



# WADE DEACON HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MID-TERM NEWSLETTER

May 2008

# SUPERLAMBANANA SUCCESS

TOP YEAR 10 ARTISTS FEATURED ON BBC NEWS



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

CHINA WELCOMES WADE DEACON DELEGATION



SPECIAL AWARDS FOR SCHOOL



INSPIRATION AFRICA



SCHOOLS CHAMPION FINALISTS - AGAIN!



COMING SOON  
 WADE DEACON   
**ARTS EVENING 2008**



Image: Sarah Daniels, Year 10

A Lively Celebration of  
 Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Art

**Wednesday 9th July 5:30-7:30PM**  
 Drama Room- Art Rooms- Upper Hall  
 Upper Wing  
 Refreshments Provided



**Wade Deacon High School**

*A Technology, Mathematics and  
 Computing Specialist College*

**Midday Supervisors**

We seek to appoint Midday Supervisors  
 to start in September 2008.

Two hours daily for £6.07 per hour plus  
 lunch.

Previous experience of working with  
 young people is desirable although not  
 essential. Training is provided.

An application form and further details  
 are available from Mrs C Rogers.

Telephone: 0151 423 2721

Email:

c.rogers@wadedeacon.halton.sch.uk



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 this magazine please recycle it.

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**W/C Monday June 2nd**

School Opens  
 GCSEs Year 11, 10 & 9  
 Year 11 Revision Timetable Week

**Wednesday June 4th**

Year 7 Conway Residential

**W/C Monday June 9th**

GCSEs Year 11, 10 & 9  
 Year 11 Revision Timetable Week

**Thursday June 12th**

Maths Modular GCSE Exam Year  
 9 & 10

**Friday June 13th**

Drama GCSE Exam Year 10

**W/C Monday June 16th**

GCSEs Year 11 & 10

**W/C Monday June 23rd**

GCSEs Year 11 & 10  
 Science Modular GCSE Exam Yr  
 10 & 11 (am)  
 Science Modular GCSE Exam Yr  
 10 & 11 (pm)  
 Year 8 & Year 9 Asset Languages  
 (am)  
 Geography GCSE Year 10  
 Work Experience Week 1

**Friday June 27th**

End of GCSEs

**W/C Monday June 30th**

Work Experience Week 2

**Wednesday July 9th**

Arts Evening 5.30—7.30pm

**Friday July 11th**

All Reports Issued

**Wednesday July 16th**

Sports Day

**Friday July 18th**

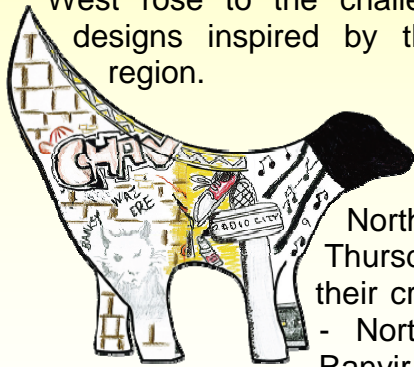
School Closes



# TOP ARTISTS WIN BBC SUPERLAMBANANA COMPETITION

A team of top Year 10 artists at Wade Deacon have combined 'chav' and 'goth' to design a superlambanana which beat a host of competitors to win a BBC North West prestigious contest - appearing on TV with their efforts.

The Design a Superlambanana competition was run by BBC North West Tonight and the Arts Council of England as part of Liverpool's European Capital of Culture celebrations. Over a hundred and fifty schools across the North West rose to the challenge, with brilliant designs inspired by the culture of the region.



Our winning pupils appeared on North West Tonight on Thursday 1 May with their creation. The judges - North West Tonight's Ranvir Singh, Merseyside

artists Amrit and Rabindra Singh and Sally-Ann Wilkinson from Wild In Art - said the design was 'remarkable'. The Wade Deacon design stood out in part because the pupils chose to reflect youth culture while most others concentrated on grown up themes.

The design will now be painted on to the replica Superlambanana and put alongside over a hundred others in the Go Superlambananas

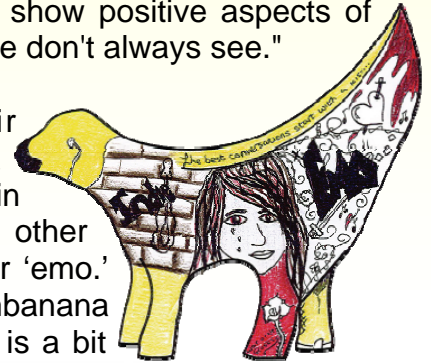


Tom Edwards tries his hand at camerawork.

event next month before joining us at Wade Deacon.

The pupils said their design was inspired by the attitudes of youth in today's society, saying "Youths are often seen in a negative way. We thought we would show positive aspects of cultures that people don't always see."

Half of their Superlambanana is decorated in 'chav' style, the other half like a 'goth' or 'emo.' Like the Superlambanana itself, their design is a bit of a hybrid of teenage styles - you could say it's a teenage mutant Superlambanana!



Robyn Everard chats with North West Tonight's Jayne Barrett



# WADE DEACON PUPILS EXPERIENCE THE REAL "CHINESE SCHOOL"



A party of fourteen Year 9 pupils and staff from Wade Deacon enjoyed a ten day cultural visit to China's Anhui province as featured in the BBC4 programme "Chinese School" over Easter, the highlight being a visit to our partner No 12 School in Tongling City. Pupils have spent the last eighteen months learning Mandarin with the school's Chinese foreign language assistant and the trip was an excellent opportunity to enhance these skills.



Halton Borough Council has well established links with Tongling City and Wade Deacon has built up a strong partnership with No12 Middle School during this period. This was a reciprocal visit with a party from No 12 School visiting Wade Deacon in 2007.



The focus of the visit was firmly linked to the projects on which the schools have been working jointly, concerning with the Yangtze and Mersey rivers, urban planning and how communities live. These are all highly relevant issues to the Borough of Halton and City of Tongling over the next decade.

The group spent three days in Tongling which was an excellent opportunity for pupils and staff to see a





school operating in China, the highlight for us all was getting to spend times in the homes of families whose hospitality was beyond belief.

Time spent reviewing the Yangtze River and Bridge crossing which bears a striking resemblance to the Mersey gateway was an important element of the visit. A day trip to the spectacular Yellow Mountains was another highlight, viewing the sunrise over the peaks after a 5am start being a memory that will never leave us. We visited the ancient village of Xidi to see the contrast with modern expanding Tongling.

The trip was rounded off with two days in Shanghai to view the world famous urban planning museum to see how the modern planning of the city was built to compliment the environment. This also allowed time for some sightseeing in the old and modern Shanghai, whose Bund district bears a striking resemblance to the Liverpool waterfront.

Mrs Wright, Headteacher and party leader said "This was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils who were excellent ambassadors for the school, their parents and the borough of Halton."



# 上海外环城区图

# China Visit Travel Journal

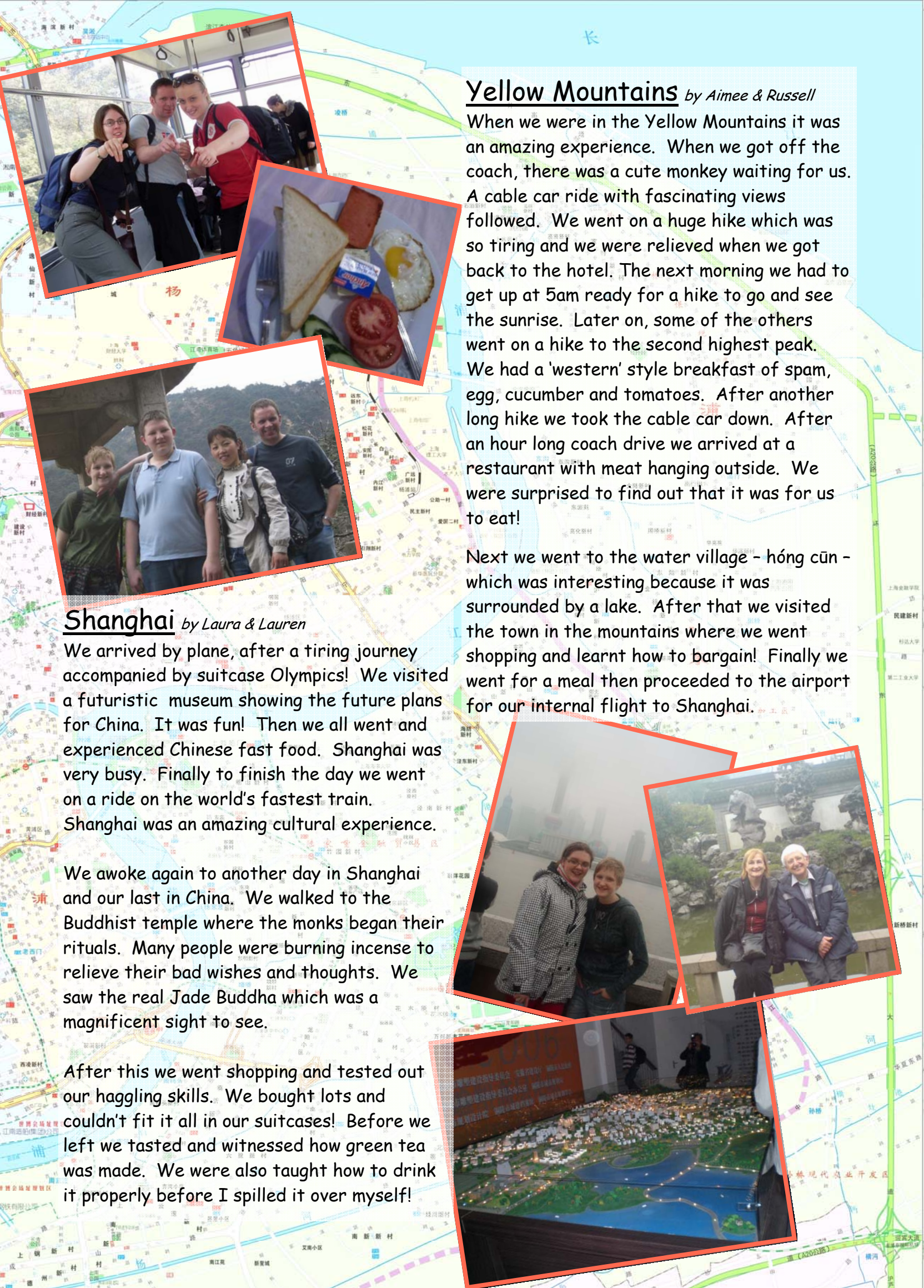
## 嘉定区 Tongling by Andy & Josie

To describe Tongling in two words? Mind blowing! When we started our trip to Tongling, which took 7 hours, we were greeted with a well deserved lie down. Then we went down for dinner and a walk around the well lit up town of Tongling - it beats Blackpool any day. Then to bed.

Walking through the school gates dead silence and pure concentration filled the air. I'm sure we were all nervous, as I was certainly worried about what the Chinese children would think of me. Without warning children swamped the many balconies of the two school buildings. I thought a bomb had exploded or something of the same kind but it turned out the focus was on us and the screaming was for us. The school children were all in identical tracksuits coloured in the school colours which were red white and blue. We sat in a few of the lessons that took place and sat in some the day after. The lessons were very interactive and fun. They even made Russell sing the Chinese national anthem! To my surprise interactive whiteboards were used by the teachers - who were experts with the technical equipment!

The third day we observed lessons again in the morning and then we went on to some of the tourist sights like the ancient village of Datong and the bridge in Tongling. Both nights we visited a different pupil's house, which was a great experience to see how the Chinese people live. Tongling was a great cultural experience. I was shocked by how different school was in China. The students marched to lessons promptly and treated us like celebrities! I don't think I will ever sign as many autographs as I did in No 12 Middle School!





**Yellow Mountains** *by Aimee & Russell*

When we were in the Yellow Mountains it was an amazing experience. When we got off the coach, there was a cute monkey waiting for us. A cable car ride with fascinating views followed. We went on a huge hike which was so tiring and we were relieved when we got back to the hotel. The next morning we had to get up at 5am ready for a hike to go and see the sunrise. Later on, some of the others went on a hike to the second highest peak. We had a 'western' style breakfast of spam, egg, cucumber and tomatoes. After another long hike we took the cable car down. After an hour long coach drive we arrived at a restaurant with meat hanging outside. We were surprised to find out that it was for us to eat!

Next we went to the water village - hóng cūn - which was interesting because it was surrounded by a lake. After that we visited the town in the mountains where we went shopping and learnt how to bargain! Finally we went for a meal then proceeded to the airport for our internal flight to Shanghai.

**Shanghai** *by Laura & Lauren*

We arrived by plane, after a tiring journey accompanied by suitcase Olympics! We visited a futuristic museum showing the future plans for China. It was fun! Then we all went and experienced Chinese fast food. Shanghai was very busy. Finally to finish the day we went on a ride on the world's fastest train. Shanghai was an amazing cultural experience.

We awoke again to another day in Shanghai and our last in China. We walked to the Buddhist temple where the monks began their rituals. Many people were burning incense to relieve their bad wishes and thoughts. We saw the real Jade Buddha which was a magnificent sight to see.

After this we went shopping and tested out our haggling skills. We bought lots and couldn't fit it all in our suitcases! Before we left we tasted and witnessed how green tea was made. We were also taught how to drink it properly before I spilled it over myself!



# CREATIVE FLAIR ON DISPLAY

On 23rd April the school choir attended a concert in celebration of St Georges Day at St Luke's Church, Farnworth. The concert was well attended and the choir were excellent ambassadors for the school, performing two



difficult pieces; *Time of Your Life* (arrangement of the song by Green Day) and *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. Miss Doyle would like to thank the members of the choir who attended and gave an excellent performance.

Five days later the Creative Arts Department hosted "Inspiration Africa" which was a superb celebration of over a term's collaborative work

with pupils in art and music.

The project was inspired by our partnership with St Cyprian's School in Ghana, and involved pupils designing, building and playing African instruments.



Pupils clearly enjoyed sharing their endeavours with the Creative Arts staff, their parents and their peers. Stunning artwork from the design stage was displayed along with finished pieces, and visitors were entertained with two performances from the African Drumming Group. Younger members of the audience got a hands on experience as they got a chance to try out the instruments for themselves.

*If you missed the performance, you can watch it on the school website; [www.wadedeacon.com](http://www.wadedeacon.com)*

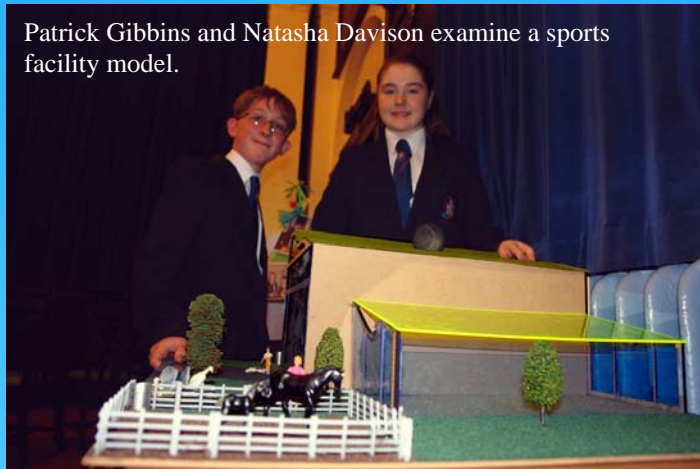




# ENTERPRISING PLANS FOR WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Year 8 enjoyed a taste of the new National Curriculum this term as they rose to the challenge of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Week. Teams of pupils were assigned a plot of land in the multi-million pound

plans, while in Technology and Maths lessons they produced accurate scale models of their Waterfront area along with futuristic designs for public buildings. In Science lessons pupils studied how bird anatomy is adapted to life in the real world, and how architects draw inspiration for buildings from bird physiology.



Patrick Gibbins and Natasha Davison examine a sports facility model.

Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone which they could develop for a variety of uses. Representatives from each team visited the Waterfront site and reported back to their teams on what the waterfront looked like and how it could be improved.

In ICT lessons, pupils created a variety of advertising banners and videos to market their

The week of enterprise culminated in a celebration assembly at which pupils shared the fabulous work they had produced. In a range of stunning displays, each group showed the work they had been making during the week including scale models of buildings, aerial views of the waterfront, interior design plans for future



Emily Lamey, Chloe Jones, Abbie Jenkins and Rebecca Collins begin to build their architectural model.

buildings and numerous pieces of research about the waterfront's wildlife.

The Mayor of Halton presented certificates to pupils who had excelled in various activities – for example the 'most industrious' or the 'most innovative.'



Award winning team members.

**STEM WEEK**  
**SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY**  
**ENGINEERING MATHS**



# TRIPLE AWARD HONOUR AT BAFTA

Wade Deacon High School has been recognised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) for adding extra value to students' GCSE achievements.

The school picked up the prestigious High Performing Schools Award in March. This award is presented to schools that achieved above 60% 5 A\*-C at GCSE including English and Mathematics in 2007; more than double the Prime Minister's target for schools across the country in four years time! The school also won an additional award for being in the top 20 most improved schools nationally.

Mrs Wright, Headteacher said "It was a great honour to be presented with this award which recognises the hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence of our pupils and all the staff at Wade Deacon. We are all very proud of the achievement of our pupils which keep this school on the national map. We are also in the top 2% of schools nationally for our contextual value-added from KS2 to KS4 as well as achieving very high GCSE grades."

The awards kept coming in March, as the school was again invited to a celebratory dinner



## MAYOR CELEBRATES THE BEST OF HALTON'S YOUTH

Pupils from all year groups in school enjoyed a feast of entertainment courtesy of Halton's Mayor at the annual Celebration Of Youth at the Stobart Stadium.

Five pupils from each Year Group were nominated to attend the event by Year Team Leaders for their good citizenship and high standards maintained throughout the year. The evening involved pupils from all High Schools in Halton and allowed the Mayor to thank young people across the borough for their excellent work, both in school and in the community.

The night provided pupils with an opportunity to relax and let their hair down with a vast array of fun activities on offer – from the usual disco to the more bizarre activities like the bucking bronco and a chance to ride a surf board – and, of course fall off!

Pupils also had the opportunity to go out onto the pitch and sample the atmosphere of the stadium, see the school's name up in lights and have a group photograph taken which was very special.

Mrs McCormack, our Children's and Young Persons' Coordinator who attended the night said '*I have been involved with this event for the last three years and it gets better and better. Pupils are given a great night and it's only right that they are thanked in such an appropriate way for the good citizenship that they demonstrate day in day out. Events like this are important because it's a chance for youth to be shown in a positive light at a time when all too often they are presented negatively in the media*'.



at the British Academy of Film and Television Awards in London. This time Wade Deacon picked up an award for high performance in the new Jesson Value Added (JVA) measure of pupil progress, which recognises progress above average expectation with good grades in English and Mathematics.

Commenting on the schools' achievements, Elizabeth Reid, Chief Executive of the SSAT said: "This success... is the product of hard work, good leadership and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, but most of all it means more young people are succeeding and realising their potential."



## CARNEGIE CHAMPION SCHOOLS YEAR 9 SEMI-FINAL

Wade Deacon has booked a return trip to the Carnegie Champion Schools at RAF Uxbridge, for an unprecedented third consecutive year. The result came after a scare from London based Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

The Carnegie Schools Champions of 2006 were quickly out of the blocks and raced into a early 10-0 lead courtesy of two tries and conversion from lively hooker Alex Clare.

Late in the first half the London side hit back with tries from their centre and full back. Wade Deacon refused to be beaten as speedster Joey Ubido increased Wade Deacon's advantage. Royal then hit back again through their hard running loose forward. Captain Dom Speakman who won the Man of the Match award was as impressive in attack as he was in defence and even though suffering a bang to his eye made some bone crunching tackles to change the game.

With the game on a knife edge going into the closing stages a try from Wade

Deacon centre James Caton sealed victory for Wade Deacon and sent them through to their third National Final in as many years. Coupled with their three victories in the North West Competition, this makes them the most successful Wade Deacon team to date.

This is the second National final many of the boys have reached this year, as many players within the team play for Halton & Farnworth Hornets who reached their National Final against Castleford Panthers. Coincidentally the Wade Deacon side will go on to face Castleford High School in a repeat of the Carnegie National Final 2007.



# DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

April played host to yet another spectacular Brindley Dance Competition, one of the most prestigious and respected dance events of the year. Over the two nights schools from Halton district flocked to perform some fantastic displays of dance. Over fifty pupils attended the Wade Deacon auditions in February, all giving tremendous performances with only a selected few dancers making it through to the final. Over the next two months the dancers choreographed their own routines practising at lunch times, after school and at home.



On the opening night 34 Key Stage Three pupils performed their routines in front of a large audience. Spirits were high and the excitement backstage proved that this night was to be a success. First out on stage were our solo performers; Alex Harvey, Fiona Garrett and Lauren Crowder. All these girls put in excellent performances but were narrowly beaten by some tough competition. Our duo performances came out top on the night with the Year 7 duo of Claire Mc Dermott and Katie Hamlin and Year 9 duo Sophie Richards and Sammy Kenwright claiming first prize for their year group category.

The highlight of the night was the Year 9 group dance. The group dance is one of the toughest categories with over sixteen

groups in the competition. Our Year 9 team put in endless hours to perfect their routine which was evident once they stepped on stage. Their commitment and dedication earned them a rewarding 2nd place.

On the last night of the competition the older dancers set high standards for yet another competitive night of dance and performances. In the duo competition Katie Rees and Katie Paul put in an excellent performance to regain their title but were narrowly beaten. Mel Gaskell and Rebecca Vowles lit up the stage with their energetic performance as did Joanne Molyneux in her Year 11 solo. Stealing the show with an absolutely spectacular dance was Laura Harrington, who earned Wade Deacon's only over all prize over the two nights. Laura impressed the judges with her unique routine and it was obvious from the audience applause that she was a clear winner.

This year's competition was one of the most successful yet for Wade Deacon. We would like to congratulate all the girls who took part in the Brindley Extravaganza for their commitment, dedication and success.

