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THE NEWSLETTER FOR SHELLEY COLLEGE

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UK Intermediate  
Maths  
Challenge

SAM Learning  
Secondary

National  
Science and  
Engineering  
Week

Discovering  
Darwin

GCSE Science

Liverpool  
Slavery  
Museum



## Science Week takes off with Skybolt!



**Shelley College**

A SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR SCIENCE

"Excellence and Enjoyment"

## Dance Fever...

As part of their final assessment, the Year 13 Applied Leisure Studies group organised Dance Fever, an evening dance competition which took place at Shelley College on Wednesday, 1st April.

A themed event, the competition involved ten acts performing to pieces of music from movies and musicals. As part of the evening, students also held a raffle, with lots of fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses. All funds raised will be given to Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL) and Rock Challenge UK, who both promote dance and healthy lifestyles amongst young people.



## Shift Happens!

Over recent weeks, students have received powerful messages about how our lives have changed during the last few decades. In an assembly entitled 'Shift Happens', a short presentation posed thought-provoking questions and highlighted key messages, including:

- Be prepared for life-long learning, as we may find ourselves retraining several times in our lives
- Teachers are training students for jobs that may not exist when they leave school, college or university
- Technology is fundamental to young people's lives these days. E.g. web pages, blogs, MySpace, Google and text messaging

## Blooming Marvellous

Shelley College students have been invited by Huddersfield Rotary Club to take part in a garden competition on Sunday, 28th June at Beaumont Park. As an Eco School with Green Flag Status, we are particularly keen to get involved.



All schools in Huddersfield have been asked to design, grow and assemble a 3.66m<sup>2</sup> colourful and edible garden. After the competition, our garden will be donated to Highburton First School, as students on our ANSON course have already prepared raised beds.

We now have a dedicated team of teachers and students willing to grow seeds. Having received several donations from local garden centres, we are encouraging students to grow seeds at home then donate the plants for the garden competition.

We hope parents will support their children to grow some seeds. If any students and parents would like to help out on the day, or require further information, please email Mrs Lumb at: [lumbd@shelleycollege.org](mailto:lumbd@shelleycollege.org)



using technologies that haven't been invented...



in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet.



## Gifted mathematicians take challenge

In February, the Gifted and Talented Mathematicians in Years 10 and 11 competed in the annual UK Intermediate Challenge. Under the direction of KS4 Coordinator Ms Penny, our top 80 GCSE students joined with 180,000 others to take part in this demanding hour-long event.

Mathew Ellis, Tim Waterson and William Senior all recorded scores which placed them in the top 5% of students in the county and they will participate in the "Kangaroo" challenge later this year. Over 60% of Shelley College students also received a Gold, Silver or Bronze Certificate. Commented Ms Penny, "This is a fantastic opportunity for our more able

students to show to themselves, and on a national stage, just how good they are at mathematics. These challenges make you think and are all about solving problems set in unfamiliar situations, not about lucky guessing."



# SAM supports students in improving their grades

**SAM Learning Secondary, the award-winning online subscription service, is used in over two thirds of schools across the country to support students in improving their Key Stage 3 and GCSE results.**

At Shelley College, £5,000 has been invested in the annual subscription to SAM Learning to enable all students to have individual access to this valuable resource.

Through carefully prepared revision exercises, exam-style questions that are completed and marked online - and with supporting guidance from subject examiners - students using SAM Learning Secondary develop a strong

revision habit and improved exam technique. This increased confidence is reflected in improved results.

Research conducted by the Fischer Family Trust, an independent educational charity, shows that there is a positive relationship between the use of SAM Learning and examination results. Students using SAM Learning for as little as ten task hours show significant improvement in performance.

The results of this research are borne out by the performance of Shelley College students last year. In over 80% of cases, students who used SAM Learning for a minimum of 10 task hours matched or exceeded their Minimum Target Grades.



Find out more at [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)



## Experimenting with image

Yorkshire-based photographer and artist, Simon Warner, worked with Shelley College Art and Science students during February.

Called Image Lab, an experimental portraiture and landscape project, the event was part of the government's Creative Partnerships scheme to encourage art professionals to work alongside teachers and students to explore creativity in teaching and learning. Based in the school darkroom, Simon concentrated on alternative photographic processes and silhouettes.

Simon's career spans landscape and theatrical photography, as well as video production and lecturing. He is author of the guidebook *Discovering West Yorkshire* and has exhibited widely in the north. In April he will be the first of five artists to participate in a series of Dialogues at Huddersfield Art Gallery, exhibiting new video work in response to their collection of landscape paintings.

## Bottling up good business

In January, a group of 45 Business Studies students visited the Coca Cola Enterprises Ltd. bottling plant in Wakefield. The trip really brought business studies to life as students were able to see how the latest technology is used in production, how quality is controlled and how distribution is organised. The students experienced first-hand the benefits of a good business location and the importance of human resource management and health and safety issues. A presentation was delivered by the company that included some very welcome product tasting of the water and juice lines!



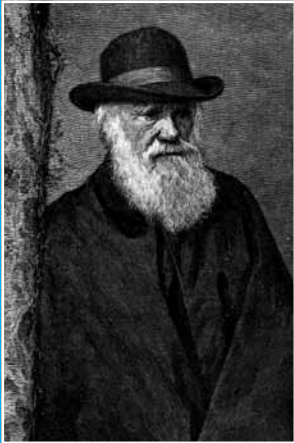
## £250 raised for Comic Relief



On Saturday, 7th March, Nia Allen (10DG) and Ellie McSkimming (10ALG) completed a sponsored fun-run and took part in sponsored 'cream pieing.'

Dressed in bright red leggings and TK Maxx Comic Relief T-shirts, the girls did a 20-minute run around Greenhead Park and then 'cooled down' by having squirry cream pies thrown at their faces. It was all very successful and they are on target to raise £250.

## Discovering Darwin



Thursday, 12th February marked the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth. The University of Huddersfield celebrated the occasion with a day dedicated to teaching Year 12 students from various local colleges, including 12 students from Shelley College, not only the science of Darwin's most famous theory – evolution by natural selection – but also the background of one of the world's most famous scientists and his impact on society.

### Nineteenth Century Britain

The day commenced with students getting into groups and discussing what life was like in Nineteenth Century Britain. The period Darwin lived in was very important scientifically; many new discoveries were made and science was becoming popular amongst the upper and middle classes. The students also learnt that Darwin was originally training to become a priest, but this was put aside because of his interest in science.

### Evolution of the 'super rat'

The theory of evolution was next on the agenda. This topic began with a short lecture about the evolution of the 'super rat' which had evolved resistance to the slow acting poison, Warfarin. Next, an activity involving Darwin's famous Galapagos finches was carried out. Four students pretended to be finches, each with a different implement to use as a beak (such as tweezers or pliers).

### Natural selection

The students then had to 'compete' for food in the form of sweets in a bowl, with the finch with the best beak being able to eat more food. This helped the students to understand how natural selection works, with organisms not being well suited to their environment dying off.

### Hot opposition from the Church

Finally, the controversies surrounding the theory of evolution were discussed. The students learnt that Darwin received hot opposition to his ideas from the Church, as it believed he contradicted the story of creation. A lecture was then given about a man in America who taught evolution in the 1960s and was arrested and put on trial. This placed into context how, even recently, people had still not fully accepted the idea of evolution.

All in all, the day was a great success, with every student enjoying the varied activities. The Darwin Day was also relevant to the AS Biology course which is all about biodiversity and natural selection.



## Science Week takes off with Skybolt!

National Science and Engineering Week was celebrated at Shelley College from 7th to 13th March and included a comprehensive programme of events for all students, including those in the Shelley 'pyramid' and their families.



The Kitchen Sink Science Show on Saturday, 7th March proved to be a great hit with families and demonstrated simple experiments that can be tried at home. Although some were very messy!

On the Monday, Skybolt, a 20-foot rocket, was positioned at the front of the school. 'Team Starchaser', a group of real rocket scientists, then entertained Year 10 and Year 11 students throughout the day. They told of life in space and the immense forces required to launch a rocket.

### Rocket displays

In the evening, Team Starchaser gave a talk to members of the community and Shelley Sixth Form scientists displayed their rockets and showed video footage of the rocket launches they had made earlier in the day. A Mars Lander workshop also took place for younger children.

### Raising the profile

Other highlights of the week included a visit to Morrisons Supermarket where Shelley Year 9 students and Year 8 students from Scissett Middle School and Kirkburton Middle School carried out science experiments. The event was organised to raise the profile of science and allow students to communicate with the general public.

### Cross-curricular

A cross-curricular programme also challenged students to apply their knowledge of Science and Engineering to other subjects. For example, in Art students studied the formulas of some ceramic glazes. In Business Studies students prepared a presentation on the EU legislation on environmental issues, and in Drama students improvised a key scientific discovery.

### Rocket Science Quiz

All students took part in a Rocket Science Quiz and a National Science & Engineering Quiz on Red Nose Day.

## Separate Science

This academic year has seen the introduction of Separate Sciences at Shelley College, an initiative instigated by our 'Specialist College for Science' status. 41 keen and ambitious Year 10 scientists are currently following this new and exciting course. They will each receive a GCSE in the 3 disciplines of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) at the end of Year 11, rather than the traditional two GCSEs awarded for Additional or Applied Science.

Separate Science has been developed to stretch and enrich scientists of the future by building a strong foundation for study at A-level and beyond. The course is proving very popular, with students also attending science enrichment classes after school on a weekly basis. The focus of these sessions is definitely one of 'science is fun', with students being encouraged to develop their scientific enquiry and investigation skills.

Fondly entitled 'Tipsini', the after-school club has also helped students to develop their ideas on several aspects of cutting-edge science, such as nuclear fuels, DNA fingerprinting and climate change. This exciting approach culminated in a trip to De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Tuesday, 17th March, when students got the chance to see and hear six of Britain's top scientists, including Professor Alec Jeffreys.

Professor Jeffreys enlightened those present as to his 'Eureka moment' on discovering genetic fingerprinting - a must for all those CSI fans! The day proved a great opportunity for our Year 10 students and it is hoped this new course will go from strength to strength.

## Performance Engineering



Year 10 students learnt what's involved in building a land-speed motorbike from Performance Engineering. With a reputation built on over 30 years engineering experience; outstanding race performances; numerous World, European and National track records and absolute dedication to the sport of drag racing, BDR is one of the most innovative and successful performance engineering teams in existence. Competing with Straightliners, the A.C.U, Torque Motorsports and the National Sprint Association (N.S.A), BDR is one of the few Drag Racing teams that builds, maintains and rides its own bikes throughout the race season. For further information about BDR Performance Engineering visit [www.bdrperformanceengineering.com](http://www.bdrperformanceengineering.com) and if you would like to become a sponsor please contact Mick Eliis on 07774 134273.



## Rock Challenge

Rock Challenge is a National Dance Competition that Shelley College have entered for the second year running. After 6 months of practice the 80 dancers and 20 backstage/lighting/video directors took part in the West Yorkshire Heat at St George's Hall in Bradford on 24th March. The theme this year was 'What happened before the bell'. Well done to all students and staff on the 3rd place finish!

## Preservation of the species

The public's image of zoos has not always been a popular one and, traditionally, the role of the zoo in society has been somewhat controversial. However, in recent years, zoos have moved away from public entertainment, concentrating their efforts on the much-needed field of conservation.



With our planet's biodiversity under threat, zoos are now key in establishing breeding programmes and conserving many rare and endangered species. With this in mind, Shelley College AS Biologists visited Chester Zoo in March 2009 as part of their AS Biology coursework. The trip was designed to set the foundations for a report which students compile based around the preservation and protection of endangered species globally.

In a year that has seen Darwin's 200th anniversary, the opportunity to talk to experts in conservation couldn't have been more appropriate. Shelley students had a great day and came away with a much clearer picture as to the current social, ethical and political concerns faced by zoos. On leaving Chester, for the return to college, something was very clear with everyone: that conservation is key and zoos like Chester have an important role to play in the preservation of many species.

## Dancers have lift off!

Tatty Cox and Beth Pearson are dancers on target to achieve high grades in GCSE Dance. The hard work of the last two years has paid off and they are now completing their final choreographies. They are shown here rehearsing for a dance with a scientific theme, "Heart Attack", based on knowledge of the circulatory system.



## The Sixth Form Committee: sausages, beans and other important decisions!

Being a Sixth Former at Shelley College means more than just attending thought-provoking lessons, being part of a team in tutorials, working independently in the well-equipped study room and catching up with friends in the social area.



It's also about having an opinion over what goes on in those lessons, doing something about the issues raised in tutorials, deciding the ethos in the study room and dictating the choice of sausages in the Altitude Café! In short, it's about having a voice... and there's nobody more prepared to listen than the Sixth Form office.

The Sixth Form committee is made up of tutor reps, elected by their peers to represent them and their ideas and opinions during meetings held with Mrs Holgeth. Agendas are governed by what has happened since the last meeting, and can range from big decisions around the registration system, to whether marshmallows should be offered with the hot chocolate! Each item on the agenda is taken seriously and investigated, regardless of its gravity.

Running the Sixth Form is a challenging job. In fact, we couldn't do it without the ongoing commitment and hard work of the committee. A tour of the Altitude building would take you past the end results of many of the changes that have come to fruition, including the art work on the walls, the planted areas outside the entrance, the 8 parking spaces around the mound, the designs on the PB postcards, the introduction of work shadowing in Year 12, the Sixth Form Ball and the Year Book.

Best of all, this hard work doesn't go unrewarded! The most active members of the group are regularly recognised at the Awards Assembly, receiving fingerprint credit, along with other high achieving students (yet another idea brought to us by the committee). Committee membership also looks pretty impressive on your personal statement or CV!

So when you next find yourself tucking into spaghetti hoops in the Altitude Cafe, thankful they're not beans, remember who made it happen! And the next time you have a moan, groan or gripe, don't keep it to yourself, let your voice be heard; be part of the Shelley Sixth Form committee. Who knows what could happen?

## Over 300 applications for Sixth Form

Following on from the success of the Sixth Form Open Evening on 15th January, there has been a huge interest in applying to join our Sixth Form in September 2009.

Currently the number of applicants totals over 300. In the week commencing 9th February, a small team (including the Sixth Form office, Year 11 office and SLT) interviewed applicants from 8.30am to 7pm daily. Each applicant was given a 15-minute interview to explore further his or her applicability for post-16 life at Shelley.

During the interviews, students were asked about their monitoring, trial exam results, aspirations, subject choices and wider interests. There were also opportunities for students to ask searching questions for themselves.

Difficult decisions are now being made to select and offer Sixth Form places to the 200 students with the best-fit criteria for Sixth Form entry. Yet again, there has been healthy interest from external students.



Special thanks go to the Year 11 office and tutors for their hard work on PHSCE Day and their professionalism with Post-16 Progression Forms, and to Mrs Blackburn (General Office) – the unsung heroine behind the scenes.

Andy Hewitt  
Acting Head of Sixth Form

## Better understanding Teaching and Learning

Over the last twelve months, Shelley College has been investigating students' perceptions of teaching and learning. Approximately 500 students, in the Sixth Form and Year 10, have been involved in a series of 'Student Voice' surveys. These surveys are conducted using the school's VLE and students are asked to judge such issues as the quality of learning, the format of lessons and the most successful types of activities in lessons.

### Learning 'very good'

In the Year 10 survey, 79% of responses indicated that learning was at least very good with 76% showing that progress in lessons is very good or better. It was clear that students felt the quality of teaching was at least very good (77%) and that lessons had clear and structured objectives. The results provide a picture of the day-to-day experience of students and we can discern from this that Year 10 lessons have clear objectives; contain short, starter activities; and that the main part of the lesson has a variety of activities to engage students.



### Areas for improvement

The Year 10 responses did highlight areas that could be improved. One concerned the effectiveness of teachers' written feedback which was not always as helpful as it might be. Another indicated that students need to be more involved in assessing their own work.

More than two thirds of Sixth Form students are currently taking part in a similar activity. These results will be compared with last year's, which indicated that 75% of teaching was good or better.

## NOW HEAR THIS! Mobile phones in college

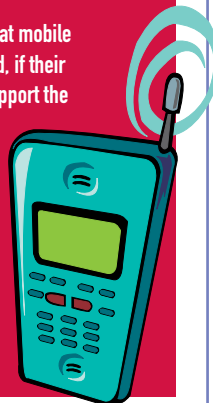
If you bring your mobile into college, this column applies to you! Our policy regarding the use of mobile phones is very clear and is highlighted on page 34 of the planner. It states:

- Mobile phones may only be used at break and lunchtime **OUTSIDE THE BUILDINGS**. They must not be used around corridors or in classrooms, or social areas. Any phone that rings or is visible during lessons or inside the buildings will be confiscated and returned according to college policy (five college days).
- In **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances phones may be returned if parents come into college before the five days to speak to the appropriate member of staff.

Due to the rising number of mobile phones being confiscated, they will only be returned to parents following agreement from the Student Manager or a member of the Senior Leadership team.

We hope that parents understand that mobile phones have no place in college and, if their child's phone is confiscated, will support the college in implementing the five college day confiscation rule.

Students... please stick to the rules! We do not want to be forced into reviewing the policies and possibly banning mobile phones from college completely.



## Liverpool Slavery Museum

On Wednesday, 13th February, keen historians from Year 9 visited the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool to learn about why and how slavery happened. The morning's activities showed how the so-called 'uncivilised' Africans were, in fact, very civilised and involved playing replicas of instruments that would have been crafted by exceptionally talented people.

In the afternoon, students watched a moving piece about Ellen Craft, an American house slave who, to escape slavery, pretended to be a gentleman, with her husband acting as her slave.

There was then the opportunity to explore the museum in small groups and look at different displays and artefacts. There were also sections on the Titanic, the History of Liverpool and major events in British history.

A chamber with screens showing slaves writhing in pain was shocking and showed how appalling slavery was. This helped everyone understand the great reason for abolition. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day where everyone learnt something and hopefully gained a greater appreciation of African culture.

See the full story of Ellen Craft at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/craft/menu.html>

By Nathaniel Mitchell



## Youth Councillors

Year 10 students, George Lane and Jess Morris, were elected as Youth Councillors for the Denby Dale and Kirkburton locality in the recent Kirklees Youth Council Elections.

As part of their new roles, Jess and George informed all Shelley College students on important issues that matter to their constituents. To do this, both councillors presented assemblies for Years 9 - 13 where they explained how they can help change the local community in a positive way. Any students wishing to express their views to Jess or George, can either talk to them in college or email [youth.council@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:youth.council@kirklees.gov.uk). Please put 'FAO Denby Dale and Kirkburton Councillors' in the subject box.

## Top ten Leisure Studies result for Kirsty!

Year 13 student, Kirsty Jepson, had real reason to celebrate when she received her AS Leisure Studies results. Not only did she achieve a grade A, but also was awarded one of the top ten marks in the country for her coursework on the leisure industry.



Kirsty received letters of congratulation from the examination board and from Mr Fowler on her outstanding achievement.

Kirsty is currently studying for A-levels in Leisure Studies, Applied Business and ICT, and has also received awards in college for her exemplary commitment to her



## Dance Festival...

On 24th February, Shelley College hosted the Kirkburton Dance Festival, with parents, families and friends watching the glittering performances from the sports hall floor and balcony.

Although disruption to coaching schedules, caused by the snow, prevented some schools from attending, those who took part treated the audience to a varied, versatile and colourful show. Shelley students opened the programme with their 2009 Rock Challenge dance (as also performed on 24th March at St. George's Hall, Bradford). Their theme for this year's Rock Challenge is Children Suffering and the dance reflected how children are treated both in and out of school.

### Excellent teamwork

Kirkburton Middle School's two numbers, 'Just Dance' and 'Hairspray', were thoughtfully costumed and the choreography showcased the excellent teamwork, timing and imagination of the two groups. 'So What' from Shelley First School was an energetic piece, which the dancers clearly enjoyed. The colourful cheerleading group from Thurstonland School worked together so well, ending with a gymnastic balance!

All performances were well received by the audience. Emley's theme was a sporting one entitled 'What a racket', and involved an intricate and skilful team piece. Well done to everyone who took part; to compare, Courtney George, and to Andy Morris, Shelley College and students for hosting the event.

## For Daniel, it's all plain sailing

Since receiving a Topper-class dinghy for his twelfth birthday, Year 11 student, Daniel Stokes, has certainly made a big splash in sailing circles. Quickly completing the RYA dinghy sailing Levels 1 – 4, and passing the Powerboat Level 2 certificate, he began to compete in the Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Sailing Association travellers' series, achieving the title of 'Most Improved Sailor' and coming 16th out of 78 competitors.

With his confidence and skills progressing, Daniel entered the 2007 Chew Valley Nationwide event for the Topper, and then was fortunate enough to gain a place in the GBR Topper Junior Development Programme for 2007/08. He took part in the Topper World Championships in Tralee, Ireland, followed by the 2008 Topper Nationals in Paignton, qualifying for the prestigious Gold Fleet in both these events. As a result of these achievements, Daniel was offered a place in the Topper National Youth Squad for 2008/09. He has been training in Northampton throughout the winter and currently holds a worthy 6th place out of 24. Growing taller (and heavier), Daniel now also has a Laser (a larger boat) and has been fitting in training in Yorkshire and Humberside, as well as keeping up with his homework!



During 2009, Daniel will compete at some major events. On behalf of everyone at Shelley College, we wish him the best of luck!



The Year 10 netball team have recently won the Kirklees Schools Tournament. Well done to all players.



New sponsor for Year 11 netball team  
**C.I. Instillations**

The Year 11 netball team have won the Kirklees League for 3 years running, in all years they have also competed well in the West Yorkshire Tournaments. They have recently received sponsorship from C.I. Instillations for a new kit for the 2008/2009. Well done to all players on a fantastic achievement.

## On target for success!

Sharp-shooting students, Rachael Smith and Tommy Price, were medal winners in the Northern Counties Inter-County Junior Archery Championships held in Penrith last October.

Selected to represent Yorkshire as part of a 15-strong squad, the deadeye duo competed against over 60 junior archers from Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland in what turned out to be atrocious weather. With torrential rain, the competition was eventually cut short after three hours and six-dozen arrows (normally twelve-dozen arrows are shot).

Both Rachael and Tommy were medal winners, coming second and first in their respective categories (Girls' under 16 shooting Compound Bow and Boys' under 14 shooting Recurve Bow). The Yorkshire team won the Boys' Longbow Trophy and came second in both the Boys' Recurve and Girls' Recurve competitions. They also came second in the Boys' and Girls' Compound competitions.



## Under 15s Indoor Athletics Champions



Well done to our budding athletes, who secured the 2009 Kirklees Schools Indoor Athletics Trophy. From left to right, they are: Zoe Sutcliffe, Gemma Radley, Emma Taylor, Rebecca Cartwright, Lewis Reynolds, Luke Jackson, Adam Richardson, Tom Halton, Alex Goodliffe, Joe Siquera-Gomes, Gabby Smith, Chloe Giles, Declan McGivern, Jamie Higgins, Lauren Powell and Emily Freeman (Sporting Champion).