

## At work in the community

OUR Sixth Form students play an important role in the community. Year 12 students are involved in community service placements, which encourages them to develop leadership skills. Placements include St Luke's Hospice, the Glen Residential Home and many local schools.

Year 12 and 13 Politics students represented the school at the Sheffield Youth Parliament. They helped to organise debates as well as directly addressing the Assembly.

Meanwhile, students have been working towards their Community Sports Leader Awards, which encourages them to develop leadership

skills. Students work with many outside agencies and younger pupils, assisting with PE lessons and organising events.

More than 50 students are also working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which involves them in a huge variety of voluntary activities.



## PAVE the way to college

YEAR 10 pupils have been visiting Sheffield College to gain an insight into the vocational courses on offer, as part of the PAVE (Programme of Academic and Vocational Education) initiative. Pupils sampled taster courses in child care, hair and beauty, sign writing and brickwork. Next they will choose one option to follow towards accreditation. Other courses available include catering, retailing, business administration and construction.

These experiences, hopefully, will put pupils in a better position to make decisions about their Post-16 options.

## Students speak out

EACH year, Sixth Form students from Silverdale take part in a public speaking competition organised by the Rotary Club – Sheffield Vulcan.

This year, four students went through to the event and Nishal Palawan was the overall winner.

Organiser Rob Gittins wrote to say: "Members agreed that this was one of the best events they had ever enjoyed."

## Celebration of diversity

THE school's fourth annual Multi-Cultural Evening, a major event in the school calendar, was a great success. More than 250 governors, parents, teachers, pupils and guests enjoyed a variety of activities including music, drama, dance and poetry. Excellent performances were staged by pupils of different ages and from a wide range of cultures.

One of the highlights was a spectacular performance of

music and dancing from Siyaya, a dance group from Zimbabwe. In their closing remarks, Councillor Ibrar Hussain and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Diane Leek, praised the quality of the performances and complimented the hard work of everyone who had organised the event. At the end of the evening, all participants and guests enjoyed a splendid buffet with a wide choice of dishes.



## Prize-winning words

A PRIZE for creative writing is to be awarded by Dr and Mrs Cantor, parents of the late Charlie Cantor, a former Silverdale student.

Charlie was a successful screenplay writer and film producer. The award will be linked to the publication of a creative writing magazine, published every year.

Items for publication may be submitted to Mrs Clarke.

## Chair of governors' statement

# Positive prospects



THE school has the prospect of major investment in buildings within the next three to four years, and we are finally working with a balanced budget after years of deficit. This is largely due to the genuine partnership that has developed with the LEA.

Thanks to careful budgeting and valuable support from FOSS (now SPA), we have made welcome improvements to the school hall, dining room, library, IT suite, reception and toilets.

Our excellent results continue to be a beacon for achievement in the city. This is a tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of pupils and the skills of staff.

The time commitments of governors have grown considerably recently, and much of our work is now through sub-committees. We have added a new personnel sub-committee to reflect our responsibilities for pay policy and workforce reform.

The school and parent governors have made great efforts to improve our communications with parents, and we hope you appreciate the new format of this report, *The Voice* magazine and governors' newsletters.

Finally, I would like to thank all governors for their continued hard work, particularly to recently retired governors – Ann Kingdom, Steven Hawkins and Dr Charles Price – for their contribution to our work.

Jon Mordecai, Chair of Governors, November 2003

## Meet the governors

### Co-opted governor:

"A Governor since 1984, I am currently Chair of the Finance Committee. My two sons previously attended the school. I am involved in charity work as a business adviser with the Prince's Trust and am a director of a charitable organisation dealing with Youth Service."

Brian Hayden

### Parent governors:

"I have two daughters at Silverdale and have been actively involved in the promotion of the school's annual Multi-Cultural Evening. I am Chairperson of the Pakistan Muslim Centre and adviser to a community radio station."

Muhammad Ali



### LEA governor:

"I am a lecturer in German at Sheffield Hallam University with responsibility for the Languages Open Access Centre. I am especially interested in the use of new technology within teaching and learning."

Barbara Scott



"I have a daughter in Year 8 and a son who will be transferring from Dobcroft next year. Professionally, I am employed by Sheffield LEA as European Development Manager, which has enabled me to support Silverdale's Objective 1 Programme."

Ann Scott

### Staff governors:

"I am a teacher governor, and attend the Governors' Personnel Committee. In school I teach French and Spanish and am Head of Year 9."

Clare Wenham



"I represent the support staff on the governing body. My role as School Bursar means I am particularly involved in the work of the Finance Committee."

Richard Exton



## Silverdale's critical friend



Dr Nicola Woodruff, Vice-Chairman of Governors, and Co-opted governor Pauline Clegg.

THE governors play a crucial role in school and have key statutory duties and responsibilities, one of them being to publish this annual report to parents. Others include training, recruitment, management, staff, pupils and parents. They are also involved in the curriculum, school finances and premises. In all aspects of their work, governors aim to be the school's "critical friend".

A good example of this was when an art trip to New York was thrown into question after September 11. The governors met staff, parents and pupils, and took legal and

financial advice before deciding the trip could go ahead once adequate safeguards were in place. Every year the governors scrutinise the school's proposed programme of visits to ensure that various requirements are met.

Silverdale is very fortunate to have a range of experienced and committed governors. Further information about their work can be found in the school prospectus and on the website – [www.silverdale.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.silverdale.sheffield.sch.uk) Parent governors are available during parents' evenings to answer any questions.

# Action plan makes progress



GOVERNORS are responsible for ensuring the school implements its action plan after an Ofsted inspection. They receive information on progress in a termly report, and four committees work on our key priorities for development – which are enshrined in our School Improvement Plan.

## Teaching and learning

We aim to improve the quality of teaching and learning by sharing best practice within and beyond the school. This is part of our Beacon School status. We want to encourage pupils to be independent learners and to ensure that teachers use a stimulating variety of approaches. Our recent Key Stage 3 Strategy training day enabled staff to work on these issues.

## ICT

We have made huge strides in the provision of ICT. This year we are part of the South Yorkshire e-Learning Programme, which has provided laptop computers linked to a wireless network, specialist equipment in Science and electronic whiteboards. This is accompanied by a programme of in-service training.

## Assessment

Parents now receive consistent information on pupils' progress three times a year. This takes the form of a National Curriculum Level and an effort grade. Students undertake self-assessment and, together with teachers, set targets for future achievement.

## Support and inclusion

This strand of the action plan embraces the whole school community. Working with parents through our new Steering Group and in a variety of community settings, we aim to ensure that every pupil is able to make a positive contribution to the life of the school and can fulfil their own potential.

## Steering Group tackles teenage issues

THE latest in a series of information evenings has given parents greater understanding of drug and alcohol issues affecting young people. Key Stage 3 parents were invited to view resources and talk to relevant local workers.

Previous events informed parents how to talk to their sons and daughters about sex and relationships, divorce and teenage issues.

The evenings were organised by the Silverdale Community Steering Group volunteers, who are parents, residents and workers. The events involved representatives from South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council and school staff.

There will be a programme of these events over the next year. Any parents who wish to be involved in the group should contact Jackie Simpson at school.

## Technology takes us forward



AN input of finance from European funding through the e-Learning Programme has had a significant impact on ICT resources in school.

There are now 64 laptops around school. These are wireless linked, making them a mobile resource, and many departments have access to computers and the internet in their classrooms.

We have seven interactive whiteboards, which give teachers the potential to integrate new technology into their lessons. Staff are being trained to use these at Hallam City Learning Centre, located at Notre Dame School.

New courses are being introduced through the e-Learning Programme, known as e-sy.info. The Microsoft Office Specialist courses are being piloted with Sixth Form groups before they are offered to other years and community groups.

As part of a project with Hallam University, Year 10 pupils visited the Coca-Cola factory at Wakefield to look at the latest Computer-Aided Manufacture (CAM) technology. They followed up the visit with a day at the university, using CAD/CAM equipment. Four members of staff were also trained to use the software.

## Curriculum Committee

# On target for achievement

THE Curriculum Committee monitors the School Improvement Plan and receives updates from heads of department. We also monitor the school performance review, which involves breaking down exam results and working with senior management to set

targets for the following year. We examine the non-achievement of 20 per cent of our pupils and are investigating the under-achievement of boys in comparison to girls.

The committee has also received presentations from outside. LEA Link Adviser,

Lesley Kay, spoke about the school performance review and Consultant, Chris Mason, talked about the e-Learning Programme.

The committee were also consulted on the revised school day prior to its introduction.



## Finance Committee

### Busy year on the books

THE committee has undertaken a wide range of work this year, including a review of the school's annual spending plan and regular monitoring of the school's income and expenditure. We have worked on the charging and remissions policy, and audited and monitored the School Fund. The committee has reviewed the capital expenditure proposals and associated sources of funding, and renewed the school's cleaning contract. We have

monitored progress on PFI developments, responded to audit reports, and reviewed the Finance Committee terms of reference.

The school accounts for the year ending 31 March 2003 resulted in a small surplus, which has been carried forward to this year. In addition to their routine tasks, the committee intends to help develop a three-year financial planning process and consider the possibility of sponsorship.

## Premises Committee

### Governors build on initiative

THE committee has been dealing with the exciting prospect of Silverdale becoming part of the Building Schools for the Future initiative, which could result in a complete rebuild. At the moment we are awaiting ministerial decisions concerning the scope and funding of this initiative.

Governors have also been instrumental in approving a large capital programme of school improvement, as follows:

Renovations to boys toilets B floor	£20,000
Renovations to girls toilets C floor	£20,000
Associated electrical work	£1,860
Data cabling and telephone provision	£865
New medical room and Sixth Form office	£9,000
New caretaker's office and workshop	£14,530

## Personnel Committee

### Putting people first

THIS is the newest of the sub-committees. It was set up in March 2003 in response to a growing need to discuss personnel and staffing issues in more depth than time allowed in the general governors' meetings. So far, we have had input on training and discussed issues such as pay policy, discretionary payments, sickness absence, replacements and new appointments, and job description reviews. This year, we will be reviewing educational visit recommendations, secondment and leave of absence policies, school workforce succession planning and tackling stress.

Advance notice of school production at the  
**Crucible Theatre**  
 on Tues and Wed 20 and 21 July at 7.30pm

The first showing of

# Monster

a musical specially written for Silverdale School  
 by Ian Wheeler and James Bullock