



# SilverMail

Autumn 2016

## Welcome Back!

by R Paul

Welcome to our new edition of Silvermail, a half termly newsletter which has been written by our Sixth Form Students.

It has been an incredibly busy half term, starting with the phenomenal success of our students with their GCSE and A Level exams. As a result, we continue to be one of the top performing schools in Sheffield and, indeed, in the top 10% for GCSE outcomes nationally and the top 5% for A Level. I wish to thank all our students for their hard work and determination to succeed and for parental support for them and our staff during a very stressful time. I wish them every success in their future ventures; we are all so proud of them!

As always, we are not content to rest on our laurels, even with such fantastic exam success. This year we are striving to make further improvements in a whole range of areas. As you may be aware, this year sees the move from modular exams (taken over a 2-year period) to linear exams (all exams to be taken at the end of Y11 and Y13). Many of the GCSE and A Level specifications have been re-written and as a result have increased in the level of challenge/complexity. We are committed to ensuring that this transition is as seamless as possible for students and through intensive planning and practice by their fantastic teachers, students will be thoroughly prepared for the new courses and examinations.

Our focus for improvement in Teaching & Learning is differentiation, ensuring that all students' needs are met in every lesson. Staff will be delivering and taking part in a number of workshops around this theme and then applying what they have developed in their lessons.

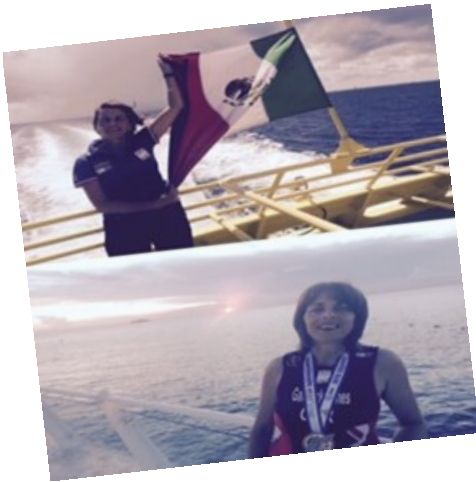
In relation to building on the already positive climate for learning we have at Silverdale, we will be strengthening our systems for parental communication and the recording of homework through a new electronic diary for Y7 students called MILK. This has been very successful so far and after evaluating its effectiveness we envisage that we will roll this out to all other year groups next academic year. We are also raising the profile of 'preparedness for learning' with our students through assemblies and tutor time, for example, ensuring they have the basic equipment every day to be successful learners.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students is always a key priority for us and this year we are focusing on continuing to combat cyber bullying and strengthen students' knowledge and understanding of e-safety. Alongside this we are delivering courses on resilience and mental health awareness, particularly to our Sixth Form students, through the PSHE lessons, to provide them with support and strategies they can use to manage stress, especially in the run up to exams.

Another new development is that Silverdale is now a Multi Academy Trust. This is a huge honour and a big responsibility but our vision is to build a family of schools with our partner schools, both primary and secondary, who will collaborate, support and learn from each other to deliver 'Outstanding Achievement for All'. Our first partner school is a new 11-18 secondary school, which will be built on the Bannerdale site on Carterknowle Road. More information on this will be forthcoming in future editions of Silvermail.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support. Working in a school can be very challenging at times, but hugely rewarding! We strive to work in partnership with our families and local community and are always seeking ways to improve. If you have any ideas on how we can do this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I wish everyone a happy, safe and successful 2016/17.



## SPORTS NEWS: Terrific Triathlon for Mrs Garnock-Jones!

By Natasha Meldrum

Congratulations to Mrs Garnock-Jones, Head of Psychology, for her achievement of coming 31st in the world in her age group at the world championships of triathlon in Mexico. She completed a 750-meter swim, 20 kilometre cycle and a 5 kilometre run. This is all took part during very hot, humid weather with temperatures getting up to 38°C. Nevertheless, the heat was not her only obstacle as the potential dangers of sting rays and crocodiles in the marina forced the swim to be moved into the sea, resulting in a rip tide causing fast currents. When we spoke to her she told us of how inspiring it was to be there, competing with people of all age groups and ability, and how she is very grateful to everyone who sponsored her.

## Herd of Sheffield

by Natasha Meldrum

Over summer Sheffield was decorated with elephant statues all over the city, each one individually designed by local artists. This was all to raise money and support for The Children's Hospital Charity. As well as the 68 sculptures designed by local artists there was The Little Herd, with smaller elephants designed by school students across Sheffield- including one from Silverdale! This is Sylvester designed by two Y9 students whose designs were combined, and he was then painted by many students from Y9-12.



## Results

by Lisa Evans

Once again, Silverdale has been taken by storm as both the GCSE and A level results for this year have improved: 82% of students achieved 5 GCSE grades A\*- C, with 44% 3 or more A\* and A grades exclusively; making Silverdale 66th out of all the comprehensive school in the UK. Similarly, the A level results for 2016 have also been outstanding: 88% of all grades were A\*- C, meaning the progress students make at A level is in the top 5% of the country!

These brilliant grades have given students the chance to pursue what they want in life, with many students going on to sixth form, college, or apprenticeships, in order to take the next step in their lives. Amazingly, we have even had the honour of seeing many of our students go to prestigious universities all across the country, including Cambridge, where several students are studying Natural Sciences.

Of course, these fantastic results were not achieved without a great deal of hard work and revision by the Silverdale students, so here we have some Top Tips so you can do just as well:

**-Make sure to identify and eliminate distractions: there's no way you can concentrate if your phone keeps buzzing every 5 seconds!**

**-Plan out a study/revision schedule, to make sure you use your time as effectively as possible**

**-Don't leave your revision until the last minute – last minute cramming has never got anyone anywhere...**

**-And most importantly: don't feel bad about taking a break and having some fun, because it's essential that you take some time to unwind**

## Extra-Curricular

by Tegan Harris

Are you involved in any extracurricular clubs at Silverdale? If not, then you are missing out. Silverdale offers a range of clubs for all years. Down below is a list of clubs to get you started:

Club	Day and time	Room
Art club	Thursday lunch	B002
Craft and jewellery club	Monday afterschool	C004
Food club	Monday afterschool	C103
Debate club	Tuesday and Friday lunch	C206
Geographical film club	Week 2, Friday lunch times	C205
Computer programming club	Wednesday lunch	C002
Nubble club	Thursday lunch	B207
Languages club	Thursday lunch	D003
Chinese	Wednesday lunch	D003
Science club	Wednesday afterschool	E101
Eco club	Monday afterschool	E105
Football	Tuesday afterschool	
Badminton	Wednesday lunch	
Table tennis	Thursday before school	
Netball	Thursday before school	
Rugby club	Thursday afterschool	
Hockey	Thursday afterschool	
Girls football	Friday before school	

For any more information see your subject teacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you might have. The most important thing is to get involved.

## Y6 Open Evening

By Reuben Saunders

Silverdale School welcomed Y6s with open arms on the 27th as we had our open evening showing them what they'd be in for at Silverdale if they are to come here next September.

The evening was filled with fun and laughter alongside the expected high quality education Silverdale has to show. The Food Tech department was a magnet for visitors for reasons coming in the form of smoothies and shortbread. After witnessing a hands-on food tech lesson, themselves, the department's popularity is no surprise.

Once the students had their fair share of smoothies, many made their way down to the science department, to be greeted by Bunsen burners and other curious science projects alike.



In order to show the visitors, the product of 5 years at Silverdale, we even had an assembly showcasing what students in the Music, Drama, and Dance departments are capable of. Needless to say, many parents were impressed by this as they gave us their thoughts on the night.

One parent in particular noted, "In general we're impressed, it seems like a really nice and friendly school environment, my son enjoyed it too so you might be seeing us again in September!"

## Meet the new teachers!

By Olivia Tomkinson

### Miss Robertshaw

**Q: What do you teach?**

A: Maths.

**Q: Why do you like your subject?**

A: I applied to study maths at university because I like solving puzzles, while I was there I met Mrs Taylor who told me to try out teaching while I wasn't sure what to do. Now I'm here and I love it.

**Q: What do you like about Silverdale?**

A: I like the level of support you get from the teachers and students.

**Q: Is there anything interesting to tell us?**

A: I think I'm really really funny and students really really disagree.



### Mr Horton

**Q: What do you teach?**

A: Head of Sixth Form and teaches history.

**Q: Why do you like your subject?**

A: I've always loved history, my Grandfather used to tell me stories about his past in the British slums and being in the army during WWII, and I just stayed interested.

**Q: What do you like about Silverdale?**

A: I really like the students and working with the students.

**Q: Is there anything interesting to tell us?**

A: I love American heavy metal.



### Mr Ali

**Q: What do you teach?**

A: Business and Economics.

**Q: Why do you like your subject?**

A: I did economics as a degree and really enjoyed it then business is entwined in that.

**Q: What do you like about Silverdale?**

A: The kids are great, the staff are brilliant and it's near my house.

**Q: Is there anything interesting to tell us?**

A: I've been to over 35 different countries.





## Settling into Silverdale

by Tegan Harris and Reuben Saunders

From old to new the transition can be hard. Despite this, our new Silverdale students are taking up the challenge and finding their way. Here is what some of our students have said about their experience starting at Silverdale:

### Are there any big differences between Silverdale and your old school?

The school is a lot bigger than my last school which can be quite scary, but there are loads of new people and new faces who are very friendly.”

“There is a completely different atmosphere to my last school. The admin team are a lot more organised than at my last school”

“Compared to my old school, the teachers are much more involved in my learning and care more about how I do.”

### Is there a big difference between Y6 and Y7?

“At first, not really. The transition was a lot smoother than I thought it would be.”

“The work has gotten a lot harder but the teachers are really nice so it’s easy to handle.”

“Not so much. It’s scary because now everyone’s new but everyone gets on well so even with the changes at least you’re not the only one.”

### Is there a big difference between Y11 and y12?

“I feel there is a lot more freedom and independence. However, I feel like the responsibility put on me has increased.”

“In sixth form. All the students seem a lot more focused and dedicated to their studies, compared to how relaxed people were with their GCSE’s.”

“Not having to wear a uniform means we feel much more like adults, and we’re also treated much more like adults by the teachers and staff.”

### Do you feel like there is an increased workload, and if so, how are you coping?

“Even though there is an increased workload, I understand I need to put in more effort to succeed in my A-levels so I’m adapting to the added responsibility.”

“Despite the bigger workload, I feel like I’m keeping up with it.”

“I started off the year feeling organised and on top of my work, however, as the workload has increased I’m starting to struggle to balance the work load with my social life.”

### Is there anything else you want to tell us about how you’re settling in?

“I like Silverdale, for now...”

“I much prefer Silverdale to my old school, and I hope it continues going well.”

“I’m enjoying all of my subjects and feel supported by the teachers.”

“I really like the common room, I just wish It were more colourful.”



## Meet the SilverMail Team!

by SilverMail

### Hi, I'm Reuben.

I'm one of the new journalists of this year's SilverMail. I'll be writing about everything that happens in and out of Silverdale, ranging from anything interesting to the students and also to the wider community. Coming from Firth Park Academy, I'll hopefully be able to bring an outsiders look at what happens in Silverdale School.

### Hi, I'm Olivia.

I've been at Silverdale since y7. I'll be writing something at some point, just after I'm done distracting everyone and trying to get a gossip column green lighted. Yep. That's me summed up.

### Hi, I'm Lisa.

I've been in Silverdale for the past 6 years, and now I'm also guesting at High Storrs. I'm excited to work on the magazine because I think it will be a great opportunity to give something back to the school!

### Hi, I'm Natasha.

I've been in Silverdale since Y7 and I am now in the first year of sixth form studying philosophy, history, maths and biology. I joined the SilverMail team this year and will be writing articles about various events in school and the achievements of the Silverdale community.

### Hi, I'm Tegan.

I went to Hope Valley College. I'm studying English literature as well as English language, media studies and classics. I joined SilverMail because I like writing and I'm interested in pursuing journalism.

### Hi, I'm Sailor.

I moved from Hope Valley College to Silverdale school as well as guesting at High Storrs. I like sports, specifically football. I will be doing sports article with Lucas, covering all sports news from Silverdale including results and pictures.

### Hi, I'm Lucas.

I moved from King Egberts to Silverdale school. I really like sports and support Sheffield United.

