

# the voice

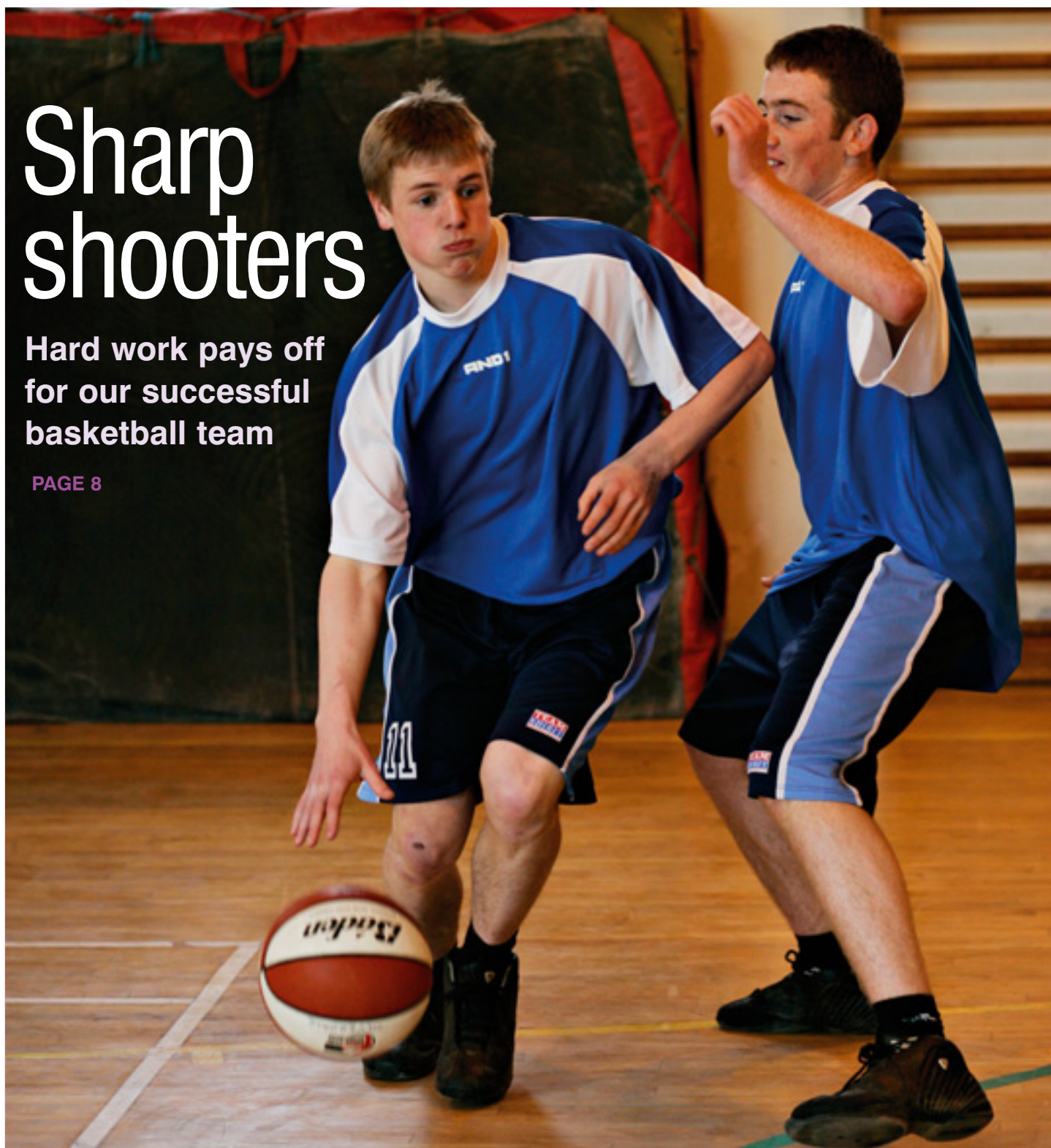
OF SILVERDALE SCHOOL

ISSUE 6 SUMMER 2005

## Sharp shooters

Hard work pays off for our successful basketball team

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## Designs for the future

SILVERDALE School is scheduled to be rebuilt under the first phase of the BSF (Building Schools for the Future) programme. Part of its success depends on our ability to secure designs that enable us to deliver the highest quality teaching and learning to pupils.

Through Sheffield LEA, recently visited Sweden to look at innovative school designs and approaches to teaching and learning. The schools we went to had few corridors, were open plan and utilised space in a very flexible manner. Pupils' learning was focused around the use of ICT and was tailored to individual needs.

Laurence Jones is the new Building Schools for the Future

Project Officer. Laurence's role will be to help pupils, staff, parents and community members understand and take part in the process. Laurence can be contacted on 0114 273 5735 and at [laurence.jones@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:laurence.jones@sheffield.gov.uk).

The BSF programme will result in the building of modern, energy efficient and sustainable schools, with a considerable investment in ICT.

The programme will also promote the use of e-learning and the sharing of facilities for teaching and learning. It will encourage schools to provide a greater range of activities for young people outside the formal curriculum.

Helen Storey, Headteacher

New build: Laurence Jones, Building Schools for the Future Projects Officer.

## Teachers are always learning

AS Silverdale prepares itself for the challenges of the future, staff training and development are increasingly important aspects of school life. This year, the whole of the teaching staff have been involved in a 12-hour programme of training activity, which has focused on improving learning and making the school truly inclusive.

A range of outside speakers have provided specialist input, though much of the work has been planned and delivered within school. One particular highlight has involved teachers allowing themselves to be filmed at work in the classroom. By demonstrating a range of imaginative teaching strategies, they have inspired and informed their colleagues to do even better.

Mike Pollard

Caught on camera: Teachers Paul Bradshaw and Dan Rooke take a look at their work.



Council members: Laura Hanson, Year 11, Simon Davies, Year 10, and Al Zasada, Year 11, with the new school picnic benches.

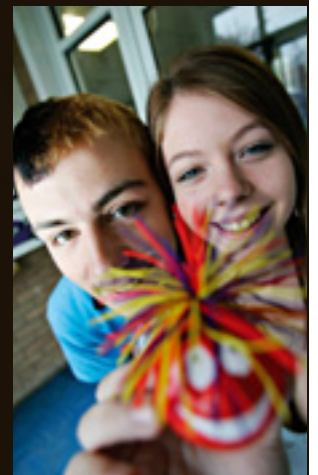
## Council brings in the changes

A NEW Silverdale School Council was launched at the end of the autumn term. Pupils were taught about the structure, purpose and mechanics of a School Council and then voted on class representatives to attend meetings every month. The aim of this was to ensure that all pupils have a voice in the school.

Since then, members of the Council have interviewed candidates for the Deputy Head post and held meetings with the caterers to give feedback on the canteen. They have also sent delegates to the school Senior Leadership meetings to have input on new outdoor furniture and future plans for alterations to the school.

In addition, they organised a hugely successful Red Nose Day, raising more than £2,000 for Comic Relief.

Ross Graham



Charity fundraisers: Chris Johns and Fiona Hudson, Year 12.

## Status adds to our success

FROM September 2005 Silverdale will be a designated Specialist School in Languages. This is a real milestone for the school and will bring in additional annual revenue of more than £100,000. The money will be used to improve the quality of provision for all pupils across the curriculum and to add an international dimension to our ethos.

Funds will also be made available

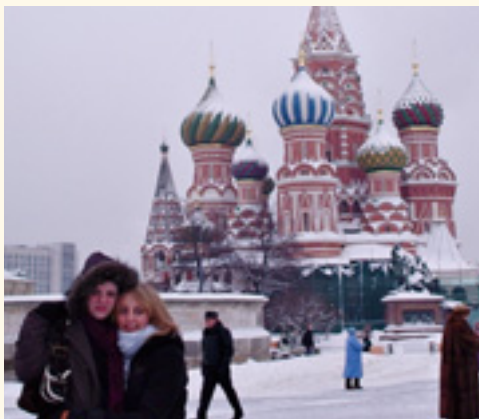
for rebuilding and refurbishment. We intend to use these to provide a new language lab for September 2005, and to enable specialist language learning facilities to be incorporated into the designs for our new school.

We would like to thank parents, pupils, staff, governors and LEA officers for their support in helping us attain this important achievement for Silverdale School.

Helen Storey, Headteacher

# Trips around the world boost our learning

## RUSSIAN HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE



St Basil's: Year 12 students Emily Vickers and Caitlin Procter in Moscow.

IN February, a group of Sixth Form History and Politics students visited Russia. We visited many scenes of dramatic historical events, including the Red Square, St Basil's, the Kremlin, the Winter Palace and the battleship Aurora.

Our first three days were spent sightseeing in Moscow. We also visited a private school for 5-18 year olds.

Catherine Boddie, Year 13, said: "We found that we had a lot in common with the pupils at the school, and we were really impressed by their academic achievements – the Year 7 pupils were learning GCSE level Maths!"

We then visited St Petersburg, where we saw the opera *The Barber of Seville*, performed in Russian.

Emma Cryan and Caitlin Procter, Year 12

## Exciting Ecuador experience

THIS summer, 15 Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils and two members of staff will be taking part in a month-long World Challenge Expedition to Ecuador. The trip consists of several phases, including community work with a remote school, climbing Ruminahui volcano and trekking for several days on the Inca Trail. They will also spend a week in the jungle around Macas,

finishing the trip with white-water rafting and whale watching.

Over the last 18 months, the team has been busy raising funds through sponsorship, team events and taking on jobs. The expedition aims to be challenging on a personal and team level and involves both physical commitment and cultural exchange while working with local people.

Ian Wheeler and John Hamshaw

Accepting the challenge: Jessica Hemmingham and Joe Cox, Year 11, with Brenda Duszanskyj and Ian Wheeler.



## Out of Africa



YEAR 11 pupils Elliott Walker and Daniel Smith were chosen to take part in a media exchange trip to South Africa. Elliott, Daniel and three other students from schools across Sheffield visited the country for ten days and produced a radio programme with BBC Radio Sheffield.

They visited several schools, including an affluent, mostly white school and an underprivileged Zulu school. Daniel and Elliott also visited the Valley Trust Centre, outside Durban, where people are educated about AIDS, and Rorke's Drift, the site of a famous battle between the British and Zulu.

Elliott said his visit was: "An incredible opportunity to explore one of the most amazing countries in the world."

Chas Ponsford

Radio stars: Year 11 pupils Daniel Smith and Elliot Walker.

## Posters in Poland



Comenius conference: Emily Vickers, Frances Naylor and Shani Daka-Shawsmith, Year 12.

THE Comenius Project partners met in the town of Kwdzyn near Gdansk in Poland in March.

Year 12 students Emily Vickers, Shani Daka-Shawsmith and Frances Naylor accompanied us on the trip. We took samples of our pupils' work, posters from Year 9 Design and Technology, Digital Artwork from Year 8, photographs from Year 12 and a PowerPoint display of Sheffield.

Our partners were extremely impressed by the work and we left examples of this work to be displayed in the Comenius Exhibition in Poland.

Graham MacDonald and Craig Longmuir

# FOCUS ON

## Our Science department offers excellent

THE Science department have had a busy year so far, with several interesting initiatives underway.

As a new venture at Key Stage 4, some pupils have been following a modular-style GCSE course and we hope to see them fulfil their potential in the summer exams. We are also looking ahead and preparing for the new GCSE courses that will be taken by our present Year 8 pupils from September 2006.

Science teachers and laboratory technicians have also been working hard to increase their expertise in the use of data-logging, so that

pupils across the school will be able to look forward to increased opportunities in this important area of ICT during the next academic year. We are also pleased to see so many Key Stage 3 pupils producing excellent standards of work or effort, and adding their names to the "Science Star Wall" as a result.

Extra-curricular opportunities have continued to expand. Visits, clubs and competitions have had a positive response that can only serve to enhance our pupils' progress and interest in Science.

Jane Hall

## Science Week across the school

THIS year's National Science Week was marked with an interesting and varied range of special events at Silverdale.

Year 7 pupils were set tasks including building the tallest tower, constructing a virtual skeleton and trying to make the bounciest "custard-powder balls".

Sixth Form lessons covered controversial and cutting-edge subjects, including cloning and stem cell research, and students were addressed by visiting experts. The experience gave students the chance to broaden their understanding beyond exam requirements and develop ideas about the impact of science on society.

Activities were also arranged outside lesson time, including a "Great Library Science Quiz" where teams took on the task of tackling Science and general knowledge questions with the mission of winning edible prizes. Lunchtime talks were also offered to pupils and staff, thanks to the help of our guest speakers, who covered topics as diverse as "Drugs and the Brain", "Breast Cancer Research", "Cosmic Dust" and "Nature's Chemistry Set".

Visiting teacher David Martin also joined the Year 7 Science Club for a day, bringing with him a selection of unusual and exotic creatures, including stick insects, a giant African tortoise, a snake and a tarantula.

Jane Hall

Well-structured: Year 7 pupil Hakeel Rauf builds a straw tower.

Exotic creatures: Billy White, Year 7, with a snake.

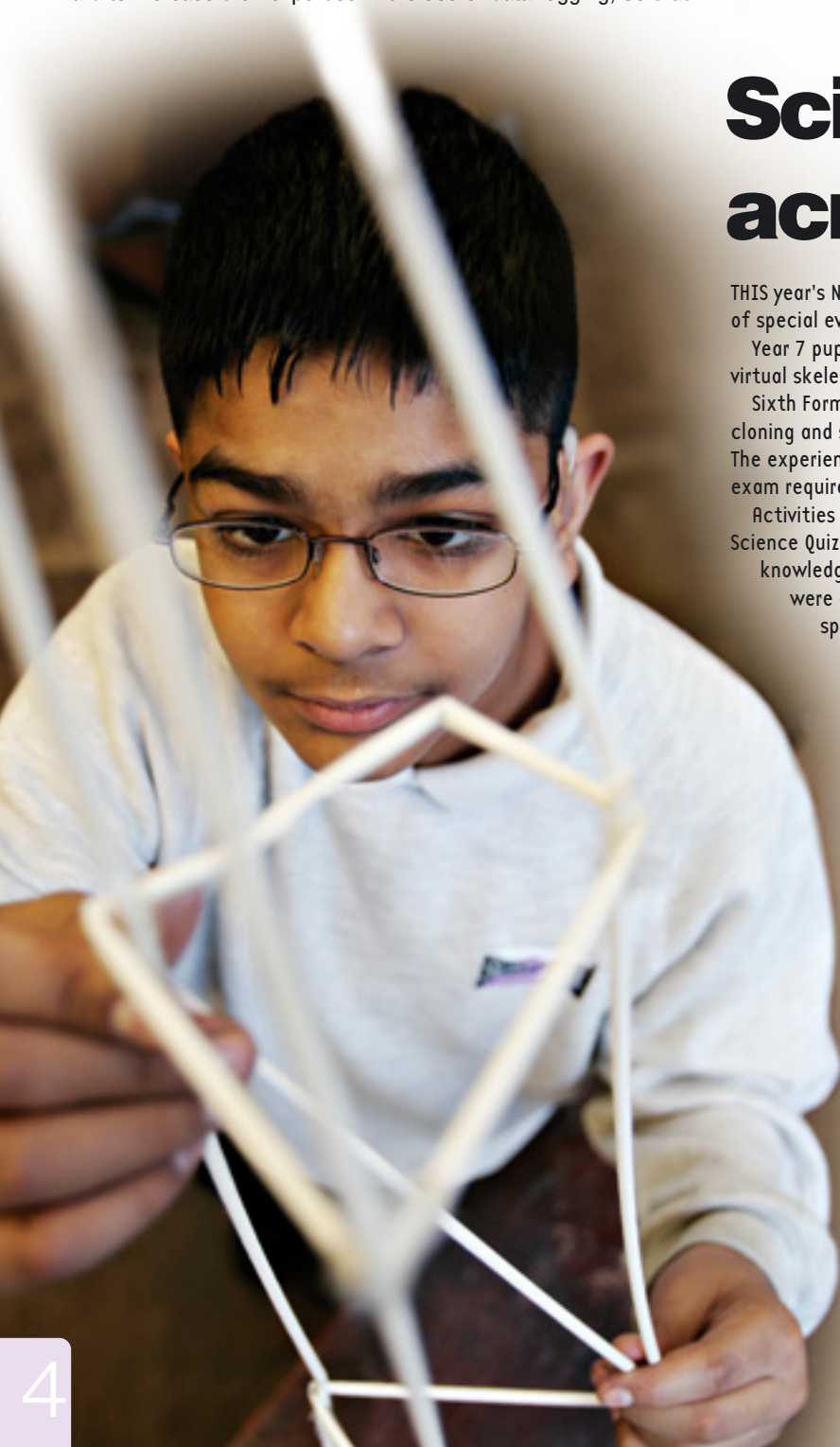
## Festival fun

SILVERDALE has been invited to send another team of pupils to this year's Salters' Festival of Chemistry at the University of Sheffield.

Four Year 8 scientists will spend the day in laboratories, carrying out fun, practical activities.

The event will also provide an excellent opportunity for the pupils to further develop their problem-solving, teamwork and practical skills.

Dr Jonathan Laycock



# Science

...t learning opportunities for all pupils



## We have lift off!

THE new Silverdale Science Club was launched during the spring term. Sixty Year 7 pupils enthusiastically tackled their first chemistry experiment – making a gas cannon.

The challenge was to carry out a chemical reaction that would produce enough gas to fire an object through the air. Pupils shared a high level of precision, manipulative skill and teamwork as they produced cannons that fired an object the full length of the laboratory.

Prizes were awarded for the cannons that fired the best.

Dr Jonathan Laycock

Chemical reaction: Lydia Norton, Year 7.



## Chemistry camp for Ewan

YEAR 10 student Ewan Macpherson, a pupil in the Deaf Unit, has been successful in securing a place at one of the Salters' Chemistry Camps, to be held at the University of Leeds this summer.

The main aim of the camps is to enable young people to explore the fun of the subject. Ewan will have the opportunity to carry out experiments in the laboratories, which are not possible in school. He will also attend interesting lectures and visit local chemical industry sites.

Kathy Grieve



## Researcher in residence

AFTER taking A levels at Silverdale, I completed a Maths and Computer Science degree at Leicester University and a diploma in Bioinformatics. I am now back at the school, researching P2X receptors for my doctorate.

During National Science week, I encouraged pupils in Science education and tried to dispel stereotypes about scientists. I also presented some of my work to the pupils and hopefully, I inspired some of them towards a career in the subject.

Helen Digby



# Taste for Technology

SAINSBURY'S and the Design and Technology Association Awards for Food Technology are awarded to pupils who attain a high standard in their design briefs. Year 7 receive Bronze, Year 8 Silver and Year 9 Gold. Congratulations to the pupils who have won awards this year.

Meanwhile, a group of Year 8 pupils took part in a superb day at Sheffield Hallam University working with Design and Technology Initial Teaching Training students, designing and making aroma fans. They learnt how to design using CAD equipment and manufacture using laser technology.

In addition, our Young Engineers club is still attracting many students on Thursday evenings. A group of Year 8 pupils recently spent the day at Sheffield University in a competition run by the Institute of Civil Engineers. They made a model of the London Eye, winning a prize to visit and climb the Humber Bridge. Daniel Yeadon, Year 8, and Jonathan Hall, Year 7, have also both won monthly quick quizzes with the Young Engineers Club for Britain.

Pat Deans, Graham Parkes and Neil Pigott.

Budding baker: Mohammed Otmani, Year 8.

Breath of fresh air: Year 8 pupils with their aroma fans.



## Fairtrade fortnight raises funds



Working together: Pupils involved in the Fairtrade project.

SILVERDALE pupils are keen to learn about trade on a global scale and have been running a stall in their spare time to sell Fairtrade goods at break time. Fairtrade is not a company but an endorsement, signifying that the people who have produced the goods get a fair return for their labour.

A group of pupils have so far raised more than £200, and as part of Fairtrade fortnight, teachers Sue Scott and Daniel Rooke used Fairtrade as a theme for PHSE lessons.

Pupils have also worked in collaboration with pupils from Abbeydale Grange, Bradfield, Chaucer, Fir Vale and Myrtle Springs schools to understand the workings of international trade. The group is open to anyone who wants to find out more.

Chrissie Garnock-Jones

## We lead the way for boys' achievement

THIS academic year, we have been working as the "lead school" in a Leading Edge collaborative of schools. Bents Green Secondary, City and King Egbert's schools are working with us, with the aim of raising the achievement of boys using a range of creative approaches.

Last term, we organised a programme of activities at the Hollowford Centre in Castleton, which focused on

problem-solving and teambuilding skills, as well as training pupils to act as peer mentors for other pupils. Twenty Year 12 students and 60 Year 9 pupils have so far been involved across the schools. Work will begin with Year 6 pupils next term, using older pupils as role models and mentors. The programme has also set up its own website, designed to act as a place to exchange information and ideas.

Mike Pollard

Boys do better: Tom Geary, Year 9, Carl Giannotta, Year 12, Adam Long, Year 9, and Simon Gill, Year 12.



## Acting against the bullies

YEAR 7 pupils have been learning about friendships in PSHE, and as part of this work they have looked at the issue of bullying. Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils performed two plays to the pupils to compliment this work. Focusing on the areas of peer pressure and bullying, they proved to be an excellent way of highlighting these important issues to the younger pupils.

Sue Scott

Role play: Danielle Sellens, Katy Moore, Abdi Warsame and Ashleigh Gray, Year 10.



## High hopes for string ensemble

HIGHLY Strung, Silverdale School's talented resident string ensemble, recently performed to a packed audience in a lunchtime concert at the Crucible Studio in Sheffield. The event, organised by Music in the Round, involved more than 40 pupils who play in string ensembles from King Edward VII, High Storrs and Tapton schools.

Led by Martin Cropper, a professional

violinist, Highly Strung have been playing together since September. They meet every Monday lunchtime for rehearsals and have made fantastic progress as a result of their hard work and dedication.

Well done to band members Alys Dennis, Year 7, Hattie Seaborne, Year 9, Lucy Evans, Year 10, and Gordon Qin, Matthew Perkins and Alex Watson, Year 11.

Andrew Clarke

Tuned in: Band members Hattie Seaborne, Year 9, Lucy Evans, Year 10, and Alys Dennis, Year 7.



## Sarah takes to the stage

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of a host of famous celebrities such as Kim Metcalfe (who plays Sam Mitchell in *EastEnders*), Claire Sweeney and Lisa Scott-Lee from *Steps*, Year 13 student Sarah Holland has won a place to study at the prestigious Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.

We wish her good luck for the future and hope we will see her on television or even on the West End stage in a few years time.

Brenda Duszanskyj

Star quality: Sarah Holland, Year 13.



## Pupils switched on to electronics

YEAR 10 pupils Natasha Greatorex and Tom Rainforth recently attended the Electronic Engineering Experience at Harper Adams University College in Newport, Shropshire.

The four-day residential course began with an introduction to analogue and digital electronics, with practical activities. This was followed by a practical workshop and presentations on "Electronic and Electrical Engineering", where pupils were able to learn more about career prospects within the industry.

A design-and-make challenge also formed part of the course, allowing the pupils to explore new ideas with guidance from experienced professionals from industry. As well as working on the projects, students developed life skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, time management and social interaction.

Neil Pigott



Team work: The Under 19 basketball team.

## Great result for basketball team

THREE school basketball teams, the Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 19s have had phenomenal success in the English School National competitions this year. The Under 19 team met Ellesmere Port in the final of the competition, but eventually lost 76-62. The score, however, does not reflect the closeness of the game.

Success for the team is due not only to the hard work of the students but also the work of Paul Wheatley and external coach Frank Brady. The standard of individual skills is extremely high and both Sam Fearnley and Joe Hall, Year 11, have shown these as part of the English Schools Squad.

Barry Pape

On court: Joe Hall, Year 11.



## Masterclasses for all

OVER the course of the year, we have further developed our links with the wider community, and especially sports groups and clubs within it.

Silverdale has organised two girls' football roadshows, a basketball masterclass with Sheffield Sharks, a salsa dance workshop with A4e Dance Academy UK and badminton coaching at Abbeydale Sports Club.

AS and A2 level students can also now look forward to Sports Conferences at Manchester University and GCSE PE pupils have the opportunity to attend a Sportscene Careers Conference at the EIS in Sheffield.

## Sports in the community

FIFTEEN Year 12 students are currently near to completion of their Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA). They have led a group of Year 6 pupils from Ecclesall Junior School, who come to Silverdale for PE lessons. This has been a valuable experience for the leaders. It has also been a great activity for the Ecclesall pupils who have thoroughly enjoyed the visits. The students now have to complete two final sections of the course, a first aid qualification and ten hours of voluntary work.

The course is endorsed by the British Sports Trust and we wish all the leaders success in completing the final sections.

Liz Hughes

Year 12 students Jack Relton and Nicola Shaw with Year 6 pupils from Ecclesall Junior School.



## SPORTING ROUNDUP

OUR Year 8 rugby team are going to Twickenham, to represent South Yorkshire in the finals of the emerging Rugby Union schools competitions. Congratulations also go to our Year 9 team who recently beat King Edward VII School to win their age group Cup Final at the Hillsborough Hawks Rugby League ground.

The Under 12 netball squad have made a promising start winning seven out of eight matches and finishing third in the tournament and league. The Under 13 squad were runners-up in the Sheffield tournament, while the Under 14s won five matches and were semi-finalists and the

Under 15s won two matches in the tournament.

The football, hockey and tennis seasons have also been successful – congratulations to all players who have trained hard and played on all occasions.

The badminton team won at the finals of the Top Schools Competition, in Luton, and are now national champions.

We have had good results in cross-country at City Championships with Kate Macfarlane, Year 13, and Abbie Sadler, Year 7, coming in second position.

Helen Duffy

Tennis ace: Year 10 pupil Nadia Khan.

