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minerva

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SHELLEY COLLEGE

H He Li Be B c N O F Ne Na Mg Al Si P S Cl Ar K Ca Sc Ti V Cr Mn Fe Co Ni Cu Zn Ga Ge As Se Br Kr Rb Sr Y Zr Nb Mo Te Ru Rh Pd

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Mr Fowler says
farewell

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experience

STEM – Science,
Technology,
Engineering & Maths!



STEM is a project that aims to establish meaningful links between Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through exciting, contemporary themes.



Shelley College

A SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR SCIENCE

"Excellence and Enjoyment"

A fond farewell... and best wishes for the future

It is strange to think that I will not be the Headteacher of Shelley College in September. It is even stranger to think that I will be "retired", whatever that word actually means. I am not sure how I will feel when everyone else is returning to school. However, I am sure that then, just as now, I will be certain that my decision to leave Shelley is the right one - for me, my family and for the school.

Our school has changed fundamentally over the past eight years. It has always been a good school and since I joined the school we have protected and refined the best of what I found in 2001. In addition, however, we have developed and changed and brought the education we offer our students up-to-date. Any complacency I found when I came to the school has long gone.

Education standards are higher than they have ever been; student behaviour is "exemplary" (Ofsted's word, not mine); staff are innovative and committed, and our buildings create a modern education environment in which everyone can work to the best of their abilities. More importantly, the atmosphere within school - our "ethos" - is now vibrant and respectful and students are rewarded every day for what they achieve and do well. We have created a culture where it is cool to achieve and where students and staff want to be seen to be doing their very best.

Results from parental and student surveys continually emphasise how happy people are with our school and how safe students feel when they are with us. We have built what we do on our Positive Behaviour and rewards structure, and that positive approach to life impacts on the way everyone works and everyone views their time at Shelley College. That is why so many students want to join our lower school and why applications to join the Sixth Form continue to grow every year.

I am immensely proud of our school and of all we have achieved together over the past eight years. I could fill this edition of "Minerva" - and the next - with a list of what we have achieved and of what we should be proud.

There are so many people I would want to thank as I leave: too many for me to mention here. I hope you know who you are and that you accept my grateful thanks. I know that the school will be in safe hands in September and that it will go from strength to strength under its new leadership. My very best wishes to everyone and thanks for the memories.

John Fowler, Headteacher



It appears you are leaving...

Mr Knott will be leaving Shelley College at the end of the year to become Deputy Headteacher at The Kingsway School, a large 11-16 school in Stockport.

Mr Knott began teaching at Shelley College in 1993 in the Business Studies department. After two years he was appointed Head of Economics and, shortly after, Head of the Business Studies Department. The department was very successful, with many students also having opportunities to hone their skills by setting up businesses under the Young Enterprise scheme, or running a school branch of the Yorkshire Bank.

He has also been Head of Sixth Form and most recently Deputy Headteacher.

"I have very fond memories of students I have taught, particularly in my specialist areas of Business, Economics and Politics."

Staff Retirements

The end of an era—the time has finally come for the ‘full’ retirement of Mr Fear.

‘Full’ because he has managed to teach on a part-time basis for the last 3 years at Shelley even after his ‘official’ retirement. Mr Fear or Frank as his colleagues and ex pupils call him has taught at Shelley for 35 years from when the school first opened in 1974. Initially Frank was the Head of the PE department and helped establish it at Shelley College introducing students to a wide range of sporting activities such as sailing at Bretton, he then became a Head of Year in 1991 and again approached this with his usual energy and enthusiasm introducing new initiatives such as ‘The Year Book’. Finally, his lasting legacy will be the introduction and development of the ANSON course, where students have had the opportunity to learn new manual skills such as dry stone walling, basic plumbing and building skills. Frank has always been highly regarded and valued by his colleagues and the students during his time at Shelley College and will be sadly missed by all. But now is the time when he can hopefully relax and reflect on an inspirational and invaluable contribution to both past and present students education during their time at Shelley College.



Anne Jessop joined our school in 1990.

After completing her Fine Art course at Loughborough College of Art and teaching qualification at the University of Reading she taught in Fleet, Hampshire for two years until her appointment as Head of Art in Cheshire. Following a career break, to become a full time mum, she returned to teaching part time as a Further Education lecturer until taking up a full time post at Shelley College. She continues to be excited by the work and creativity of Shelley students past and present, and hopes they will continue to stay in touch. In retirement, she intends to make good use of her skills, ‘Travel Pass’ and the ‘Gap Years’ ahead of her.



Steve Sykes having spent 9 years with us at Shelley College is retiring.

Mr Sykes has been a valuable member of the Science team and a KS5 Chemistry teacher. In a previous life he worked as a taxi driver and at ICI before training to become a teacher. Most of his teaching career was at Mirfield Free Grammar (18 years) reaching the great heights of Acting Deputy.

He hopes to improve his golf handicap and saxophone playing along with learning Japanese in his retirement. Mr Sykes is already well travelled but hopes to travel some more too!

We wish him well.



Leaping to success

Shelley students, Bryony Leeson and Charlotte Kitchen, have certainly had plenty to leap up and down about! That’s because both girls succeeded in their audition for the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) on Saturday, 9th May.

Bryony and Charlotte met when joining Shelley College and quickly became good friends. They first performed together in the school talent show ‘Dance Fever’, and soon afterwards found out about the auditions for the NSCD.

In March, the girls went to a dance workshop with the NSCD, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This was followed by another workshop in April.

Finally, on Saturday, 9th May a day of challenging auditions took place, consisting of an hour of technique, an hour of creative classes and, then, solo performances that they choreographed themselves.

After a two-hour wait, Bryony and Charlotte were told they would see a physiotherapist who would check their physical state. This was followed by an interview about their lifestyles. Four days later, both girls received the news they had been waiting for – acceptance to the NSCD!



Shopping at White Rose really adds up!

In May, 28 Year 9 students took part in a ‘Maths Day Out’ at the White Rose Shopping Centre in Leeds. The students completed Maths Trails and investigations all about the running of the shopping centre. Maths Teacher, Dr Tsiga, said it was a really useful and enjoyable day, making learning fun and developing skills needed for the real world. Student, Ben Walker, commented on just how important numbers are in running a large retail business.

Our Mission: Virgin Galactic

On Friday, 8th May, four Year 9 students visited RAF Linton-On-Ouse to compete in the 5th regional heat of the Mission Virgin Galactic competition. The competition requires students to come up with interesting product ideas. It has been heavily promoted amongst schools and aims to raise awareness about the potential for space travel, as well as Science, Engineering and Technology.

Our budding designers began by presenting their prototype (an executive desk lamp that can also be used to store stationery) to 3 judges – David Houston from the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Head of Marketing from Virgin Galactic and an Engineer from the RAF base. They were then allowed 10 minutes to give a PowerPoint presentation. This was followed by 15 minutes of questions about their solution.

After the presentation, the Station Commander provided a guided tour of the air base, which included the chance to sit in the fighter planes! Students then met war veterans. One veteran, Tom Wingham, had flown on 40 missions and was about to have a book published about how he escaped the Gestapo.

David Houston congratulated the Shelley team on their hard work, innovation and enthusiasm. The team, comprising Robyn Whiting, Leonard Kenny, Jordan Kennett and David Rogers, will compete in the final at this year's Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), on 16th July.

Comments Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Lumb, "I am very proud of our Year 9 students; they have worked essentially independently since January on this project. They have carried out thorough research and produced a comprehensive e-folio to demonstrate how they spent their time developing their prototype design."



Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics – STEM

Launched in November 2008 – and involving over 50 Year 9 students from Shelley College, along with Year 8 students from Scissett and Kirkburton Middle Schools – STEM is a project that aims to establish meaningful links between Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through exciting, contemporary themes.

With that objective in mind, pupils were challenged to create simple, solar-powered buggies and investigate ways to improve performance. They looked at: gears, weight, power and aerodynamics.

To maximise performance, students considered:

- Materials that will be most effective to keep the car lightweight
- Wheel size – width, friction and circumference
- Frame shape – to benefit the aerodynamics and weight
- Gear ratios and what would be ideal for the car

Other vehicles, such as bikes, were looked at to see how the parts work together and how other materials such as acrylic was used in the design. Data logging equipment recorded the acceleration time in the speed trials. David Galovsky, a consultant from 'Solar Active', provided the equipment for the basic design.

Teachers involved in the project were: Mrs Lumb – Organiser, Mr Quigley – Maths, Mr Bardsley – Science and Mr Turner – Technology. Students involved were: Rowan Barnes, Chris Beal, Tom Bowker, Nick Dyson, Nathaniel Mitchell, Thomas Price, James Stafford, Oliver Sutcliffe and Helena Taylor.





Simplifying IT



Empowering Young People Volunteer to

- Create and Run a Skills Workshop.
- Offer a Work Experience Placement at Your Company.
- Empowering Families and Older People
- Empower People with Disabilities
- Develop interview skills or money management.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS THAT WORK FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Shelley College has a reputation for empowering students to achieve at the highest level.

We are looking for business to get involved in helping students develop invaluable knowledge and skills unique to the workplace.

Employees can participate to the extent they wish.

Inspire a young person by providing them with experience that would broaden their horizons and introduce them to the work environment.

With your support we can make a difference to young peoples.

Become part of the team! ShelleyCollege

Huddersfield Road, Shelley, Huddersfield, HD8 8NL. Tel 01484 868777 Fax 01484 222945

BIRDS & BEES

Wildlife at Shelley has been given a helping hand thanks to the work of the E team. Using recycled timber we created a new set of feeding platforms, to be used throughout the year to attract birds, and especially in winter to supplement their diet when food becomes scarce. The bee boxes were made from old plant pots packed with the hollow stems of dead weeds. They have been hung in warm, sheltered spots to attract solitary bees like the mason bee.



SIMPLIFY IT!

Local businesses . . . please help empower our young people

Shelley College has a reputation for empowering students to achieve at the highest level. Through 'Simplify IT!' we are now looking for businesses to get involved in helping students with their development of invaluable ICT knowledge and skills unique to the workplace.

We have benefitted from a massive investment to develop ICT and are now looking to give students realism of industrial and commercial practice.

To find out how your company could become involved in this exciting project, please email Cherie Dignan office@shelleycollege.org

Safeguarding Our Students

Shelley College is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. Each student's welfare is of paramount importance and we will always take a considered and a sensitive approach in order that we can support all of our students. We inform students of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, that we have two senior members of staff with responsibility for Child Protection, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm. The school's PSHEE programme also helps students learn how to keep safe.

The school shares a purpose with parents and carers to educate and keep children safe from harm and to have their welfare promoted. We are committed to working with parents and carers positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents and carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' and carers' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission to do so or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a student. Parents can view our Child Protection policy on request.

Initial points of contact and support for students, parents and carers are the Tutor and the Year Office.

ALL THAT JAZZ

The Shelley College Jazz Band has performed at a Kirklees awards ceremony celebrating the work of Learning Support Staff in schools. The ceremony took place at the Cedar Court Hotel, Ainley Top, on June 25th. The band played for the audience and also serenaded the award winners as they made their way to the stage.



Y13 Design Prototypes

With their latest creations, our Year 13 Product Design students really do have reason to be proud. For their final coursework piece, each student had to design, develop and manufacture a prototype product for a commercial client. The students achieved highly professional standards and used machine tools with the latest CAD/CAM and Laser Cutting technology. With University, apprenticeships and other commercial career routes looming, the students are all looking forward to future challenges.



Jake tops his ICT target

At Shelley College we are always proud of our students' achievements and this year is no exception. All the students have achieved success, but there is one student who really deserves to be mentioned.

When Jake Chapman began his ICT coursework he was aiming for a pass, which would have exceeded his target grade. Before Easter, ICT teacher, Mrs Hampson, provided some extra sessions on a Saturday morning to assist those who needed some extra help. As Mrs Hampson said: "When Jake and some of his peers turned up, I was absolutely thrilled that they wanted to work extra in order to succeed."

After working for two Saturdays, Jake had met his goal and achieved a pass which is the equivalent of a grade C at GCSE. "I was amazed when he then appeared the following week because he had already reached his target. I asked him, 'What are you doing here?', and he replied, 'I thought I'd get my grade up to an A or a B, Miss'."

From that point onwards, Jake listened to what he needed to do to improve his grade and did it. As a result, he has attained a grade A in ICT. This just goes to show that it does not matter what your target grade is; if you want to succeed and you aim high, anything is possible. Well done to all our students and Jake, you are a star.





Meal Deal

Our healthy food commitment. . .

As required by law from Sept 09

- Students will be able to choose a main meal each day, as part of a nutritionally balanced weekly menu.
- All our drinks are unsweetened, unfortified and additive free.
- Cakes and biscuits will only be available at lunchtime.
- No more than two deep-fried food items per week will be available.
- A free side salad will be available with every meal deal

Over 200 students welcomed for Sixth Form Induction

Our annual Sixth Form induction event is always extremely popular – and this year was no different! During the week commencing Monday, 22nd June, the Sixth Form welcomed over 200 new students to the start of their induction process into Year 12. Students were able to visit the subjects they were interested in to get a taste of the learning experiences. They enjoyed meeting tutors, staff members and the fellow students they will be working alongside next year.

The induction involved a variety of activities, including scientific experiments, building towers, collecting soil samples and creating a bridge strong enough to hold various weights. Full use was also made of the specialist Sixth Form facilities, study room and bespoke catering facilities.

A key element to success in Sixth Form is preparation. Students have, therefore, been given specific subject tasks to complete over the summer holiday for the start of their courses in September (copies of which are also on the website). We look forward to welcoming these students back into college on Tuesday, 1st September to begin their Sixth Form studies.



Ready, Steady, Cook...

As part of an enrichment activity, Year 13 students have been getting ready for life at University by putting together a collection of healthy credit crunching recipes.

Through their efforts, students have raised money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and Iain Kimberley, of TCT, is pictured receiving a cheque from the students together with Headteacher, John Fowler and Year 13 tutor, Justine Tipler.

"The students have worked fantastically hard on raising money for the TCT," says Justine.

Year 12 students gain valuable work experience

As a new initiative, during the Sixth Form induction week current Year 12 students were out gaining valuable work experience, having arranged their own placements across a multitude of different fields.

Work experience destinations ranged from Switzerland to Slaitwaite and from London to Lindley, and embraced a wide range of activities. These included: making steel sculptures, going on photography shoots, working in schools, doing farm work, experiencing Michelin star restaurants, working for the Labour Party and even helping repair Nimrod aircraft.

The key to success during Sixth Form is having the right skills, experience and a flexible approach to all situations. During the week, students demonstrated an ability to succeed in the wide world, having gained a flavour of working life.

For many students, the event was the start of a career path that will evolve over the next few years. All those who took part will be able to use the experience gained to develop their personal statements and help their UCAS applications. The feedback from students and employers has been very positive, demonstrating that our students are excellent ambassadors for Shelley College in the wider community.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

As highlighted in previous editions of Minerva, Positive Behaviour underpins the rewards, sanctions policies and procedures at Shelley College. Throughout the year, all students are rewarded with stamps, credits and certificates.

The system of rewards is cumulative and during the summer term a significant number of students receive awards including gift vouchers, invitations to the Head's lunch, free tickets to the Year 11 Prom and even a trip to Alton Towers.

Recognising achievements

As we approach the end of the academic year, it is appropriate that we recognise the achievements of our students.

Head's lunch

On Thursday, 7th May, 47 Year 11 students were invited to the Head's lunch. Those selected had not received a negative comment all year – so very well done. They enjoyed a buffet lunch with Mr Fowler and members of the Senior Leadership and Pastoral teams. During lunch, Mr Fowler told the students how proud he was of them and their achievements. Students from Year 9 and 10 will be invited to their Head's lunch towards the end of the summer term.

Alton Towers

48 Year 11 students (along with Mr Lockett, Mrs Staward, Miss Gray and Mr Stead) enjoyed all the thrills of Alton Towers on Friday, 26th June as a reward for their hard work, effort and dedication throughout the year. Year 9 will have their trip on Friday, 18th September and Year 10 on Friday, 4th September. The trips are fully subsidised by the school through the Positive Behaviour rewards system.

Gift voucher prize draw

At the end of every half-term, students with no negative comments are entered into a prize draw for a £10 gift voucher. The winners so far this year are:

Year 9

Jo Williams	DH
Rebecca Nixon	RB
Lewis Mutton	AFW
Catherine Winter	LAW
Poppy Needham	PCR
Jonathan Ward	YD
Thomas Large	JS
Marielle Hunt	DPN

Year 10

Jessica Morris	JL
George Lane	GH
Nicole Natur	HR
Thomas Northam	PH
Claire Minor	BA
Daniel Conway	DG
Bethany Crowther	CH
Jonathan Hodgson	YM

Year 11

Grant Richardson	PEL
Rachel Moss	MT
Thomas Lockwood	GS
Ellie Whittaker	EG
Joe Black	NH
Rebecca Brook	KW
Joe Fletcher	CS
Rachel Hayes	MT

Winning tutor groups

Through the Positive Behaviour league, each tutor group competes against the other groups in their year in terms of the number of credits gained. The number of credits achieved is then calculated as an average per student, with the winning tutor group receiving a trophy and certificates for each individual student. The winning tutor groups so far this year are:

Oct half-term	Christmas	Feb half-term	Easter
9 RB	9JS	9EH	9JS
10YM	10CH	10BA	10CH
11PEL	11RT	11PEL	11KW

Three full years without a negative comment!

A number of Year 11 students have gone through the last three years at Shelley College securing a significant number of rewards and not receiving a negative comment. This is a remarkable achievement and we are extremely proud of them. As a result of their fantastic achievement, the following students have received a letter of commendation from Mr Fowler and the school has paid for their Year 11 Prom ticket. Those students not able to attend the Prom received a £25 gift voucher instead.

Lauren Gallagher	RT
Caroline Hambling	RT
Chloe Newton-Mann	EG
Sophie Barker	EG
Sarah Pugh	EG
Alice Reynolds	EG
Fiona Ryder	NH
Abigail Schofield	EG
Lucy Halstead	CC
Daniel Wilson	CC
Rachel Adams	KW
Rebecca Brook	KW
Rachel Hayes	MT
Jordan Haigh	PEL
Beth Jackson	PEL
Kathryn Hunt	AGY
Matthew Kenworthy	NH
Veronica Weed	CC
Stevie Kilner	MT

Vast range of awards

As you can see, the number and range of rewards available to students through Positive Behaviour is considerable. A significant number of students are also recognised and rewarded during Awards assemblies that take place at the end of the autumn and summer terms. Students receive Subject, Tutor, Student Manager, Senior Leadership Team and Headteacher awards, as well as awards linked to attendance and punctuality.

Fewer negative comments every year

As well as the ever-increasing number of rewards presented to students, Positive Behaviour also continues to have a significant impact on the number of sanctions implemented. For example, the number of students receiving negative comments and, therefore, detentions, has once again decreased and the number of fixed term exclusions continues to fall. Since the introduction of Positive Behaviour in September 2005, the number of fixed term exclusions has fallen by 55%.

We hope that all students continue to work and behave in the manner we have come to expect, therefore ensuring they avoid any sanctions and place themselves in a position whereby they can be rewarded and recognised for their Positive Behaviour, attitude and work ethic.

Médecins sans Frontières Charity Blanket Raffle

Help us raise at least £300!

What a woolly adventure... our Charity Blanket Raffle project began last September when a group of Sixth Form students joined an enrichment class and started to learn to knit.

From there, these Shelley Sixth Formers graduated to producing squares and drafted in more 'team' members, including knitting-mad Grandmas and generous local businesses who donated wool. The result? A magnificent blanket is now ready to be raffled to raise funds for Médecins sans Frontières.

Médecins sans Frontières is an independent humanitarian medical aid organisation committed to providing medical aid where it is most needed, regardless of race, religion, politics or gender. The funds raised by Shelley College could be used to provide food, medical help or clean water for families struggling to survive.

Raffle tickets are on sale in school and priced at £1.00 each. Although our target is £300, let's see if we can raise much more for this wonderful cause!

To help save paper, a 'Moodle' site called 'MSF Charity Blanket' has been set up and a poster campaign will be broadcast on the internal TV network. Watch out for the Charity Blanket team in assemblies and tutorial time, when they will be coming to talk about how the scheme is going. For further details visit: www.msf.org.uk



DRY STONE WALLING

Since the dry stone walling course made it on to the curriculum back in 2005, 129 students have passed level 1 with 6 students passing level 2. The course is very demanding requiring hours of preparation and a week long intensive course before the examination. The marking criteria is shared with students and the assessor is very keen to ensure the standards of the qualification are upheld. Our students this year were once again exceptional. All passed their dry stone walling qualification and may choose to put themselves through it again next year to achieve level 2. We are all very proud of their achievement. Well done to all students.



Pictured are students from the ANSON course.



Pictured are students from the BTEC Construction course.

An Edible Garden for Leisure and Pleasure

Shelley College took part in their first ever garden competition on Sunday 28th June at Beaumont Park. We won our secondary school category and then went on to win the prestigious title of Best in Show receiving a £10 gift voucher from Armitages Garden Centre and £25 cash along with an impressive engraved Rotary Award. There were several schools represented from across Huddersfield.

The design inspiration came from initial research carried out at RHS Harlow Carr, our commitment to Sustainable Development and we wanted a design that would appeal to young children. Students on our ANSON course had already prepared raised beds at Highburton First School so Mr Scott (Environment Officer) thought it would be a good idea to donate the plants grown for the competition to the students at Highburton First School.

The design was entitled 'Weird, Wacky and Wonderful' and encompassed a variety of experimental techniques such as growing square tomatoes and finding out what conditions potatoes prefer to grow in. The intention of course was to stimulate discussion and intrigue amongst the youngsters.

Our garden was certainly colourful, green being the main colour for the time of year as 60% of the garden had to be edible!

Thanks go to all students, parents and staff who grew plants and vegetables from seed for this garden. Special thanks to Mr Scott, Mrs Toon and Mr Lumb for helping to assemble the garden in the poly tunnel and on the day. Our E team members provided our final design, design brief and labels. A big thank you to Mrs Stanfield for our display for the garden as it was exceptional and really impressed the judges, and a final and biggest thank you to the students on the day who were outstanding. They were superb ambassadors for Shelley College.

Mrs Lumb, Assistant Head teacher i/c Specialist School 'We were all thrilled to receive the Best in Show accolade as students, parents and staff have worked tremendously hard to grow edible plants for the competition all from seed. Particular thanks go to the group of students and staff who assembled the garden on the day, it was hard work but we all enjoyed ourselves.'

Students who helped on the day:

Daniel Beech Yr 12, Kieran Moxon Yr10, Chris Briggs Yr10 pictured, Ryan Chapman Yr 10, Alex Greaves Yr 10 pictured, Stella Greathead Yr 9, Ellie Williams Yr 9, Beth Lockwood Yr 12 pictured, James Stafford Yr 9 and Nathaniel Mitchell Yr 9



Creating a sustainable school community

By 2020, the government wants all schools to be models of energy efficiency, with renewable energy use and water management, and with a culture of sustainable development embedded throughout school life.

Running a school is a costly business. However, at Shelley College we have already taken massive steps to be more energy efficient. Energy saving devices, including a highly efficient gas boiler, low energy hand dryers, new doors & double-glazed windows, energy-efficient mobile classrooms, light sensors and low wattage lighting, are already in place throughout the school. Some rooms only use natural lighting. We collect 'grey' water. And the new Altitude building was built with sustainability firmly in mind.



This is an example of a piece of artwork by Stephanie Hirst, a Year 13 student, using recycled tin cans from our school kitchen

Our Sustainable Purchasing and Waste Management Policy includes recycling paper via greater use of email and using our website to support learning. We have extensive sustainable development plans. We encourage car sharing by both staff and Sixth Form students. We promote cycling to school, and have improved the pathway for students coming from Cumberworth.

To keep everyone thinking about sustainability, sustainability projects for this half-term include: daily 'Pause for Thought' bulletins, SLT link assemblies and biodiversity audits in Science lessons. There are weekly Eco Team activities and our Green Day on the 7th July raised the profile of green pledges made by students.



DofE

Since 1956 the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) has challenged over six million young people around the world to try new things, learn more about themselves and work together for their own benefit and that of their local communities. According to the DofE website people will achieve a Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they show persistence, commitment

and personal development over a period of time. On Tuesday 12th May I went to St James' Palace in London to receive my certificate for completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I have also previously completed both the bronze and silver awards.

The Gold Award consists of five parts: skill, physical, service, expedition and residential. You can't start working towards the Gold Award until you are 16 and the shortest time you can complete the award in is one year. For my service I did a year

helping out at Guides in which time I completed the Leadership Qualification so I am now a leader. I also did my skill, playing the flute, for a year. The element I did for six months, although I've kept playing, was my physical, netball. That's something I thought about doing before and giving it a go. Personally I would never have dreamed of going to join a netball team where I knew no one if I didn't 'need' to finish my DofE.

Most people find the expedition and the residential the hardest parts and I did too because you have to do a service project for at least 4 days which sounds simple but there are a few other conditions as well. You have to stay away from home and you can't know more than three people there. So off I set last summer to an international camp in Lincoln where I knew one person out of 500. I spent the week with a group of Rangers from Wakefield. We had the best weather of the whole holiday and I had loads of fun on the climbing team where we spent most of the time sunbathing when we were on bouldering duty.

The expedition for the Gold Award is four days walking and three nights in a tent. You have to carry everything you need for those four days, food, water for one day, tent, stove, fuel,

everything. I went to the Lake District in October half term last year. Clare Cassidy, David Brown and Eric Yang all completed this expedition with me as well as three people from the Holmfirth Award Centre none of whom I knew before I completed the practice expeditions. The final expedition didn't start out well as it was so wet most of the roads resembled rivers rather than roads. I'm pretty sure that over the four days we experienced every form of weather apart from thunder and lightning. The worst day for us was definitely the last. We woke up to find our water supply had frozen. We had to break the ice off our tents to pack them away. That day just got worse and worse until we found our selves walking up a rather large hill in a blizzard. We found this really difficult as it got colder and colder and we were tired, getting up at 4.30am every morning had caught up on us! Other than that it was a really good expedition that I certainly won't forget. I really want to thank the staff at school who have done training walks with me. Mr Smart deserves a special thank you for all the support and time that he has given me to get me through the three awards, I really appreciate the effort it takes after helping with some of the bronze and silver groups in school.

Three cheers for Shelley College!

On Saturday, 18th April, the Shelley College Cheerleaders performed in front of thousands of Huddersfield Giants supporters. Spectators were treated to amazing stunts and a dance routine choreographed to Metro Station's hit song 'Shake It'.



Our squad is coached by professional cheerleader, Zoë Prince, who also coaches Huddersfield Town Cheerleaders. The girls performed on Sunday, 28th June alongside squads from other Huddersfield schools and achieved second place at The National Schools Cheerleading Championships at Manchester Velodrome. Congratulations to all girls who took part.

School athletes race ahead...

Year 9 pupil, Lauren Powell, is enjoying one of her best athletics seasons yet. She is the current Kirklees champion in the 100 metres, with a personal best of 12.68 seconds, and has been

selected to represent West Yorkshire at the English Schools Championships final in Sheffield in July. Her recent successes may also lead to a chance to compete in Italy with an elite Kirklees squad.

Our boys' and girls' athletics teams are also enjoying considerable success. Both reached the second rounds in the English Schools Team Competition with quite outstanding performances. Good luck also to Marcus Nixey who continues to excel as our 400-metre specialist and represents the North of England.



... and Lauren powers on to gold!

Representing Yorkshire in the recent under 15s Indoor UK Athletics Competition at the N.E.C., Birmingham, in an event involving 14 other counties, Lauren Powell won gold in the two-lap race and bronze in the long jump.

Lauren competes for Spensborough Athletics Club in the 100m, 200m and long jump and has been selected for our Junior Athlete Programme. She was also a key member of our indoor athletics team, winners of the Kirklees Schools' Under 15s Indoor Athletics Competition. As a reward for her success, Lauren and her family attended a civic reception at the Town Hall and were invited to the House of Commons to meet the Minister for Sport.



Lauren Powell with 2012 Olympic 200-metre hopeful, Emily Freeman, collecting the Kirklees Schools indoor winners trophy.

ON THE BALL!

The Shelley College Year 9 netball team were worthy runners-up in the Huddersfield Schools league, beating nine schools and only losing to overall winners, Honley High School. The team, coached by P.E. teacher, Miss Heslop, includes several representatives from the Kirklees netball squad.

Pictured from back left to right - Rachel Taylor, Gemma Radley, Emily Rowell, Chelsea Guest, Lauren Powell, Miss Heslop. Front left to right - Emily Harris, Rebecca Thornton, Emma Taylor, Zoë Sutcliffe.



Mounted Games

Year 10 student Beth Crowther has been selected onto the JAE programme because of her high level of ability in Mounted Games.

Beth has represented Rockwood Harriers for the past 12 years, in which they aim to qualify for the horse of the year show.

At International level Beth has been selected to ride at the Great Royal Winsor show, in which she will meet the Queen.

As well as her high level of ability in horse riding, she is a member of the School hockey team and plays for Slazenger's hockey club in her spare time.



Going for Goal

Football can often be a game of luck, just as much as one of skill. This unfortunate fact was aptly demonstrated on Wednesday, 15th April when our Year 11 team took on Almondbury High School in the Under 16 Boys Huddersfield Schools Football Final at Huddersfield Town's Galpharm Stadium.

With fantastic support and ideal playing conditions, manager, Mr Heath, was confident of glory. The game started well with Shelley College dominating possession. In the first half alone, Shelley hit the crossbar and post 3 times and were unlucky not to score with a host of chances.

Unfortunately, however, that is football, and when Almondbury managed to create a half chance 30 yards out, the ball seemed to sail harmlessly towards the Shelley goal and with a wicked bounce somehow bobbed over the line.

Shelley continued to put on the pressure, but couldn't quite manage an equaliser. The final whistle marked a very unfortunate 1-0 defeat. It was, however, a fantastic effort from all those involved - a culmination of 3 years' hard work representing Shelley College all over West Yorkshire. Well done to all those boys who have played any part over the last 3 years!



Shelley secures Huddersfield U14 Division 1 Basketball title

This year's Huddersfield Schools U14 Division 1 League Trophy was hotly contested as our Under 14s team and Holmfirth High School battled it out for the main honour.

The two teams have had their sights set on the Division 1 title all season and both have beaten each other on their own home courts. As a result, a decider took place where Shelley ran out as the overall winners 68-39.

The U14 Division 1 trophy and other competitions will be closely contested over the next couple of years as both teams move up through the school years. They have their own characters, show tremendous respect for each other, and will no doubt get to know each other better over future seasons.

Shelley College also made it to the Quarter Finals of the English Schools Basketball Association (ESBBA) competition. They beat Northampton 71-67 in a very close game, but were then beaten by a very strong 'Leeds Tigers' team, 47-76 in the next round.



Schools Fantasy League 2008/9

The SFL season is now over, and what a season it's been for FA Cup winners Chelsea and Premier League and League Cup winners, Manchester United! Talk about thrilling, with the Premier League going almost to the last game, Liverpool finally finishing second and Chelsea, rallying under Guus Hiddink, coming in a close third.

Understandably, it was also a tense and close fought battle throughout the season here at Shelley College. In the end, our top student was Feena McLoughlin of 11CSB. Feena has led the table for most of the season, only occasionally allowing others to briefly experience the dizzy heights of the top spot. Her team, Feendog United, finished the season with 436 pts, 15 points clear of her nearest rival, Dr Morris. His team, Real Betis Hotpot, did, however, win the FA Cup League by some 21 points, with 82 pts. Rounding off the top three was Nathaniel Mitchell's team, Nat's Gnomes, with 419 points. The School National Position was 446.

The top student in each year group was as follows:

- Year 9: Nathaniel Mitchell
- Year 10: Will Mortimer
- Year 11: Feena McLoughlin
- Year 12: Tom Robson
- Year 13: Oliver Cox

The top parent was Mr N Briggs and the top teacher, Dr Morris. It's only right and proper, however, to point out that three teachers finished in the top five - well done! Each of the above receives a commemorative medal for their achievements this year. Talking of teachers, Mr Bovington picked up the Special Edition pack of tissues for finishing bottom of the table. We hope you enjoyed the 2008/09 SFL season and will be back to defend or regain your title next season!

Diary Dates: Friday 17th July Last day of term
Thursday 20th August Results Day for AS/A Level
Thursday 27th August Results Day for GCSE

Tuesday 1st September Start of Term for Year 9 & 12 only
Wednesday 2nd September Year 9, 10 & 11 only
Thursday 3rd September For All Years