

the voice

OF SILVERDALE SCHOOL

ISSUE 7 AUTUMN 2005



Prize winners

Our pupils showcase
their artwork

PAGE 7

What a result!

SILVERDALE upheld its high standards at every Key Stage in this year's public examinations. The efforts of teachers and pupils were rewarded with results that were once again well above national averages. At Key Stage 3 in English, Mathematics and Science, the percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above improved again this year. Nine out of ten students achieved at this level in all three subjects.

At GCSE the school enjoyed one of its best years with more than 82 per cent of pupils achieving at least five A*-C grades. More than a third of the grades achieved were at A* or A. There were some outstanding

individual results including Catherine Zhu who achieved a staggering twelve A* grades and Jennifer Pringle who achieved eleven A* grades. In all, 38 students achieved eight or more A* or A grades.

At A level it was a similar story of success with 58 per cent of grades at either A or B, with some outstanding individual achievements. Alex Jordan achieved five A grades, including marks in the top ten nationally in both General Studies and Government and Politics. Eight other students achieved four A grades and four students gained places at Oxford or Cambridge.

SATs success: Headteacher Helen Storey with Sam Almond and Katie Arundale, Year 9.



News in brief

● OUR new building planning process is gathering pace and we are looking forward to the next exciting phase of development. Three contractors have been selected to develop design briefs with us over the coming months. They are Kier, Inspired Spaces and Paradigm. From this process one private sector partner will be selected, hopefully around January 2006. Our planning application is also due to be considered which we hope will enable these processes to move forward.

● SILVERDALE School was invited to contribute to a "Learning in Partnership" event at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London in June. Joe Cavan, Year 9, and Chris Johns, Year 12, with City School student Thomas Squires, demonstrated the new website (www.lessonline.co.uk). The Director of the DfES's Innovation Unit described this as "a stunning contribution" to the success of the event.

Cutting edge of learning: Joe Cavan, Year 9.



● THE school has been so successful in achieving passes for MOS in Word, Excel and PowerPoint, achieved by Year 10, 11 and 12 pupils, that we have been granted a national award from Microsoft. Robert Wilson, Year 11, also achieved a top 25 score in the country in his MOS World online test.

● SEAN Whittton, Rosie Reading and Alexandra Kilcoyne, Year 9, won the Lord Lieutenant's VE/VJ Day Prize4 Competition when they read out their winning entry to Sheffield Cathedral's packed VE/VJ Day Commemoration Service in July.

● TWO teams of Year 12 Business Studies students invested £100,000 in share competitions. Congratulations to teams TUDA and The Watchful Eye who came first and second, winning prizes totalling almost £400.

Prize winners: The Watchful Eye who came second in the share competition.



Top team lead the way

THERE have been several changes in Silverdale's Senior Leadership Team this year. This has been due, in part, to retirement (of Rob Little) and, in part, to expansion, because of the school's new status as a Specialist Languages School from September 2005. Our current roles and responsibilities are:

Helen Storey	Headteacher
Charles Ponsford	Deputy Headteacher (14-19)
Michael Pollard	Deputy Headteacher (Key Stage 3 and Professional Development)
Jane Gregory	Assistant Headteacher (Student Support)
Tony Moore	Assistant Headteacher (Student Achievement)
Cathy Henderson	Assistant Headteacher (Specialist School Status)
Richard Exton	Bursar
Barry Outram	Senior Administrative Officer

Teaching and learning are key

FROM September 2005, our partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, School of Education, achieves a new status. This is Partnership Plus and Partnership Training, which reflects our wide range of subjects. We provide Initial Teacher Training to post-graduate students, and the high quality provision and expertise we offer includes subject mentoring and professional development. We also begin a new partnership with Sheffield University School of Education in Modern Foreign Languages and Geography. Our specialist language status will also enable the development of language links for Silverdale.

Meanwhile, the Key Stage 3 Strategy for Design & Technology was launched in June at the Bannerdale Teachers Centre. A video produced by the Design & Technology department using some of the teaching techniques outlined in the strategy, was very well received and is now being used with other schools.

In addition, Sue Scott, subject leader for Personal, Social and Health Education, has developed her skills this year by successfully completing the Certification of the Teaching of PSHE award.

Jane Gregory, Graham Parkes, Daniel Rooke and Helen Storey

Smooth transition for new language learners

DURING this academic year we are looking to deepen our links with our four main feeder schools. Claire Couzens has already been teaching French at Porter Croft School for two years, and she will also be teaching two afternoons a week from September

at Dobcroft School. Ann Evans will be doing the same at Ecclesall and Springfield schools.

We are looking forward to closer ties with our primary colleagues and hope to continue the excellent work that is already producing confident

and enthusiastic young language learners.

In June and July, we again ran a carousel of French activities including cheese-tasting, puppets and games in our feeder schools, which some of Silverdale's able linguists helped to conduct.



Year 6 pupils master new languages.



Final fling for A level students

MORE than 140 students and staff enjoyed a dinner dance at the Marriott Hotel to celebrate the end of their Year 13 studies in August – the day before the A level results were announced. All who attended had a great time.

Sarah Rockliff

Strong links with South African school

SILVERDALE School is celebrating the renewed support of the British Council for its partnership with a South African school. It is an all girls school called Inanda Seminary School situated near the town of Durban. Our link teacher came to visit Silverdale in July and a number of joint curriculum projects were discussed in subject areas such as Music, Performing Arts, Sport and Psychology. The partnership will hopefully lead to a variety of exciting projects for pupils and staff.

Cathy Henderson



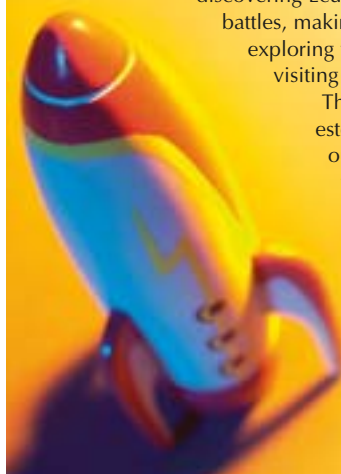
Action-packed summer school

THE Silverdale summer school continues to go from strength to strength with 50 transition pupils who opted to start at Silverdale two weeks early this year.

It was hardly surprising as they enjoyed activities including launching rockets, Sumo wrestling, writing a team anthem, discovering Ecuador, fighting past Scottish battles, making a film, playing Kabadi, exploring the Dr Who experience and visiting Scarborough beach.

The programme is a vital self-esteem and confidence booster for our new pupils and helps to ease the transition process. This vibrant introduction to Silverdale also allows pupils to get used to our culture in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

Paul Kent



International flavour to the curriculum

Journeys into the past



YEAR 7 Silverdale pupils arrived fully armed with their guide booklets when they visited Warwick Castle recently. The gatehouse wilted under the pressure and 170 marched in, avoiding murder holes and arrows. They swarmed over the Armoury, the Great Hall and the Motte and prepared for further battles in the Kingmaker exhibition. They also checked out the prisoners in the dungeon and torture chamber and some were brave enough to try the Ghost Chamber.

Meanwhile, Year 8 pupils visited the Beamish Open Air Museum where they discovered the 1913 town with its sweetshop, ironmongers and haberdasher; trams; the farm; the funfair and the village with its pit, cottages and schoolrooms where they could write on slates.

Ros Vingoe

Students follow the Inca Trail

FIFTEEN students and two staff had an unforgettable experience for a month this summer. Flying out to South America in July, their first week was spent in a village school outside Machachi, Ecuador, painting a mural and getting to know the locals. The trip also included white-water rafting, climbing a volcano – Mount Ruminahui – and a three-day trek on the Inca Trail looking at the best preserved Inca remains in Ecuador.

The party then linked up with the Shui Indians and spent four days experiencing life in the jungle. For most people this was the highlight of an amazing trip. One student said: "This visit has far exceeded my expectations. I have seen and done things I never thought possible."

In two years, we hope to go on a similar expedition to Thailand and Cambodia.



Trips of a lifetime

THIS August, eight Sixth Form students went to South Africa as part of a group mission trip organised by Nail the Truth Youth ministries. They were involved in planting gardens, so that people can grow their own vegetables, and worked with children in townships. The students have been fundraising for months and were very excited to be taking part in such a worthwhile project.

Meanwhile, former Year 13 student Jenny Kelly has been placed on a project in China with the Project Trust organisation. She will spend a full year in Jiangmen, giving her the chance to really integrate with the community and become an effective member of a team. This will be the experience of a lifetime and we wish her well.

Sarah Rockliff

Mission accomplished: Jennifer Carney, Year 13, who went to South Africa.



A taste of France

SIXTY Year 8 pupils and six staff visited Chateau Molay in Normandy, France for a four-day study trip in June. Highlights included a visit to a caramel factory, a goats' cheese farm, the Bayeux Tapestry and a trip to the local market for ingredients to make an innovative and healthy lunch. Competition was fierce but the chateau chef chose Lucy Vickers, Gabrielle Haslam and Kate and Sophie Davies as the winners.

Anne Evans

Enrichment activities for all

WE provided some fantastic enrichment opportunities for our pupils during the summer term.

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a joint Biology and Geography field trip to Padley Gorge in the Peak District. Pupils spent half a day catching and identifying insects, stream sampling and using line transects. They also undertook a disabled access study in Castleton.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students enjoyed a three-day residential in Llanberis, North Wales, where they spent

time at Newborough Warren on Anglesey looking at sand dune succession and rare orchids and also another morning involved determining the biotic index of a local river.

In addition, we have continued our commitment to provide fieldwork opportunities for all our Geography pupils this year. Year 7 and Year 12 Geographers investigated various aspects of the Porter Brook in Sheffield while Year 10 pupils collected data for their coursework around the Longshaw Estate.



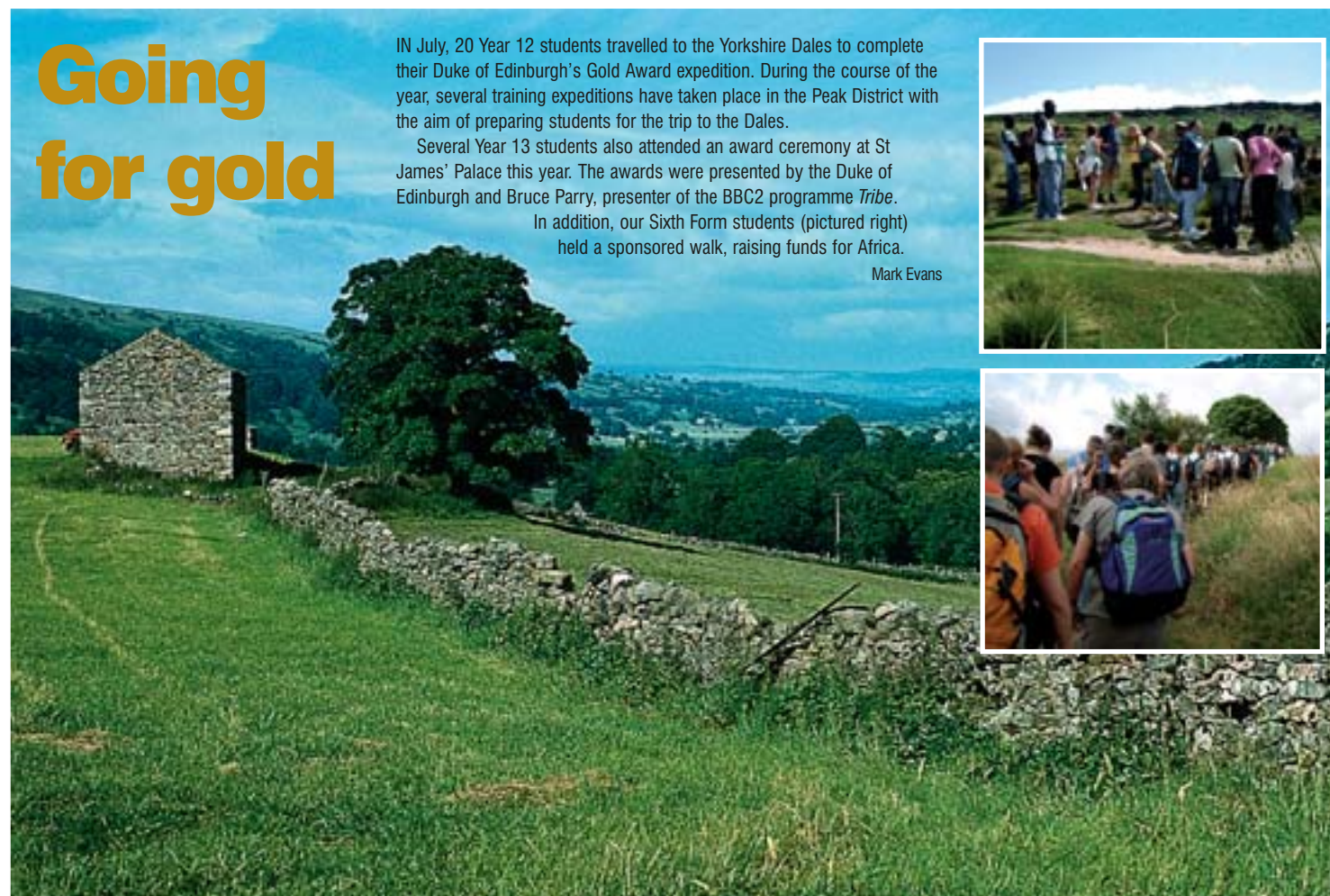
Going for gold

IN July, 20 Year 12 students travelled to the Yorkshire Dales to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award expedition. During the course of the year, several training expeditions have taken place in the Peak District with the aim of preparing students for the trip to the Dales.

Several Year 13 students also attended an award ceremony at St James' Palace this year. The awards were presented by the Duke of Edinburgh and Bruce Parry, presenter of the BBC2 programme *Tribe*.

In addition, our Sixth Form students (pictured right) held a sponsored walk, raising funds for Africa.

Mark Evans



Spanish amigos visit Sheffield

A GROUP of 17 Year 10 and 11 pupils took part in an exchange with the Maria Moliner state secondary school in Sagunto in Valencia, Spain earlier this year, with a return visit from their Spanish partners in June.

Pupils got on well and had a great time on both visits learning a lot about different languages, cultures and ways of life. Academically and socially it was a great success and we hope it will continue next year.

Exchange students Czech out Yorkshire

A GROUP of pupils from the Czech Republic visited Sheffield in June. They went to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, York Minster, Chatsworth, Bakewell Market, Sheffield City Centre, and were hosted by the Lord Mayor. They also took part in the Year 12 Independence Day and had fun laser questing. Pupils in Years 10 and 12 were perfect hosts, and we are due to visit Brno, Czech Republic, in the autumn term.

Graeme MacDonald

Experiencing the world of work

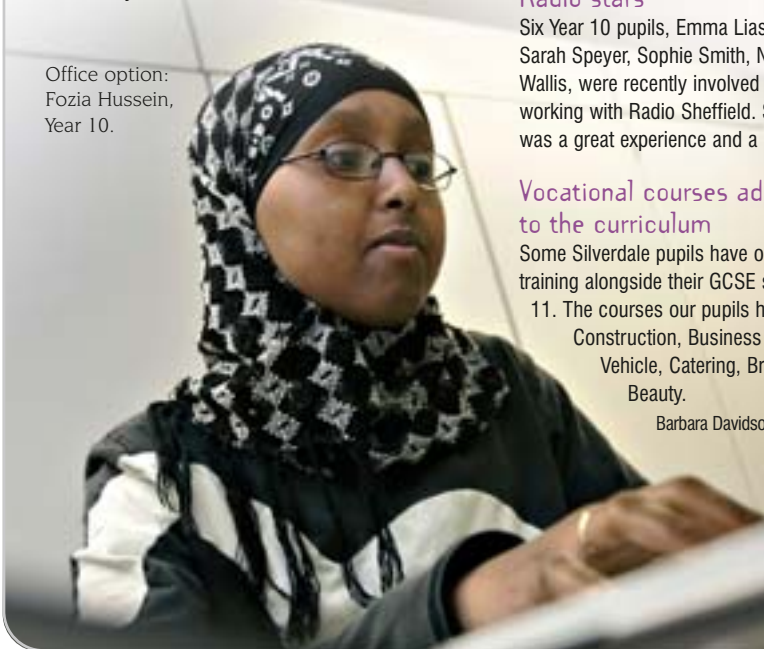
Workshops help pupils make choices

SILVERDALE pupils have recently attended three workshops linked to Careers. Sport at the English Institute of Sport included all the options available in the field from physiotherapy to coaching. Meanwhile, Vision Mix at the Showroom cinema offered workshops and stands from media organisations and an Army exhibition at Catterick engaged 42 students in an active day sampling all the careers available in the Army, from engineering to catering.

Pupils work wonders

Meanwhile, Year 10 pupils undertook their work experience placements at the end of the summer term. This involved numerous diverse experiences from working at solicitors to garages. The experience has helped a number of students decide on a career or course they would like to follow after Year 11.

Office option:
Fozia Hussein,
Year 10.



Childcare choice: Sophie Smith, Year 10, worked at a local nursery.

Top placements

A number of pupils also take part in extended work placements where they attend a workplace of their choice on a regular basis throughout the year. Some Year 11 pupils have been very lucky and secured an apprenticeship with these placements.

Radio stars

Six Year 10 pupils, Emma Liasides, Ruth Mackin, Sarah Speyer, Sophie Smith, Nadia Khan and Abbi Wallis, were recently involved in the Children's Festival working with Radio Sheffield. Sarah Speyer said: "It was a great experience and a lot of fun."

Vocational courses add variety to the curriculum

Some Silverdale pupils have opted to do vocational training alongside their GCSE studies in Years 10 and 11. The courses our pupils have attended include Construction, Business Administration, Motor Vehicle, Catering, Brickwork and Hair and Beauty.

Barbara Davidson



A career in the army: Pupils discovered options available to them.



Visits inspire students to aim high

DURING the summer term, Year 12 students were busy preparing for their next steps into Higher Education. Included in this programme were events such as the UCAS convention at Sheffield Arena, which gave information about many universities, as well as aspects of student life such as finance. In addition, all Year 12 students also attended a day's workshop at Sheffield University.

As well as the numerous Open Days held around the country, the school also organised specific visits to Oxford and Cambridge for those interested in applying.

Caitlin Procter, Year 13

Job options overseas

NINE Year 10 pupils recently took part in a two-week work experience visit to Bochum in Germany and Zaragoza in Spain, the first stage of an exchange organised by WEBS (Work Experience Bochum Sheffield). They stayed with German and Spanish host families and worked in kindergartens, hotels, offices and schools. Their partners will be coming to visit Sheffield in the autumn term.

While it was the third year of involvement for the German department, this was the first visit for the Spanish department. All the pupils gained a valuable insight into their host country's culture and way of life as well as improving their language understanding and fluency.

Music to our ears

THE summer term saw two exciting musical events take place for Silverdale pupils. The school's choir, conducted by Anna Wright, joined forces with Dobcroft School choir and students from Bents Green Special School to perform in a charity gala concert, called "Sing Now! 2005". They were also joined by former members of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and "Sosa Xa", a South African singing group. The choirs performed a rich variety of popular choral music, including *Zadok the Priest* and songs from musicals. More than 150 singers took part in the event at All Saints Church, Ecclesall and a similar event is planned for next year.

Following this, six of our Year 10 GCSE Music students, Ian Eccles, Matt Tuck, Gwen Harrison, Sam Glossop, Ellie Parr and Lucy Evans, who have been working hard on a special music project, had their GCSE music compositions selected to be played by professional musicians from the Northern Chamber Orchestra. The PowerPlus involved student compositions from Fir Vale, King Egbert and Stocksbridge High Schools and the pieces were played to a packed audience at the Crucible Studio concert space.

Andrew Clarke

Singing sensations: Alys Dennis, Lorna Hedley, Harriet Beaney and Grace Freeman, Year 7.



Young Artist of the Year: Hannah Latham, Year 13.

A wealth of artistic talents

Hannah's amazing artwork

HANNAH Latham, Year 13, entered one of her excellent pictures for the Young Artist of the Year exhibition at Ponds Forge. She won first prize, which was an engraved silver salver and her picture featured in the great Sheffield Art Show.

Webb's a winner

TOM Webb, Year 7, entered his picture of a skydiver for an art competition at the Millennium Gallery in the Winter Gardens. He said the message of the picture was "Be what you want to be and be free". He came third place, winning art equipment.

Digital art on display

TWENTY Year 8 and 9 pupils have had their digital art exhibited at the Workstation as part of the Children's Festival. The work has already been to Poland as part of the Comenius project.

In addition, an exhibition of work submitted by the Year 8 Art Group is on show at the Workstation, entitled "Sheffield Environment and People". Craig Longmuir employed the help of a digital artist to produce impressionistic-styled material as part of the Comenius project. Year 9 Design & Technology students also produced posters and graphic designs which were displayed in the school foyer.

Latin influences

THE Children's Festival was based on the theme of Latin and South America this year. Sixteen Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to work with Andrew Wynne learning the art of Shibori, a method of tie-dye and a further 16 pupils designed carnival silk streamers using printing and batik work.

Another workshop for Year 9 pupils who have chosen to do GCSE Art next year involved creating four large oil paintings on the theme of Mayan culture. They worked with artist Andrew Heath and the artwork produced was displayed during the Children's Festival in July.



Print works: Pupils try batik.

Buggies and bridges

IN June, one of our feeder schools, Ecclesall, took part in the KNEX Challenge run by Young Engineers. The two days were excellent and involved pupils from Years 3 to 6 building a Space Buggy. The experience gave the youngsters an early taste of engineering.

Meanwhile, winning teams of Year 8 pupils also took part in a competition to build a replica of the Millennium Wheel at Sheffield University. Our team was the runner-up and won a trip to the Humber Bridge, with the bridge master Peter Hill.

Neil Pigott

Badminton boys beat the competition

THE Under 14 boys' badminton team keeps going from strength to strength. George Brown, Will Hall, George Hargreaves and Sam Watson won three major titles during the 2004/5 season. They are the Under 14 Yorkshire Schools Champions, beating Salt Grammar 7-0 in the final, and also Under 15 Yorkshire Schools Champions beating St Aidens, York, 4-3 in the final.

The highlight of the season must be winning the title of "Top School" at Under 14 level. The team competed in the finals of this competition, at Luton, beating schools from all over England.

Helen Duffy

What a racket! Year 9 pupils Sam Watson (front) with George Brown and George Hargreaves.



Inter-form football and rounders

INTER-FORM competitions in the form of football and rounders took place at the end of the summer term. Enthusiastic form members gave their all to win the new inter-form shield.

Our Year 10 pupils started their competition two weeks early before their work experience placements and they thoroughly enjoyed a full morning of football for boys and rounders for girls.

We also held our annual sports day for Years 7 and 8. The pupils were very excited to be competing for honours at the excellent facilities at Woodburn Road Athletics Stadium.

Paul Bradshaw

Bowled over: Ben Elmore, Year 7, taking part in the school sports day.



Kate's a skiing champion

KATE Williams, Year 9, became the British Women's Moguls Champion in Germany in March and retained the female "Top Gun" award at the Yorkshire Snowsports Championships held in Sheffield as the best overall female competitor in a day of racing and freestyle skiing.

She has also been selected for the England Freestyle Development Squad, trains regularly at Sheffield Ski Village, and undertook training in France during the summer.

Helen Duffy



"Top Gun": Kate Williams, Year 9.

Adam's an ace cricketer

IN Year 9 cricket fixtures, Adam Burkinshaw has performed at a level that has only been previously achieved by former Silverdale pupil and England cricket captain Michael Vaughan. In games against Abbeydale Grange, High Storrs and Tapton he has scored 113 not out, 16 not out and 97 not out.

Ably supported by other Year 9 and a couple of Year 8 pupils, the team met Birley in the Sheffield Schools final. Batting first, Birley scored 88 for 6 and Silverdale comfortably passed the target by scoring 92 for 1 in the 13th over. Tom Geary scored 20 not out and once again Adam Burkinshaw scored 44 not out bringing his total for the school's season to 270.

Congratulations to Adam on his own performances and to the other team members for their well deserved success.



Girls race for life

IN May, a group of female pupils from Years 7 to 13 joined 5,000 women and girls, in the Race for Life, at the Bowl in Sheffield. The atmosphere was terrific, with a sense of determination – everyone having the same aim of remembering those and helping people who suffer from cancer. The girls completed the 5km enthusiastically and they can be certain that their support and money raised will make a difference.

Helen Duffy

Sports promotion

PAUL Bradshaw and Liz Hughes have been appointed Silverdale School Sports Co-ordinators commencing this term. They take on the new role promoted and supported by the Youth Sports Trust to develop PE and after-school provision for sport in our family of schools including our primaries. These include Ecclesall Infants and Junior, Dobcroft Infant and Junior, Springfield Primary, Clifford CE Infants and Porter Croft CE.

With the fantastic achievement of securing the 2012 Olympic Games in London, it is a great opportunity to encourage our young people to get involved in sport. We hope to raise the profile of PE in all the schools and improve the provision and variety of good quality after-school clubs for pupils to attend.