

# the voice

OF SILVERDALE SCHOOL

ISSUE 9 SUMMER 2006



## Make the connection

The project that's speaking up for cultural awareness

PAGES 8-9

# The future Silverdale

## A celebration of our success

MORE than a hundred parents came into school in March to "Celebrate the New Silverdale".

The event aimed to raise awareness of issues relating to the new building and give parents an opportunity to raise concerns. Laurence Jones, Project Officer for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), and Headteacher Helen Storey addressed key

aspects of the process and how we propose to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

Parents expressed excitement about much that they heard and raised questions at the round-table discussions that followed. "It was the most useful school event I've been involved in," commented one parent.

This solid basis bodes well for the consultation and planning period, which will follow the announcement of the preferred bidder in May.

More details about the event and responses to the issues raised by the BSF project can be accessed via the school website, [www.silverdaleschool.org.uk](http://www.silverdaleschool.org.uk)

Mike Pollard, Deputy Headteacher

## The pupils' voice

THE BSF project is also generating considerable excitement and interest among pupils.

Co-ordinated by the school council, groups of pupils worked on audio diaries earlier in the year to help the companies bidding for the project develop their designs. Using school council meetings and assemblies, the School Leadership Team has tried to keep pupils up to date and informed about the latest developments.

The pupils' voice will be a vital element during this term's consultation and they have a key role to play in creating "the New Silverdale".

Mike Pollard

Members of the student council: Samantha Colleyshaw and Simon Davies, Year 11.



## Student achievements

WE were pleased to welcome back the class of 2005 in December to receive their A level certificates and have some notable individual achievements recognised.

Alex Jordan, pictured right with Headteacher Helen Storey, won the first Award for Annual Academic Achievement presented by Sheffield Hallam University in recognition of his outstanding overall achievement. Two students gained university places at Oxford and two at Cambridge.

Other merits included the Aubrey Taylor Memorial Prize in Chemistry, awarded to Katherine Fitzpatrick, the George Biggins Prizes for achievement and for services to the school – to Sarah Brown and Hannah Latham, respectively – and the Charly Cantor Memorial Prize in Creative Writing, to Robert Henneberry.



## New website launch

REQUESTS from parents led to a recent makeover of the school's website.

It will now be developed as a means of improving communication between the school and all its stakeholders. The site is full of information about departments, staff roles and the curriculum, as well as being a source of information about the Governors and the Parents' Association.

The weekly bulletin is also now published online, as are important school dates, a full calendar and letters relating to school trips, events and revision sessions. The website is updated weekly and plans are under way to make further content available.

We intend to use the website as a key part of the consultation process for the new school – feedback to questions raised at the "Celebrating the New Silverdale" event will also be published online.

Richard Crowther

Logged on: Parent Gill Hedley, with her son Ben Robinson, Year 8.



## It's show time!

THERE was a definite cinematic flavour to the school's first three-day dance festival, held in April.

"Dance, Dance, Dance" showcased the amazing talent of Silverdale pupils, with more than a hundred dancers performing each evening along with youngsters from our feeder primaries. More than 25 pupils assisted with the design and production of stage flats, selling and collecting of tickets, front of house, costumes and makeup.

The dancing was superb, with renditions from *Wild Wild West*, *Chicago*, *Bombay Dreams*, *Austin Powers*, *Bring It On*, *CATS*, *Billy Elliot*, *Flashdance* and *Saturday Night Fever*, with a diversity of dance styles from hip hop, street dance and contemporary to ballet, tap and traditional and theatrical dance.

The sound, lights and costumes were all spectacular, and the audience appreciative of the hard work and excellent performances by all involved.

This year has seen dance grow and develop at Silverdale School like never before. With trips to see performances of *Stomp* and *CATS*, master classes by the Northern Contemporary School of Dance, the introduction of street dance sessions through the Westfield School Sport Partnership and the many extra-curricular clubs, dance has proved immensely popular with girls and boys from all year groups.

Helen Duffy



Dancing queens: Eleanor Allbones, with Sarah Bird and Anna Cryan, Year 11.



Top performances: Year 7 pupils Lily Olpin and Rosie Smith.

## Pupils have their say

THE school council plays an important role in the running of the school, and has made many significant changes and improvements to the school and its ethos.

"We get involved with lots of issues, such as the dinner-queue shelter – we took pupils' views further so that something could be done about it," says Samantha Colleyshaw, Year 11.

"The council has also played a role on the BSF project, making sure that pupils get a say in what the new school will be like. Charity events are another important activity, and we are hoping to get a yearbook organised for Year 11," adds Samantha.

As part of a continued bid for improvement, four council members are currently undertaking a training programme to help the council become even more productive and efficient.

Ross Graham

Speak out: Year 8 pupils James Smith, Abbie Guerrier-Sadler, Fatemeh Aarabi and Ben Miller.



Training for the future: Ros Wilson and Sheila Handley.

## Staff brush up their skills

TWO support staff members underwent training for the Introductory Certificate in First Line Management (ILM), which is a six-day course held over four weeks.

The course will provide our Office Manager and Examinations Officer with a transferable, recognised qualification and enhance their skills and prospects in the workplace. The programme aims to enable potential managers to develop the skills, knowledge and positive attitude needed to lead, develop and motivate teams and individuals.

A further three members of our support staff – Key Stage 4 and 5 Administrators and the Premises Manager – will be taking the course later in the year.

Sheila Handley

## Self-assessment brings results

THE Geography department has had great success in employing new Learning & Teaching strategies – particularly elements of the Assessment for Learning initiative.

Year 8 pupils produced a group-prepared presentation to assess the effectiveness of flood control in Bangladesh. They were then responsible

for the assessment of their own work and that of other class members. They worked independently to produce some fantastic presentations and said they greatly enjoyed being involved in the assessment process.

"It makes a big difference to how I start work if I know exactly what the teacher wants," commented one pupil.

John Hamshaw

## Let's do lunch

A TEAM of Sixth Form supervisors has been appointed to ensure pupils enjoy a safe and productive lunchtime.

Thirty Year 12 students took up their positions having successfully submitted letters of application and received basic training. They will monitor all areas of the school, and the school council has been consulted on how best these supervisors can be used, not only to ensure a safe environment but also to provide activities in addition to the lunchtime clubs run by the various departments.

Chas Ponsford

Sixth Form supervisors: Students Amy Webster and Eleanor McAra with our younger pupils.



# Science throughout the school

## The appliance of science

THIS year's Science Week calendar included several new events alongside established favourites and reached across a number of departments in school, including Maths, Psychology and Design & Technology.

Year 12 D&T students headed to Sheffield University for a day of activities ranging from expert lectures to hands-on tasks designed to give an insight into the fascinating area of sports engineering.

Year 8 pupils spent a fun afternoon when a visiting expert from the Construction Industry

Well-structured: Robyn Butcher, James Sykes and Alex Allen, Year 8.



Training Board set them the challenge of building a giant tetrahedron in the school hall. Great teamwork and careful thought led to an impressive final product.

In the Science department, Key Stage 3 pupils enjoyed special events including fire writing, scavenger hunts and meeting exotic animals. Sixth Form biologists were a great help at the Anatomy for Beginners session, helping to demonstrate the dissection of various "parts" to those Year 8 and 9 pupils who enjoy the more gruesome side of Science.

Jane Hall, Head of Science

Emma Haslam, Year 7, with one of our visitors.



## A taste of the food industry

AS part of Science Week, 21 Year 10 Food Technology pupils visited Sheffield Hallam University

to gain practical experience using industrial-scale equipment.

Having spent time in the labs studying food-poisoning bacteria and taking part in preference-tasting sessions, the group was set the task of devising a product using a canning machine and an ice-cream maker.

"It was a really interesting day out – we all enjoyed it a lot," commented one of the pupils involved.

Pat Deans



## Maths team up to the challenge

SIX teams from Years 8 to 13 took part in the 2006 Pop Maths Quiz – a pub-quiz-style event with 20 very challenging maths problems to solve – organised by Sheffield Hallam University.

The Year 8 team competing in the Key Stage 3 event beat schools from all over South Yorkshire, winning a book token and a plaque each, plus £50 for the school and an impressive trophy.

The Year 11 team also did well, and were only three marks behind the overall winners at the Key Stage 4 event.

The quiz came at the end of a busy week in which Year 10 and 11 pupils had been given puzzles to solve by visiting university scientists, and Year 10 pupils were shown a presentation on how census data is used to inform government decision-making.

Phil Christopher

Winning formula: Members of the Year 8 Maths team.



# A global approach to learning

## A placement in the sun

TWO Year 10 pupils took part in the second ten-day work experience exchange with two secondary school pupils from Zaragoza in Spain. Frances Taylor and Tierney Green stayed with the families of their exchange partners and

undertook a programme of work experience in their hotel and primary school placements. "It was a great experience," said Frances. "We both got a lot out of our time in Spain." Margaret Rutherford

## Studies in Spain

MARCH was an intense month for some of our Year 10 pupils and Year 12 students. As part of the Spanish Intensive Study Visit, an 18-strong group undertook a full programme of language practise and extension sessions, project work and cultural visits in the Alicante region of Spain on the Costa Blanca, with Margaret Rutherford and Chilean Language Assistant Eduardo Tapia Fuentes. "It was certainly intensive, but it was also great fun," said one Year 12 student.

## South African visit



Partner pupils: Girls from the Inanda Seminary School.

FOLLOWING our visit to South Africa in October last year, we are delighted to be hosting three teachers, one from the Inanda Seminary, our partner school in Durban, and two from other local schools in the area.

Inanda Seminary is an independent school for girls 25km north-west of Durban. It is one of the leading black boarding schools for girls in southern Africa. In its core philosophy it seeks to uphold Christian values and African tradition and heritage.

The aim of the partnership is to learn from each other, and three main focus areas have been chosen – Tackling Aids, Students' Voice and Children's Rights.

Our visitors will enjoy a wide programme of activities, spending time in three separate secondary schools – Hinde House, Yewlands and Silverdale. They will observe and join in lessons, meet pupils from the school councils and take guided tours of the schools' catchment areas. There are also



plans for them to attend an array of performances in Drama, Music and Dance. You can browse the Inanda Seminary website at [www.inanda.kzn.school.za](http://www.inanda.kzn.school.za)

Cathy Henderson

## Youngsters get a taste for languages



French lesson: Claire Couzens with Dobcroft pupils.



Dobcroft pupils take part in fun learning activities.

THE teaching of languages in our four feeder primary schools is proving to be an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for all concerned. At Ecclesall and Springfield, Year 6 pupils recently wrote their own mini monster books based on the *Grand Monstre Vert* storybook. At Dobcroft, Year

6 pupils studied animals and pets using internet resources and are now preparing for a trip to Paris. Year 5 pupils completed a taster course in German, which involved literally tasting a selection of German foods, before moving on to Spanish for beginners, which will continue to the year's end. Anne Evans

and Claire Couzens are enjoying getting to know their pupils better and seeing their confidence and skills develop in early language learning, which will be of real benefit when they arrive at Silverdale in Year 7.

Cathy Henderson

## German drama

THINGS took a theatrical turn last year for our Key Stage 3 German pupils. Year 9 pupils attended a play in October called *Auf dem Camping Platz*, a comedy set in a German campsite, which was brilliantly performed by the Onatti Theatre Company. The German AS group also got the acting bug, and decided to organise and stage a pantomime based on the German version of *Snow White* known as *Schneewittchen*. Year 8 pupils were treated to the performance, which was enjoyed by actors and audience alike.

Katrin Sredzki-Seamer

Year 9 pupils watch the German play.



## Students bank on sponsorship

LAST year HSBC sponsored Silverdale's bid to become a language college. Since then we have a developing relationship with the bank as a member of the "family of schools" that they support.

This included some very exciting opportunities for students, such as HSBC Scholarships – three Year 13 students have been successful in securing scholarship places for the summer. Fiona Mathews will go to Brazil, Catherine Tucknutt to India and Deena Samachetty to China. We look forward to reading their reports in the next edition of *The Voice*.

Meanwhile, several Silverdale students took part in an annual Leadership Conference weekend at Nottingham University, run by HSBC and the Girls' Day School Trust.

HSBC also provided two fully sponsored places – worth £1,000 each – for Silverdale students on the Tall Ships race. David Flemming and Joseph Cox will take up their places during the summer.

Helen Storey

Set for adventure: Fiona Mathews and Catherine Tucknutt, Year 13, who will be travelling abroad.



## Chinese New Year

YEAR 12 students took an active part in Chinese New Year celebrations in January, welcoming in the Year of the Dog with the help of Chinese Assistant Helen Wu.

Several activities were organised, including a lesson in Chinese cookery, which resulted in some very tasty dishes. Students prepared banners in Chinese using ink and brushes for displays, and Headteacher Helen Storey devoted all her assemblies that week to the traditional celebrations of the Chinese New Year.

Cathy Henderson



# Our Comenius community – creating friendships and understanding

The Comenius project encourages transnational co-operation and exchanges between schools by promoting intercultural awareness and a sense of European belonging



Poland trip: Graeme MacDonald and Craig Longmuir with Year 13 students Frances Naylor, Shani Daqa-Shawsmith and Emily Vickers.



Youth expression: James Chester, Hannah Raine and Will Jordan, Year 12, make their film.



Time out: Molly Yorke, Year 9, makes her clock.

### Presentation in Poland

AS part of the school's participation in the Comenius Project, Graeme MacDonald and Mark Evans travelled with student representatives Frances Perraudin and Bethan Jones, Year 12, to Gdansk in Poland to meet teachers and students from our seven partner countries.

Over the five days the group took part in various team-building experiences and day trips, including a visit to an amber factory, the Port of Gdansk and a museum about the Solidarity movement, which helped Poland to gain independence from the Soviet government.

### Focus on culture

Frances introduced an excellent PowerPoint presentation on British culture produced by the Year 12 Comenius Club. Bethan also gave a superb presentation on British art, and the multicultural audience from Poland, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Romania gave the two pieces a very warm reception.

### Stamp of approval

Also on show were examples of Year 9 posters and Comenius clocks. Copies of our posters are now on display in our partner countries' schools. Our Belgium partner wrote to the Belgian postal service and managed to have one of our posters made into an official stamp, which was then sent on

an addressed letter to Silverdale School. Craig Longmuir, Head of Art, also hired the expertise of a digital photographer, then produced digital images of Sheffield people and environment with Year 8 pupils. These were displayed as part of the Children's Festival in the Workstation.

### Multicultural Britain

Mark Evans gave a talk entitled "Man and Nature", using a series of pictures offering an impressive view of the Peak District and showing a range of activities such as climbing, abseiling, walking and cycling, all with the national park's dramatic backdrop.

Frances and Bethan stole the evening, however, with their presentation of a typically British meal – chicken tikka masala. This illustrated the cultural hybridity indicative of the positive aspects of multicultural Britain, as it is said the dish was invented in Glasgow when a customer demanded sauce with his meal.

### May meeting

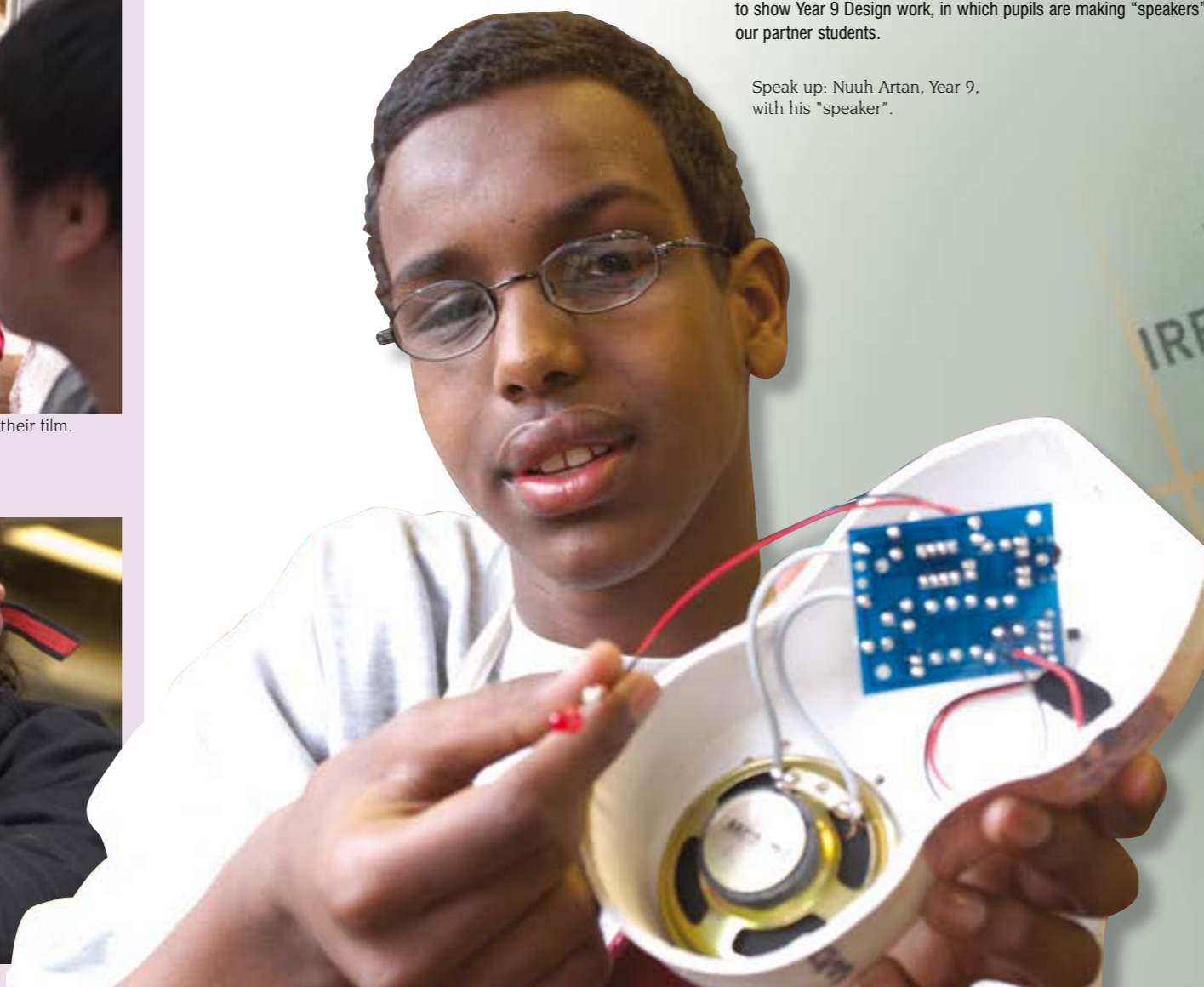
The next Comenius meeting is scheduled for May. In preparation the Comenius Club is producing a film highlighting youth expression in the form of art and design and technology in Silverdale School.

Year 8 pupils will exhibit artwork based on "European Buildings" found in our partner countries, and Year 13 students will display coursework focusing on the environment in Germany and Sheffield. We also hope to show Year 9 Design work, in which pupils are making "speakers" to give to our partner students.

Speak up: Nuuh Artan, Year 9, with his "speaker".



On display: Pupils look at works of art at the Workstation.



# Mentors make a difference

LEADING Edge is a scheme offering Year 12 students the opportunity to mentor pupils in Year 9 at Silverdale and City School.

Two fun-filled days were spent on a team-building residential weekend in Castleton. The activities boosted everyone's confidence and helped to build teamwork while working on coaching and mentoring techniques.

The dynamic team-building process did not stop after Castleton. Year 12 students have regular meetings with Year 9 pupils to discuss progress in school attendance and any worries about their forthcoming exams. The project gave the students who took part a worthwhile and inspiring opportunity to help others.

Next year, pupils in Year 9 will act as mentors to Year 7 pupils new to Silverdale.

Meanwhile, a team of Year 12 Paired Readers have been working with Year 7 pupils to improve reading skills. This is an important aspect of the school's continued quest to improve standards of literacy. The students received training from the Reading Matters team based at the Bannerdale Centre and have been putting these new skills into practice since January. One student commented that she had "really enjoyed the work – particularly as it is helping young pupils to develop their confidence".

Abi Boswell and Celine Moor, Year 12



Reading partners: Georgina Fairest, Year 12, with Year 7 pupil Tim Ingram.

# Teatime at the Town Hall

TO promote the awareness-raising Fairtrade Fortnight, Chrissie Garnock-Jones ran a competition to design a poster featuring the Fairtrade logo.

The winner, Lucy Patrick, Year 8, was treated to tea and biscuits in the Lord Mayor's parlour and a tour round the civic buildings, and even sat in the Mayor's chair in the Council Chambers. "It was really interesting," said Lucy. "I especially enjoyed sitting in the Mayor's chair."

The Psychology department is always looking for new ways to encourage students to achieve their personal best and this year was keen to recognise the efforts of those who have made significant personal progress with test results.

The proud winner was Melissa Wilde, Year 12, who was also treated to a private tour of the civic buildings. "It was a day to remember," said Melissa.

Competition winners: Melissa Wilde, Year 12, and Lucy Patrick, Year 8, with the Lord Mayor.



# Readers cast their votes

THE Sheffield School Book Award is an annual event in which Silverdale takes part in voting for the winning title.

Keen readers from Silverdale join other Sheffield schools to read the six short-listed "longer novels" and vote for the winner. Last year's prize went to *Looking for JJ* – several students attended the awards ceremony and met the author, Anne Cassidy.

During the summer we will read this year's short-listed titles and vote for our favourites, before attending the awards ceremony in the autumn.

Alison Parker

# Achievement is the aim

THE school is involved in various initiatives to raise the achievement of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) pupils at all levels.

Year 7 pupils are participating in the Black Pupil Achievement Programme, which aims to raise literacy levels with the help of Year 12 paired readers and adult volunteers, and promote sporting participation through community links.

Year 10 pupils are mentoring a cohort of Year 7 pupils as part of the Sheffield Junior Fellowship scheme, with the long-term aim of improving BME participation in Higher Education. Meanwhile, Year 11 pupils attended a residential weekend alongside students from other South Yorkshire schools to promote awareness of Higher Education opportunities.

Tony Moore

# Rock on

THE third Battle of the Bands was a great success, where pupils demonstrated their song-writing talent and performing ability in front of an enthusiastic audience.

Ten rock bands took to the stage over the course of the evening, with many memorable performances by groups ranging in age from Year 8 up to Year 13.

After much deliberation the judges had the difficult job of deciding on the three prizes. The band Subdued was voted the Key Stage 3 winner, and for Key Stages 4 and 5 the prize went to I'd Rather Bungee. The overall winners were The Fix, featuring Tom Matthews, Year 11, on vocals/guitar, Ed Allen, Year 11, on lead guitar and Daniel O'Brien, Year 12, on drums.

Andrew Clarke



In a Fix: Daniel O'Brien, Year 12, and Tom Matthews, Year 11.

# Artists exhibit their talents

NICOLE White, Year 12, and Joe Colleyshaw, Year 9, were named "Sheffield Young Painters of the Year" in their respective age categories.

They met the Lord Mayor in the Town Hall, were photographed by the press and received engraved salvers. Their paintings were on show at Ponds Forge in April and will be exhibited again during the summer at the Great Sheffield Art Show. Many other Silverdale pupils also had their paintings exhibited at Ponds Forge.

Meanwhile, able and enthusiastic Year 9 pupils will be working with three local artists to produce

exciting artworks for the Children's Festival, which will focus on Islamic art. Three workshops will produce a Moorish screen, jali craftwork and digital image manipulation. The exhibition is in the Millennium Gallery, and the resulting artwork will be on display at the Workstation from 17 June to 22 July.

In addition, students in Year 8 used the internet to research the architecture from our Comenius partner countries. They selected particular buildings which had distinctive features and then produced an artistic representation using mixed media.

Craig Longmuir

Danielle Archer, Louise Jackson and Freya Drew, Year 8, put the finishing touches to their Comenius pictures.



Young Painter of the Year: Joe Colleyshaw, Year 9.





The cross-country team in action.

## Champs on the run

OUR cross-country teams have had another successful season, with some fantastic individual and team performances.

Laura Savage, Year 7, won all of her races to become both League and City champion.

Our intermediate boys' team of James Muggleton, James Agar, David Sanderson – all Year 11 – and Oliver Sly, Year 10, won

both the League and City championships, and deserve special mention for their outstanding reliability since Year 7.

David Spilman, Year 9, and Ella Castle, Year 8, were subsequently selected to run for South Yorkshire at the National Schools championship.

Helen Duffy

## All-round athlete

ONLY first place is good enough for Year 7 pupil Laura Savage.

That's where she has been placed in all the cross-country competitions in Sheffield this season and at the City championship at Graves.

Not only is Laura a top cross-country runner, she has also played tennis for Yorkshire and is now representing South Yorkshire in hockey in the Under 13 age group.

Helen Duffy

Sports star: Laura Savage, Year 7.



## Netballers train with the best

THE Year 9 netball squad enjoyed a fantastic day at the European Netball championship in March.

With each school given a country to support, we cheered on Malta as well as voicing our support for England.

The England Under 17 and Under 19 squads beat all the competition and it was interesting to watch how fast internationals play the game.

The highlight of the day came when we trained with the Leeds Met Super League team – with the Under 17 England squad looking on as spectators.

Sophie Arundale, Year 9

## Badminton comes up tops

THERE have been some outstanding achievements in badminton this season.

Yorkshire players George Brown, Will Hall, George Hargreaves and Sam Watson, Year 10, have come up "Tops" again in two major competitions. The players represented Silverdale in the Under 16 Top Schools Finals in Luton and finished runners up – a superb result as the boys are only in the Under 15 category.

Members of the winning badminton team.

The team played at a consistently high level in the Under 16 Yorkshire Schools competition, beating Westfield, Myrtle Springs, King Edward's, King Ecgbert, Outwood Grange and Bradford Grammar, winning 41 out of 42 matches to earn themselves a place in the Yorkshire Schools finals.

Helen Duffy

