



Spring 2006

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

# High Flyer

## Independent School of the Year!

*The Daily Telegraph/Norwich Union School Sport Matters Awards*



In December, as the culmination of *The Daily Telegraph's* 'School Sport Matters' campaign, an awards ceremony was held at the House of Commons, to recognise and honour the best schools, teachers, teams and sporting individuals in Britain.

One of these awards was 'Independent School of the Year', for which the judging panel would choose an independent school whose staff made best use of their facilities and time to deliver sport for all.

Liz Jones, Head of PE, tells her story: "One day in November, Mrs Davidson and I were busy writing reports and feeling as though Christmas was a long way off, when the telephone rang. I picked it up and the voice said they were calling to tell us that we had been short-listed for the award following our entry for the competition earlier in the year! Having put the phone down I was so ecstatic that I went straight to tell Mrs Dunsford the good news."

The awards ceremony was to be held at the House of Commons on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, a spectacular event with a celebrity judging panel sporting faces such as Kate Hoey MP and Darren Campbell (GB sprinter). Deputy Head Girls, Gabrielle Martin and Georgina Weetch, accompanied Miss Jones to the ceremony.

The competition for the award was fierce, as the two other schools nominated were extremely prestigious. The awards were called in reverse winning order, and it wasn't until second place



Above: Gabrielle, Miss Jones and Georgina with Kate Hoey.



Left: With Darren Campbell.

had been called and the High School still hadn't been mentioned that all jaws dropped. We had won!

"The other two nominated schools were really amazing and had excellent resources. At first we didn't think we were in with a chance but when it was announced that we had actually won the award, we were ecstatic! The PE department were overjoyed, and George

and I were so proud of the school," said Gabrielle.

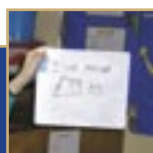
So Miss Jones, what was your first reaction to winning such a prestigious award?

"Absolutely amazed and thrilled for the department and school to get national recognition."

Congratulations must go to the PE Department for all their hard work. I think I can speak for everyone in the school when I say they truly deserve it.

*Tanasy Slack*

### Inside...



**Silence is Golden**



**A Nose for a Big Story**



**Eyes Down for Charity**

# Sixth Form – a Wealth of opportunities!

## Curriculum Enrichment

**A**s part of a variety of activities available to students in Y12, a group of 10 girls are taking part in an exciting project based in Rotherham. Working with youth agencies and representatives from asylum seeker communities, the girls are taking stories from each community and reproducing them in a different form for use with primary school children in the Rotherham area. Designed to help children of asylum seekers integrate into local schools, it will also give pupils in the schools a chance to learn about the cultures that the children come from.

## Cultural Enrichment

**A**nother cultural experience being offered to girls in Y12 as part of curriculum enrichment is the chance to learn Mandarin. Weiling Wu, a graduate in Chinese language who now lives in Sheffield, provides weekly tuition to the girls.

## Oxbridge Partnership Scheme

**T**hrough the Independent/State school partnership scheme, Y13 students were part of a project to encourage students from Sheffield to apply to Cambridge and Oxford

universities. Whilst entrance requirements are demanding, many students feel (wrongly) that they are not good enough to apply. The project is designed to dispel these fears and provide students with all the support necessary to make an informed choice about applying.

The project kicked off with a conference for all Y12 students from schools in Sheffield with sixth forms with first-hand advice and guidance from Oxbridge admissions tutors and current students. This year the conference will be repeated with plans for interview workshops and Open Day visits.

It was encouraging for all schools to see the number of applicants from Sheffield schools rise and, for Sheffield High School in particular, we were delighted that Helena Heaton, Georgina Weetch, Andrea Dower, Elizabeth Self, Sivasakthy Selvakumaran, Clare Sutherland and Emily Whitelock all received offers of places starting later this year.

## Peer Education

**‘P**eer Activities in Sexual Health’ (PASH) was established in May 2004 for 16-19-year-old volunteers. Workers at the Centre for HIV and Sexual Health gave the volunteers training to run activity sessions in schools and youth projects. The activities look at different aspects of sexual health, from understanding what to do in a dilemma to resisting the pressure to have sex too early. It is designed to reduce dramatically the rate

of teenage pregnancies in Sheffield.

Recently six teachers from a number of Sheffield schools, including Gina Heaton, Head of PSHE at Sheffield High, completed a training course to enable them to set up their own peer-based education projects in school. Mrs Heaton says: “We are currently in the process of recruiting a selected number of sixth-form students who have volunteered to take part in the training. The students will undertake the same training we did which will ensure that the information the girls receive from the sixth-formers is accurate.

## Common Rooms get a New Look!

**A**fter the long summer holidays, the sixth form were welcomed by two fantastic common rooms, professionally designed and fully equipped. The retro style provides a great environment to relax in between classroom sessions and girls have said: “It puts us in a good mood for the rest of the day.”

Not only have our moods improved, but our diet has also, thanks to the microwave and toastie machine. One sixth-former proudly announced that: “My culinary skills have advanced to a new level.”

The sixth form would like to thank all those involved in their refurbishment; we really appreciate the new look.

*Georgina Weetch*

## SYEDA

**L**ynn Marriott, Head of Years 8 and 9, has been appointed a Trustee of the Board of SYEDA (South Yorkshire Eating Disorders Association). The task the board have set themselves is to raise money for a drop-in centre in Sheffield which will offer advice, support and resources for sufferers and those who support them. This centre is desperately needed. They have received funds towards their goal from the Elton John Fund, and they have Lottery funding which they have to match.

SYEDA also supports local schools, including the High School, in their struggle with this growing problem. In ‘Eating Awareness Week’ last February, counsellors came into school and gave advice to girls who wanted to support friends suffering from an eating disorder. This year, Mrs Marriott will be raising awareness of SYEDA in a special school assembly.

## The Power of the Spoken Word How far can we consider Journalism to be a respectable profession?

**O**n a rainy November morning, Miss Henderson, Mrs Miller and three Y11s set off for The Belvedere School in Liverpool where Harriet Webster was to represent Sheffield High in the GDST Public Speaking competition.

Hatty handled her given subject, about the respectability of journalism, with considerable skill. Her arguments were crystal-clear and her illustrations humorous. She was given special mention by the judges who agreed unanimously that her speech was the best. Unfortunately, since content was not the sole consideration, Hatty was narrowly beaten into second place by the competitor from Birkenhead High. We congratulate Ursula on winning against such strong competition and wish her success in the next round.

# The Big Hush

Uncharacteristically, all of Y6 spent part of the day on 27<sup>th</sup> January speechless. The girls kept quiet in order to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care and they were part of a nationwide silence called the BIGH HUSH.

For some girls the task was much more of a challenge than for others and their combined efforts raised a fantastic £845.20!!!!



# Reception go to Bethlehem



Well not quite, but the afternoon spent at the Toley Hall Farm nativity was nearly the real thing!

On arrival the children were variously kitted out as angels, shepherds and kings and our own special Mary and Joseph were chosen. The girls loved being with the real animals and having rides on the gentle and patient donkey. Many parents joined us for a lovely afternoon of carol singing and the production of 'the most famous story in the world'.

## Budding Actresses

An acting competition for Y7-9s was held in the Autumn term by Mrs Heery and Ms Knight. It was a popular competition, with many entrants, and the standard was high. Indeed, the first prize had to be shared by two groups: Lisa Camm and Becky Fonseka for *Looking for Corky*; and Harriet Hill, Jasmine Henry and Laura Fitzgerald for *Memory of Water*.

The girls said: "It was a nerve-racking but exciting experience which gave us the opportunity to do something we enjoy whilst also giving us the chance to watch other groups perform their pieces. We had many laughs during the lunchtimes we spent practising although it was also hard work preparing our scenes."

## Other sports news...

### Netball

● Congratulations to the under 14 Netball team who have reached the National Schools Finals in Manchester Velodrome on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### Cross-Country

Congratulations to Jessica Fawcett who is competing in:

- the National Finals in London
- the English Schools Finals in Mansfield

- the Inter-Counties Championship in Nottingham

### Trampolining

Congratulations to:

- Megan Gibson, under 19 North of England Individual Champion at the age of 16
- Eleanor Blackwell, under 15 North of England Individual Champion
- their teams who have reached the National Schools Finals in Birmingham

## Blue Peter

First one badge – then another – then another! Young and old alike – for most of us gaining a Blue Peter badge was an unattainable dream – but 5 girls in Y5 have 10 badges between them!

First was Natalia Hackett who gained her blue badge for writing a poem; she has since achieved green and silver badges. Hannah Wright followed with a blue badge for creating a pop-up book and later received green and silver. Freya Warrack, Lauren Jackson and Issy Dunning have all received their blue badges.

The girls advise would-be badge winners to, "Do what you do best!"

## Tudor Day

Y<sup>4</sup> visited Bishops House for a Tudor day. They dressed as Tudor ladies and gentlemen, yeoman farmers and servants. They wrote with quill pens, a good introduction for using ink pens after Christmas! At the end of the session we were entertained by their interpretation of a mummer's play. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had, during which the girls learnt a great deal!

# Read...Read...Read

*For nine years, girls in Y7 have been reading to raise money for charity. This year they raised the magnificent total of £1346, bringing the nine-year total to a remarkable £18,000. Congratulations to Natalia Mole who read 50 books in the month and raised £51.*

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## Forward Dates

<b>30 March–4 April</b>	German homestay
<b>1 to 7 April</b>	Spanish visit
<b>1 to 9 April</b>	Ski trip to USA
<b>1 to 16 April</b>	Visit to South America
<b>11 May</b>	'Summer Serenade' Senior Music Concert
<b>25 May</b>	Year 13 Leavers' Evening for the girls and their parents
<b>26, 27 June</b>	Junior Performance at the Merlin Theatre
<b>6 July</b>	Y7/8 Concert
<b>7 July</b>	Junior Sports Day at HSBC
<b>11 July</b>	Senior Sports Day at Don Valley Stadium