

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We were very proud to receive 4 national awards in 2008 which recognise the school's strengths in 4 very different areas:

The Intermediate International Schools Award recognises the wide range of global links the school now has and the opportunities we provide for visits abroad. We now have links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, USA, Bangladesh, India and Egypt and we recently enjoyed a visit from students and teachers of Shude High School in Chengdu, China who spent 2 weeks with us.

The Eco-Schools Bronze Award was presented to the school's Eco-Group for their work on raising awareness of environmental issues in school. Every class now has an Eco rep who work together as a committee on meeting the targets set in their Eco Action Plan which includes paper recycling, saving water and electricity and transport issues.

We were immensely proud to hear that we had been awarded **Artsmark Gold** status this year after 3 years of working towards this quality mark. The award is only achieved by a small number of schools nationally which demonstrate an exceptionally high level of commitment and achievement in all areas of the arts from drama to music, design to literature and dance to sculpture.

Our final award was the **Go4it Award**, presented each year to only a handful of schools in the country which encourage a positive 'can do' approach in their pupils and provide a wide range of opportunities in creativity, enterprise, innovation and risk taking.

The girls continue to put an enormous effort into raising money for local and global charities. Last year over £16,000 was raised through whole school, class and individual efforts. These included entering a team of staff, students and parents in the Sheffield Half Marathon which resulted in an award for the school as the highest group fundraiser in the City. Our link with the village school in Jhum Para, Bangladesh continues to grow with current fundraising supporting the installation of latrines in the school and the village and providing work-based training for some of the students who have reached school leaving age.

Many of our older girls work as volunteers within the local community. A recent survey showed that over 75% of our Sixth Form students volunteer regularly with organisations such as charity shops, animal shelters, hospices, hospitals, retirement homes, St John's ambulance, Red Cross and church groups.



Girls' Day School Trust

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SHEFFIELD HIGH NEWS



Dear Parent

Welcome to our annual newsletter for parents of girls who have left Sheffield High School in recent years. I hope you enjoy this annual update which will help to keep you informed of developments at the school, as well as sharing with you some of our recent successes and achievements.

2008 has been a very busy year for all of us with 2 inspections on top of our normal day to day activities! I am delighted to report that Ofsted judged our Early Years Provision to be outstanding in every area while the Independent Schools' Inspectorate praised our high quality educational experience and singled out in particular the effectiveness of our pastoral system, the warm relationships among the girls, the strong community spirit, the very effective partnership with parents and our excellent links with the local and wider community.

We hope that all is going well for your daughter and that she will want to keep in touch with school through SHOSA (Sheffield High School Old Students' Association) I enclose an application form with details of how to join if she is interested. Our school website is updated weekly and is also an excellent way of keeping informed with school developments and achievements.

We are always delighted to welcome former parents and students back to school either to visit or to attend school events such as concerts and drama productions. Our school musical this year will be 'Pirates of Penzance' which will be performed in the school hall on Tuesday 17th—Thursday 19th March 2009.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely

MRS V A DUNSFORD
HEADMISTRESS

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EXAM SUCCESS

Once again the girls excelled themselves at all levels in their public examinations last summer. At A level we enjoyed a 7th year of 100% pass rate with 80% of the passes at grades A/B.

Almost half of the year group achieved grade A in all of their subjects, with 4 girls achieving among the highest marks in the country. Charlotte Craven didn't drop one single mark out of 600 for Biology and achieved a Top Award. In Further Maths Victoria Chia and Jemima Stephenson were placed in the Top 10 candidates in the country while Ellie Payne was one of the Top 10 candidates for General Studies and also achieved one of the Top 5 marks on the country for Geography.

At GCSE there was once again a pass rate of almost 100% with 72% of the passes at A*/A. Our youngest success at GCSE was Emily Hogg who achieved A* in Japanese at the age of 10!

ANNUAL FUND

The annual fund was established 2 years ago to enable current and former parents, friends and old girls to make either regular or 'one off' gifts to the school to buy extra resources to enhance our facilities and equipment.

I am delighted to report that last year's fund raised over £38,000 which enabled us to complete all our nominated projects which included a sun canopy for the outdoor classroom, art equipment, additional staging for the hall and sports hall and we are now underway with refurbishment of the main school hall.

The projects we have chosen to raise money for this year include data logging equipment for science, a weather station for geography, digital cameras for ICT and art and library resources.

Any contribution to the specific projects would be most welcome.

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to 6 members of staff including 3 long-serving staff who were retiring: Mr Martin (Head of Languages), Mrs Knight (Mathematics) and Mr Harris (Economics & Business Studies).

Miss Henderson (Head of English) left to take up a post of Curriculum Leader at Bernard's RC School in Rotherham and Ms Knight (English) has taken up a post at Notre Dame RC High School. In their place we welcomed the following new members of staff: Mrs Barker (Head of Spanish), Mrs Plowman and Mrs Torr (Mathematics), Mrs Bradfield (Head of English), Miss Wrigley (English), Ms Dieckhoner-Kelly (Economics & Business Studies) and Dr Perlin (Chemistry).

Existing staff who have taken on significant new roles are: Mr Atkins (Head of Languages).

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Since I joined Sheffield High School in 2004 I have been able to report on new developments which have enhanced the school's facilities every year. These have included:

- Creating an upper floor in the school dining room.
- Extensions to Moor Lodge to provide additional teaching rooms for Art and ICT.
- Extension to the Science block to create 2 new Science labs and refurbishment of the Chemistry labs.
- Opening of the new infant building at No.4 Melbourne Avenue.

2008 is no exception and I am very pleased to report on exciting developments planned for the Sixth Form Centre, due to begin in 2009. The plans include reorganisation of the lower floor of the Sixth Form Centre to create a kitchen/diner, new toilets and a decked outdoor area with access from the Y13 common room. In addition there will be a new 2 storey building to the rear of the Sixth Form Centre which will house 5 new tutorial rooms and an Independent Learning Centre.