



Summer 2004

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

High Flyer

Do Wasps have Rights?

This intriguing question was one of the essay titles in a challenging competition won by SHS sixth form student **Katie Howe**.

The competition was the annual **Mary Somerville and Mary Gurney School Award** open to GDST pupils, from all Trust schools, who hold a scholarship. From this strong field of 177 candidates, Katie emerged as the top student. In addition, Fiona Bradbury was commended.

The examiner, Lady Warnock, commented on the evidence she found of a long-ingrained habit of thinking hard and writing clearly, and also of the enormous warmth and gratitude many of the girls felt for their teachers, whom they found approachable and willing to help them solve difficulties.

Katie admitted she found the examination challenging – but a good excuse for missing a morning's lessons.

Right: Katie Howe.



Health ... High on the Agenda

Wednesday 12th May 2004 saw a first for Sheffield High School – a *Health for Life* event organised by Gina Heaton, Head of PSHE. Health is a whole-school issue and this occasion was used to highlight its importance in the lives of young people today. Girls from Years 8 and 9 visited the event during the course of the afternoon and had the opportunity to meet a number of health professionals. Staff and parents were invited too. A wide range of stands dealt with key health issues: street safety, drugs, healthy eating, emotional well-being, sex and relationships, physical fitness and oral health. The girls found the afternoon informative and enjoyable, appreciating the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding in an informal setting.



Health for Life!

Inside...



Crowd Pleaser



Bows at the Ready



Magical Maths!

Stand out from the Crowd!

That was the title given to the wide-ranging Careers Fair held at the High School in February. This is a biennial event, hosted alternately by the High School and the Sheffield independent boys' school, Birkdale.

The school buzzed with interest and information on the evening of 27th February as 1000 people attended this popular event. Stalls, manned by 80 enthusiastic volunteers, were set up in the main hall and the Sports Hall, offering a wealth of information and advice for those who attended.

Seventeen universities and colleges were represented, offering a wide sample of courses from the Environment to Music, Ocean Sciences to Languages, Engineering to Politics.

The Sports Hall was host to representatives of companies and organisations just as diverse. Here visitors could learn about the careers open to them after school or university – and also the amazing opportunities offered to Gap Year students by World Challenge Expeditions. Nursing, retailing, drama, sport, accountancy, engineering, law and medicine were just a few of the companies represented. Careers advice from ISCO and Sheffield University was also available.

Two former pupils returned as representatives: Sarah Needham and, on the Solicitors' stall, Lynne Bradey (née Miller) who is now enjoying a fulfilling career as a solicitor with Wrigleys in Sheffield – proof of the success of previous careers advice and Careers Fairs at the High School.

'Fresh' Face of the City

Fresh, one of Sheffield High's Young Enterprise companies, scooped the top award at the final held this year in the Royal Victoria Hotel in Sheffield. Four High School companies produced reports and made presentations, in competition with teams from Birkdale, Silverdale, Tapton, City School and All Saints.

- Panache won 'Best Trade Stand' at the Meadowhall Trade Fair.
- Fresh won 'Best Overall Company' and went on to represent Sheffield in the South Yorkshire Award ceremony held in Barnsley.



The successful careers fair.

● Another former pupil finding success in her chosen (and very different) career is Adele Young who, for the past two years has travelled the world as the Face of Trevor Sorby. Adele has just

completed her degree and has a place in the cast of the World Tour of 'Cats'! She also appears in the promotional video for Kylie Minogue's new single, 'Chocolate'. See this talented ex-SHS girl in action!

Pioneering Partnership

SHS is at the forefront of the government's new initiative to forge links between independent and state schools. The High School has received a £3,700 government grant to fund the project which will see developments with our link school, St John Fisher RC Primary in Hackenthorpe, in three areas: history, sport and languages.

History

SHS History Department, under Mark Fuller, uses Sheffield's General Cemetery as a historical source for work with Y8 and Y9 pupils. They make use of evidence found at the site, and the database on burials, to find evidence of life in Sheffield during the Industrial Revolution and Victorian period.

These girls will encourage the Y6 St John Fisher pupils to use the tombs, architecture and landscape to reach their own conclusions about life and conditions in the nineteenth century. Findings will be recorded on worksheets and by

digital photography, leading to the creation of a virtual tour of the cemetery.

This groundwork will give scope for work in many curriculum areas as well as developing the historical skill of making inferences and presenting evidence. Truly, history in the making!

Sport

The St John Fisher pupils were invited to the High School to try out our excellent sporting facilities which are not available at their school.

Languages

Cultural awareness will be heightened by introducing the pupils to Russian life. They will learn about the country and also learn the language – a rare opportunity in Sheffield schools.

Mrs Dunsford welcomes this opportunity to develop links across Sheffield and looks forward to investigating further links in other subject areas in the future.

Chemistry Champions

The High School's Y8 chemists took first prize in the Salter's Chemistry Festival held at Sheffield University. Their task? – to produce the stretchiest, bounciest SLIME! The slime had to be pulled, pushed, reacted with acid and alkali and then bounced. Our team comprised Alison Andrews, Alison Drayton, Joanne Laycock and Madeleine Proscha. In addition to producing slime, the girls watched a demonstration lecture entitled 'Chemical Magic'. Other challenges included using forensic chemistry to discover a murderer!

Express Pizzas!

Y5 had an unusual (and extremely popular) challenge when they visited a pizza restaurant as part of their Design and Technology curriculum. The girls learned a great deal about nutrition and then put their ideas into practice by designing, and making, their own pizzas. The results were absolutely delicious and were enjoyed by the girls and their families, as they took their work home with them!

Anne Fine

Several budding authors had the fantastic opportunity to meet Anne Fine, the popular children's author, when she opened the new headquarters of the Dyslexia Institute in Broomhall.

Mrs Sulley and Mrs Hill accompanied the girls to the ceremony and they were treated to a buffet lunch, as well as having the chance to chat to Anne Fine about her work.

The Sound of Music!



At the end of last half term, Liz Hanks, peripatetic 'cello teacher, hosted a 'cello workshop during lunchtime in the school hall. Plenty of the school's 'cellists, including pupils from Melbourne House, turned out in front of an audience of staff and pupils to perform a variety of solo and duet pieces. Many of these girls are benefiting from the 'cello donated by Mrs Houston on her retirement.

Highlight of the workshop was an introduction to Liz's electric 'cello which could produce an array of interesting

and unusual sounds when connected to an effects box. Pupils had the opportunity to ask questions and some had a go at playing the electric 'cello themselves. The workshop was a great success and we look forward to more similar events in the future.

● Congratulations to Emma McPhail in Year 7 who has sung her way to success in the Chesterfield Music Festival. In a close solo competition, she came third, only two marks behind the winner. In addition, she came first in the Duet.

Charity Cycle Ride

Over 30 pupils and their families took part in a sponsored bike ride round Derwent to raise money for the Children's Hospital Appeal. This event was organised by Emma Pratt (Y5) and she invited Theo, the bear from the Children's Hospital, into school to talk about how the money raised would be used by a C-arm scanner, which would assist surgeons with orthopaedic operations. The sun shone on the riders and they had a great day out, raising a large sum of money for the Children's Appeal as well.

Birkdale Music Festival

Twenty-one musicians from Melbourne House took part in a lively three-day event at the Birkdale Music Festival. Soloists performed on the flute, clarinet, violin, 'cello and piano. The choir premiered 'The Best Me I Can Possibly Be', which was composed by Val Linnemann, our Head of Music. All the performers had positive feedback from the adjudicator, Stephen Vickers, and many of the participants were invited to perform in the Festival Concert at Heeley Hall on 24th March.

Community Action Nepal

High school pupils have raised £400 for this worthy charity, by two quite different means.

The majority (over £274) was raised by a group of eight Y11 geography students who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. They found sponsors for their expedition and then donated the money raised to the charity. Sixth form geographers and two members of staff, Carole Haynes and Karen Ibbotson, raised the remainder of the money by selling cakes at school.

The Magic of Maths!

11th February saw the dawn of Year 7 Maths Day. The girls worked in House groups on competitions involving probability tasks, numerical exercises manipulating numbers, a special task involving blocks, cubes and surface areas and the building of a tower with limited support. They were assisted by staff and sixth form maths students.

The girls had a very enjoyable day and the winning house was Gurney. In addition, there were prizes awarded for Best Teamwork, Best Tower and Best Overall Score. Parents and visiting Heads from the girls' primary schools were invited to see the work and watch the presentations.

Not to be outdone, in July Y9 had their own Maths Day – at the 'American Adventure'! Using topics from their Maths lessons, they spend the day at the American Adventure theme park calculating how fast and how high some of the rides actually go. After doing the work the girls (and teachers!) put their answers to the test by enjoying an afternoon on rides such as the Missile and Runaway Train.



Y7 pupils enjoy maths day.

Sheffield High mathematicians leap to success in the Kangaroo!

Victoria Chia reached the top 50 Year 9 pupils in the whole of the UK in the 2004 European Kangaroo. This competition is a set of interesting, stimulating questions demanding clear thinking as well as mathematical understanding.

Five Sheffield High School girls were invited, because of their outstanding performance in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, to take part this year. They joined about 4000 others from the UK, amongst 2 million worldwide.

Our participants were Sophie Lloyd and Rebecca Mersh from Year 10, Abigail Wilkinson, Joanne Finnegan and, of course, Vicki from Year 9.

Junior Challenge

Following in their footsteps are 53 of this year's Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who have gained certificates (15 of them gold) in the Junior Challenge. This is an outstanding achievement particularly by the four Year 7 winners: Catherine Collett, Hannah Groombridge, Mashal Iftikhar and Elizabeth Phillips.

This year's Best in School is Emma Rattee (Y8). Her high score has won her an invitation to take part in the Junior Olympiad this summer.

More Scholarship Success

High School students won two of the nine travel scholarships awarded by the GDST this year, with three candidates reaching the final shortlist for interview:

- Dharani Yerrakalva received the Dr Lucy Champion Scholarship, awarded to students who plan to study medicine or allied subjects.
- Victoria Heyes received the Aline Cholmondeley Scholarship, for students who plan to study and perform music.

Ironically, Victoria was not able to go to London for her interview because of a clash with her Grade 8 music examination. She described her telephone interview as 'a daunting prospect', but won through nevertheless.

Stop Press!

SHS Athletics teams were overall winners at the GDST National Rally! Congratulations to the girls, who each received a medal to mark the occasion.

Forward Dates

Presentation of Prizes	Thursday 16 September
Welcome Evening for new parents	Wednesday 22 September
Infant, Junior and Senior Open morning	Saturday 16 October
Sixth Form Open Morning	Saturday 13 November
Cathedral Carol Service	Wednesday 15 December