of Boxing Day last year, students returned to school wanting to take part in something immediate whereby they could help the victims of the tsunami. The P.E. department immediately stepped into action and decided that if students wished, they could pay 50p to wear a P.E. / Games kit of their choice and the money would all go to the victims of the tsunami. In total, students raised a magnificent sum of £1500. Well done to all those of you who volunteered and generously donated your money for such a worthwhile cause.

Comic Relief – Bad Hair Day

Non-uniform day and Bad Hair Day in aid of Comic Relief were incorporated into one this year and some brave students and staff came to school with atrocious hair – but all in a good cause. Miss Wing, the outright winner of the staff Bad Hair, came dressed as a Goth, complete with black dress, black gloves, black mascara and lipstick and complete with back-combed hair and if you know Miss Wing, that is a lot of hair! Congratulations to everyone who took part in either non-uniform day or Bad Hair Day – you managed to raise a grand total of £1518.74. Well done.

Other monies which have been raised have gone to the following charities:

- ★ Breast Cancer Awareness - £662.32
- ★ Children in Need - £1267.83
- ★ Cancer Research - £727.97
- ★ Save the Children - £707.96
- ★ Guide Dogs for the Blind - £300

Many thanks to those of you who have taken part in fund-raising activities and to those of you who have kindly donated money. We are sure you will agree that the total amount raised this year has been absolutely outstanding.



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

We would like to offer our congratulations to the following students on their ABRSM music exam successes:

Theory	Grade 5	Fiona Brett Kirsty Lazenby Clare Oates	Distinction
Flute	Grade 5 Grade 3 Grade 3	Kirsty McCormick Emma Moore Nicola Roden	
Clarinet	Grade 3 Grade 3	Alex Oxley Tara Dooley	Merit Merit
Piano	Grade 4 Grade 4	Fiona Brett Samantha Pearson	Distinction Distinction
Trumpet	Grade 4 Grade 3	Samantha Pearson Andrew Gillespie	Merit Merit
Intermediate	Clarinet Clarinet Flute Flute Flute	Joanne Anderson Jenna Birch Emily Sowerby Emily Hearne Amy Usher	Merit Distinction Merit Distinction Distinction



'IS THIS THE WAY TO AMA...MUNICH?'

In May, a group of 23 Y10 students, accompanied by Miss Williamson, Mrs Shaw and Mr Shelswell, travelled to Munich for the German/Geography study visit. During the week, the students had the opportunity to visit the famous Olympic Stadium, the Englischer Garten, the Stamberger See and undertook a more sombre visit to the former Dachau Concentration Camp. They also retraced Hitler's Munich past. One fascinating part of the week was visiting the tombs of the Bavarian royal family and the bones of St. Mundita, the patron saint of single women! We definitely know why she was single!! Ruth Thornton conducted the oom-pah-pah band in the Hofbrauhaus and at the Sternberger See, Mr Shelswell wowed the Germans with his fantastically melodic rendition of 'Is this the Way to Amarillo?' and certainly gave Tony Christie a run for his money! The trip was a fantastic success and the teachers were proud of the excellent behaviour of the students.
Miss Williamson

GERMAN EXCHANGE

In October, Wath Comprehensive School hosted a group of German students from our partner school in Hagen. The students stayed with Wath pupils from years 10 to 13 and a joint programme of activities was organised, including visits to York and Whitby, and the Peak District.

The Technology department taught the German students to cook a decent curry (many thanks to Mrs Gracey and Mrs Morley for their patience) and the Sixth Form boys organised a game of football but they were unfortunately thrashed by the German team!

The Wath students will visit Germany in June and we will host a new group of German students in October. Please see Miss Williamson if you can host a German student.
Miss Williamson

EXCHANGE BETWEEN WATH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL: A LANGUAGE COLLEGE AND ECOLE SECONDAIRE MONIQUE PROULX WARWICK, QUEBEC, CANADA

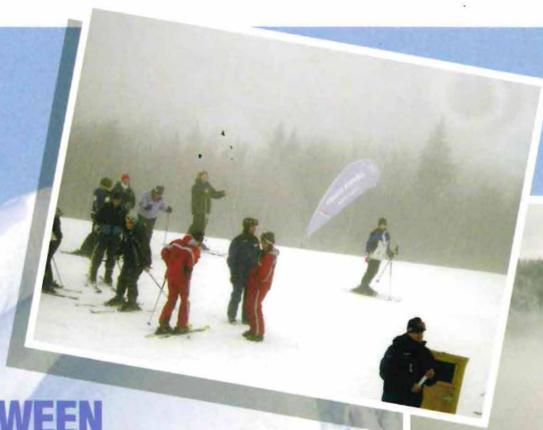
On 6 February, a group of 21 students, aged between 13 and 16, and 4 members of staff from Wath Comprehensive School went on an eight day visit to a small town called Warwick, which is just outside of Montreal, Quebec, in Canada.

Students from the school stayed at the homes of their correspondents, whom they had looked after whilst the Canadian school group, Ecole Monique Proulx, visited England back in November last year.

The exchange was a great opportunity for both schools, designed to challenge the students' French skills, and to give an insight into a young Canadian person's life.

During the eight days, there was a very busy schedule. In the -20°C temperatures the pupils took part in all sorts of snow activities, such as driving a husky-dog sledge, snow-shoeing, skiing, visiting a snow-park, sliding on rafts down snow banks, visiting the Quebec Winter Carnival, and tasting maple syrup at the Sugar Shack.

The exchange between Wath Comprehensive and Ecole Monique Proulx went extremely well, and it has been an experience that none of the pupils will forget in a hurry.
Laura Davis Year 10



Canada was an amazing experience. I really enjoyed skiing but my favourite experience was the friendships we formed with the Québécois. I am still in contact with most of them and think our friendships could last a lifetime.

My main fear in Canada was the weather but it wasn't that bad. In fact it was perfect, we had so much fun especially at the Maple Syrup factory, where we had a huge snowball fight. I didn't just form new friendships with the Québécois but with people from our school who are now my best friends.

The exchange was one of the best things I've ever done. *Jodie Murray Year 10*

I think that the Canadian exchange was fantastic! It was an amazing experience and I made some great friends, who I will stay in touch with for a very long time. My favourite part of the trip was skiing, it was very very cold but lots of fun. If I were given the chance I would definitely go back to Canada. *Sophie Bettison Year 10*

I thought the trip was great as not only did I enjoy it, I learnt a lot as well. I learnt a few special Canadian words and I also learnt how to ski properly. I also found that my translations from French to English improved greatly. I had a great time and I wish I could go back again. *Alex Brooke Year 10*

I enjoyed Canada because I learnt many new skills such as how to ski and how to ride a dog sleigh. My favourite activity was definitely skiing but I also really enjoyed Valcartier. I made some very good friends and I think my French improved. *Megan Askew Year 10*

The way of life in Canada is very different. If I could I'd stay longer
Jason Turner Year 11

I liked dogsledding and the snow. We don't get much snow in England
Naomi Hart Year 11

PRESENTATION AT BRAMPTON ELLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Tuesday 10 May Laura Davies, Elizabeth Breedon, Phoebe Oliver and I went to Brampton Ellis Primary School to give a presentation about our recent visit to Canada. We wanted to share some of our experiences with the primary school pupils. Also the Brampton Bierlow Welfare trust had very kindly sponsored our project with Canada.

The presentation went well. The staff and pupils enjoyed the presentation which they found informative and amusing.

Mrs Richards, the Head teacher of Brampton Ellis Primary School, commented that this would make the primary school pupils aware of how many experiences are open to them nowadays.
Emma Evers Year 10

SPONSORSHIP

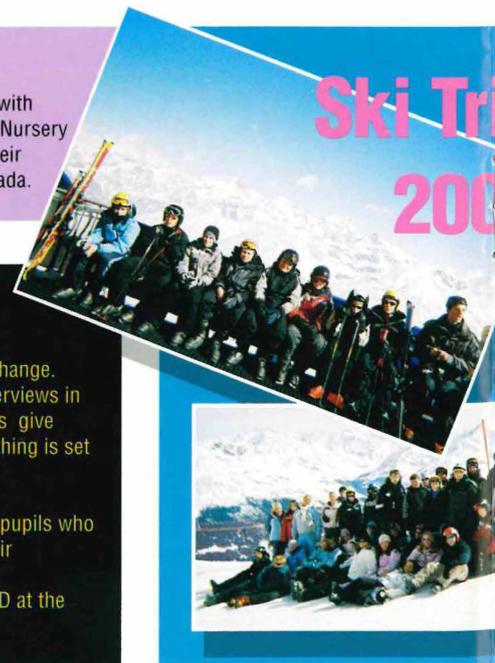
The staff and pupils involved in the exchange with Canada would like to thank The Dearne Valley Nursery and the Brampton Bierlow Welfare Trust for their generous sponsorship of the project with Canada.

CANADA CD

The Canadians have compiled a CD of the exchange. It contains scenes from the exchange and interviews in French and English where pupils and teachers give their impressions about the exchange. Everything is set to music.

There will be a copy of the CD for each of the pupils who took part in the exchange to keep as a souvenir

Parents and pupils will be able to watch the CD at the Canadian evening we will be holding in July.





In May 2004, Mr Grayel and Mrs Harrison visited The 'Ecole Secondaire Monique Proulx' in Warwick, Quebec to discuss the possibility of setting up an exchange between the two schools. The outcome of this visit was very positive and soon after the visit, plans were made to organise the exchange.

Canadian and English students were paired in May 2004 allowing the students to begin to correspond via e-mail as soon as possible in preparation for the exchange.

Prior to the exchange, all English students were involved in fundraising to reduce the cost of the visit. Activities included a French dinner, cake sales, car washing and quiz.

The first leg of the exchange took place from 1-13 November 2004 when 25 Canadian students and 3 Canadian members of staff visited Wath. Families and staff members hosted visiting students and staff.

During their stay in England, the Canadians visited many places of local interest including London, Nottingham, The Peak District, Blue John Caverns, Castleton, Conisbrough Castle, Wakefield Mining Museum, York and Whitby. During the second week of their stay they spent a night in a youth hostel in Scarborough and enjoyed an evening meal of fish and chips and in the morning a full English breakfast. In the Peak District, they sampled a typically English afternoon tea of tea, scones and cakes.

To get an insight into life in an English school, the Canadian students attended some lessons with their host partners. They also attended a PE lesson where they learnt how to play cricket. The technology department arranged a cookery lesson and the Canadians prepared Indian food, which they later enjoyed for

their lunch. English and Canadian students completed language activities together.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the week was a social evening where Canadian and English families met together to enjoy a drink, a chat, some dancing, a few games of bingo and entertainment laid on by Wath students. On the last evening, a 'pot luck' dinner was held at school when all the host families provided food. This evening rounded off what had been a very successful week for all the English and Canadian students.

The second leg of the exchange took place from 6-15 February 2005 when 24 English students and 4 members of staff visited Warwick in Quebec.

During their stay, the English students experienced many new activities including dog sledding when the students drove the sleds as well as being driven, walking in the snow with 'raquettes' and other snow based activities.

They also visited the winter carnival of Quebec and saw the famous ice sculptures including the famous castle made of ice. There were visits to a local paper factory and to a hydro-electricity plant.

One evening was spent in a hotel in a small village in the mountains. Here the students enjoyed a dinner and in the morning a typical Quebec breakfast. After breakfast, pupils set off for the ski resort of 'Le Massif de la petite riviere St Francois' and enjoyed a full day skiing.

One of the highlights of the visit was a visit to a sugar shack. Here the students sampled maple syrup followed by a full Quebec meal of pea soup, ham, eggs, fried potatoes and 'Oreilles de Christ' (pork scratchings!) followed by pancakes with of course plenty of maple syrup, maple sugar and maple butter. During the stay they also enjoyed the famous Quebec dish of 'poutine' chips, sauce and cheese.

Students also enjoyed an exciting day at a 'fun park' near Quebec rafting down icy slopes. This exciting day was rounded off by a visit to a match of ice hockey in the evening.

All students spent the weekend with families where they enjoyed further visits to places of interest in the area.

The week was rounded off with a 'pot luck' dinner at school where the Canadian parents put on a very impressive spread of food. Every one enjoyed watching a CD of the visit of the Canadians to England. The Canadians will add pictures of our visit to Canada and interviews by staff and parents. Each student will then receive a copy of the CD.

There is little doubt that the English students experienced a week they will always remember. Relationships between the English and The Canadian students were good. Students will continue to correspond with their Canadian partners and some even plan to visit Canada again. The exchange was a great success both linguistically and culturally for all students.

Mrs M Harrison

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Bormio, Italy, home to the 2005 World Skiing Championships; every famous skiing star would be there and of course, we missed it by 2 weeks! A group of 38 pupils from Y9 and Y12 departed Wath on Saturday 5 March so by the time we arrived in Bormio, the stars, the excitement, the paparazzi had all gone. The only thing left was the grandstand!

After a 26 hour journey in a luxury coach, we were very excited to get to the Hotel Villa Rina at the base of the ski slopes. First and most important task was to get up to the ski shop where we got kitted out with ski boots, then back to the hotel for evening meal, unpacking and bed!

First thing Monday morning we met with the ski instructors for the week: Enrico, Rolly, Guiseppe and Guilio. I think this was far more exciting for the girls than the boys! We headed off to the nursery slopes for a quick skiing assessment so that groups could be sorted out then it was off to the 'real' slopes in the afternoon.

During the week our groups must have covered the entire mountain between them. Even on the first day, our advanced group had partially completed the World Cup run! Progress made during the week was fantastic - as a staff group we were both pleased and very proud of the skiing skills, tricks and performance of the group as a whole. From snow-plough to parallel, straight

jumps to star jumps, skiing with instructors and skiing with staff, pupils rose to each and every challenge.

The end of week slalom competition was hotly contested between staff and pupils! The fastest down was Joanna Anderson in Y9 with Simon Marton and Paul Levin closely behind. Each participant received a certificate, medal and round of applause from their instructors. Each evening, pupils were nominated Skier of the Day for their progress, improvement, attitude and determination that day. We also had an overall Skier of the Week - Ryan Hill in Y9, whose progress during the week was excellent.

Every pupil made it to the top of the mountain in the cable car to make the most of the incredible views below. Two of the instructors' groups skied the whole of the World Cup run (including the scary bit). We only had one sore knee and a sore thumb in the entire week. We tried our best to speak basic Italian in shops and on the slopes. The enthusiasm shown for the trip, the behaviour, conduct and politeness of our pupils in a European country was second to none.

We are already planning next year's trip - Les Menuires, France (so we should all be familiar with the language!), 26th February and we're flying! No 26 hour bus trip! Am getting excited already! *Mrs Thorpe*

A RAZOR SHARP LANGUAGE DAY AT SUFC

Last July, 300 Y8 Rotherham students descended on Sheffield United Football Club for the Rotherham Languages Day – organised by Wath Comprehensive School. The students had a very busy day including a talk on using languages in the Army, a play in French, several 'taster' language sessions and even a visit by Captain Blades!

Each school had to do a performance in a language and everyone agreed that Wath's 'Potted History of the French Revolution' was the winner!

Miss Williamson

Y10 DRAMA WAS A REAL ODYSSEY

Instead of beginning their work experience immediately after half-term, Y10 drama students took to the road with their own version of two scenes from Homer's 'Odyssey'. They had rehearsed in school previously and designed the simple set and costumes and went out to perform their play at our locals feeder primary schools. The performances were followed by a workshop, led by the students, based on the performance that the primary school children had seen. Mr McGrath described it as a real hit and thanked everyone who took part. Well done.

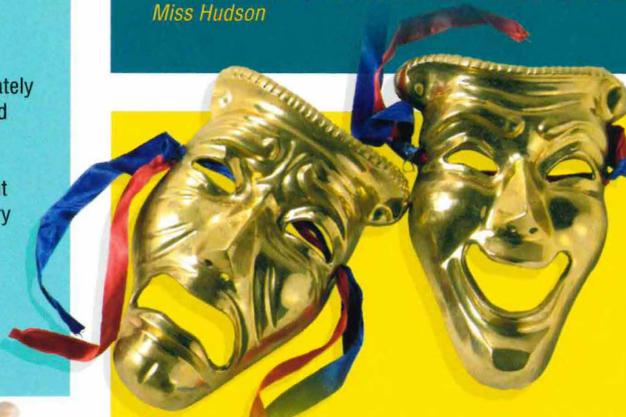
'A HIT, A HIT, A PALPABLE HIT!' THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

On the 2nd and 3rd of February, the Drama department produced three 'reduced' Shakespeare performances of three of his plays. Miss Hudson directed 'Romeo and Juliet', Mr Troughton directed 'Macbeth' and Mr McGrath directed 'Hamlet'.

Miss Hudson wanted to keep the tragic love story of star crossed lovers in 'Romeo and Juliet' as simple as possible. She hoped to emphasise the excitement and euphoria of meeting your first love with that all-consuming power, and she wanted to include the use of music and traditional language. Mr Troughton put a modern day spin on the story of 'Macbeth' and used physical theatre to create the dark atmosphere running through the play. Mr McGrath wrote his interpretation of 'Hamlet' based on improvisations during rehearsals. This production saw Shakespeare's greatest tragedy turned into a comedy and included references to modern day phenomena, such as reality television.

The pupils involved in these two evenings were mainly Y7 to Y9, with a little help from Y12 and Mr Bilby in the technical areas. The auditions were held in September and anyone who wanted to be involved had a role to perform. The rehearsal period was roughly three months and required a lot of dedication from everyone involved. Everyone agreed that the Reduced Shakespeare Festival was a great success and it was rewarding to see how much progress had been made by the performers in that short time.

Miss Hudson



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL FOR THE DRAMA RESIDENTIAL IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

On the 25th to the 27th June last year, the Drama department offered thirty Y9, 10 and 12 pupils, the opportunity to participate in a residential weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon. The weekend was introduced so that pupils could experience professional productions of two Shakespeare plays and to develop their understanding of these plays as well as Restoration theatre.

The coach left school on the Friday afternoon and we travelled down to Stratford-upon-Avon. That evening we watched a performance of 'Romeo and Juliet'. On Saturday, the pupils took part in a Shakespeare workshop based on the performance of the previous night which was led by a professional theatre company, the Birmingham Rep. That evening, we went back to the theatre to watch a production of 'Macbeth'. On the following Sunday, pupils took part in another workshop but this time based on 'Macbeth' led by Mr McGrath and Miss Hudson. By early afternoon, pupils had the opportunity to visit places of interest in Stratford, such as the Falstaff Experience, which is a waxwork museum based on the Stratford when Shakespeare was alive and well. There was also plenty of street theatre around and this kept pupils even more entertained.

The weekend provided pupils with a greater knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare and his work. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and felt that they had gained an enormous amount from the visit. The Drama department intend to make it an annual visit. *Miss Hudson*



BOOM BANG A BANG

(but not the old Eurovision version)

In the days before we moved into our new deluxe accommodation, the old, now demolished, JB Wing was the setting for Pete Birkby, a well renowned musician, to impart his skills in playing percussion instruments to a waiting audience of keen musicians. He instructed us, instrumentalists from Y7 through to Y13, in the art of improvisation. But this was improvisation with a difference! Peter had fetched with him instruments from around the world, including various rattles, drums and clackers, and anything else imaginable. What he taught us to do, was to use these instruments experimenting with different types of music from around the world, ranging from samba, jazz and blues, through to the traditional music and rhythms from different parts of Africa. It was a real magical journey around the world, and one which everyone really enjoyed. *Nicholas Moss Y12*

Y13 SUCCESSES

We offer our congratulations to Dan Oliver and Jimmy Breck-McKye who have both been offered places at Cambridge University. Dan has been offered a place at Churchill College to read Natural Sciences and Jimmy has been offered a place at Girton College to read English. We wish these two students and all our 'A' level and GCSE students every success in their exams.

As the dust settles on yet another year of House activities, it coincides with the final fall of the old school buildings which served our community so well over the last 80 years or so. The new building now offers pupils many new opportunities as well as the best of the old, which have been integrated into our new school. The House System is one such area that has built firm foundations in offering wide-ranging experiences to all pupils from Y7 to Y10 who wish to partake. The symbols of our Houses are still in Pride of Place on the school War Memorial originally found in the old school entrance. They have been newly mounted at the rear of our Hall some 55 years later.

This last year has not been as easy as previous ones to organise as many activities due to the partial closure of parts of the old school (particularly the Hall and Sports Hall). The long closure at Easter, which enabled staff to move into the new premises, also cut back on time to hold activities for some year groups. Nevertheless, more subject departments entered into the spirit of the House system in offering competitions during the first two terms, which made amends for those activities, such as chess and the quiz that were cancelled.

The PE department weathered such problems of limited changing space by organising our 2004 Sports Day on July 20th at Herringthorpe track in Rotherham. Each of the six teams had their own bus to transport their team members to the stadium in order to take their marks and get set. Despite the short leads of Athens and Rome in the early stages of the day, it was the superior Sparta team which took the lead to finish way ahead of the others. Results were 1st Sparta; 2nd Athens; 3rd Rome; 4th Thebes; 5th Troy and 6th Carthage.

Special mentions must go to Amber Merrills, then of Y7 who broke 3 school records in the shot, 200m and 300m which resulted in her winning the Victrix Ludorum. The boys' Victor Ludorum was shared by Sam Beard and Daniel Stewart, also of Y7, for outstanding performances on the day. Sam Beard broke the Y7 Long jump record, as did Daniel Monfredi in the Y10 Boys Long Jump.

Y7 events held on 14/10/04 included boys' football; 1st Carthage; 2nd Thebes; 3rd Athens; 4th Troy; 5th Rome; 6th Sparta.

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

Y8 events held on 17/11/04 included boys football superbly organised by Mr Evans with 1st Rome; 2nd Athens; 3rd Sparta; 4th Troy; 5th Carthage and Thebes. Y8 Girls were ushered by Miss Ferguson and bussed to the Aurora all weather pitch where their Hockey extravaganza saw 1st Athens; 2nd Troy; 3rd Carthage; 4th Sparta; 5th Thebes and 6th Rome.

Unfortunately due to the school build, the Y9 and Y10 activities due to be played in the late Spring/Summer terms have not been able to take place at time of writing, but pupils will not miss out next year.

On 02/02/05 the pupils experienced a wave of excitement, which rippled throughout most of the school as the annual swimming gala was held at Wath Baths on Moor Road. Carthage proved to have the strongest water wings on the day, mainly due to having a full team who were eager to regain their title of 2003. Floating behind them in 2nd place was Troy with Rome 3rd, followed by Sparta, Thebes and Athens.

Though chanting for the House and each other is traditional and deafening at the swimming gala, this was also noticeable in the sports halls and games field where a genuine, caring spirit of well-being and gamesmanship was found.

The overall Games cup, for the most successful sporting House throughout the year of 2004/5 was therefore won by Carthage with Athens 2nd and Troy and Thebes in 3rd. These were followed by Rome and Sparta.

Off the sports field other activities included the Drama Competition, which was organised by Miss Hudson and based on the school Shakespeare Festival held in Montgomery Hall in early February. Though difficult to judge due to the splendid performances, results were Carthage in first place followed by Troy, Rome, Sparta, Athens and Thebes.

Mr Bailey and Mr Longley brought attendance figures into our House area for the first time. Each pupil who achieved 100% attendance was awarded an attendance point. These were added together to give House totals and were announced in Year assemblies. Of extra interest to the pupils was that their 100% record put them into a prize draw, which gave the opportunity of winning a voucher for £10. The leading House was Troy with Sparta in 2nd place followed by Carthage, Athens, Thebes and Rome.

The month of November saw another draw of the artistic kind where our pupils began to enter the spirit of Christmas in the Xmas card competition. Once again our constructive Art Department with Mrs Sharkey, Miss Wing and Mrs Baranowski organised this festive event. Homework was set to complete the work and some class time given over to help and advise the children. Hundreds of cards were produced, each gaining a point for the House, with many showing exceptional quality and talent. The winners were:

Y7 1st Jonathan Ryder (R) 2nd Stephanie Tyler (Tr)
3rd Emily Thornhill (Tr) 4th Megan Soame (Th)
Y8 1st Josh Heenan (Tr) 2nd Fiona Shaw (S) 3rd Georgina Dent (C)
4th Joanne Pettinger.
Y9 1st Adele Bradwell (C) 2nd Zoe Skelly (Tr) 3rd Laura Hoyle (A)
4th Luke Dudhill (S).

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

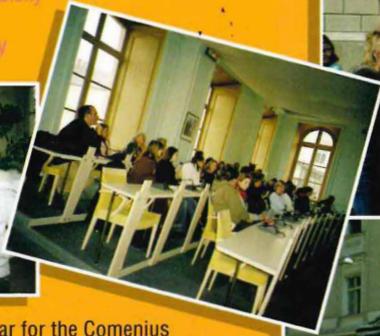
With the vestibule out of use, almost all the cards were displayed in the art corridor in the period before and after the Christmas vacation. Well done to all who participated.

With such non sporting events taken into account, the Deeks Trophy, presented to the House for best overall achievement in non-sporting events is won in 2004-5 by Troy followed by Sparta, Carthage, Athens, with Rome and Thebes 5th equal.

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



Participating schools:
 Wath Comprehensive School A Language College
 Liceo Classico - Gullf e Pennisi Sicily
 Lycee La Providence France
 Vaci Mihaly Gimnasiun Hungary



04/05
 Comenius

Another successful and busy year for the Comenius group which included Mrs Ward making a Head Teacher's visit to Liceo Classico in Acireale Sicily, and Mrs Chisholm looking at English and Literacy in our Hungarian partners school in Batonyetereny.

Sorcha Lambert, Luke Dudill, Emily Cooper and Mrs Sanders represented the school at Rotherham Town Hall to celebrate the signing of the Entente Cordiale in 1904, a treaty between France and the United Kingdom. They had an opportunity to meet the French Ambassador and our local MEP.

The first part of the year, our project focused on the *Working Conditions in School*. We interviewed Mrs Ward, caretakers, pupils, LSAs and teachers to find out their opinions on what it is like to work and study at Wath Comprehensive School. Lycee La Providence provided a questionnaire on life at school, which we compared with the schools from Sicily, Hungary and France.

In December, armed with our power point presentations and results, we, Lucy Young, Laura Hill from Y10, Mrs Minshull and myself, left for the Loire Valley and Lycee La Providence, to present our results to our partner schools. The objective was to take what the students felt were the best aspects of each school represented, with some additions, to produce a model for the *Ideal School for Europe*.

The second part of the year our focus was *Finding your First Job at School Leaving Age*. All of our partner schools had very different experiences. To manage this project we had the support of Connexions and Mr Baggaley. The presentation was held at Vaci Mihaly Gimnasiun in Batonyetereny Hungary in early May. Charlotte Cowen, Luke Dudill, Georgina Brown and Ben Gilliver from Y9 represented Wath and gave the presentations. We concluded that here in Britain we have the best facilities to help students at aged 16 and 18 to find their first job, and that we, in South Yorkshire, have a healthy rate of employment compared to that of our partners from France, Hungary and Sicily.

The Comenius project offers an opportunity for students to represent the school and take part in a short but memorable exchange. Students can experience first hand life in a different country. This is a valuable experience for all involved in that it helps to develop understanding, dispel pre-conceived ideas, and encourage an awareness of their place in the global arena. *Mrs Gracey*

Comenius Trip to Hungary

April 27th - May 1st 2005

In Comenius, the work that we do widens our knowledge and understanding of other countries, communities and cultures. We undertake work which helps us to understand what happens in areas all over the world. In every Comenius project I have been part of, a group of 3 to 5 people have designed, constructed and presented a power point presentation, and by doing these presentations not only have I learnt how other countries do things, I have learned more about England.

During the visit to Hungary I stayed with a family who were excellent linguists and they were able to speak to me in English. They took great care of me, showed me around their town, and explained what family life was like. I met French and Sicilian students as well as other Hungarian students. During the day we worked together in school and in the evenings we socialised.

The aim of our visit was to find out how to get your first job in other countries. During the day we went to school and all of the students from the different countries presented their work explaining this. There were many similarities and differences to our system in England.

During our stay in Hungary we went on many visits to villages and towns and we saw the beautiful architecture of Budapest.

From my visit to Hungary I have gained knowledge of other cultures and how people live. I have seen many wonderful sights and made friends, many of these I will stay in contact with for the rest of my life. I have made a contribution to the work of Comenius this year and was able to present the work at the conference in Hungary. *Charlotte Cowen*

I joined Comenius in year 7 because I was enjoying doing languages at school and I heard about it from a teacher, so I decided to go along. I really enjoyed it as we learn a lot about other countries and what school life is like for children there. We also sent lots of information over to the three schools we are connected with in Hungary, Sicily and France so they can learn about us. It is a fun way of learning about different ways of life. We also have an opportunity to go on exchanges with students from our partner schools in Europe. It is really fun being part of the Comenius team, I am really glad I joined. *Rebecca Bird*

