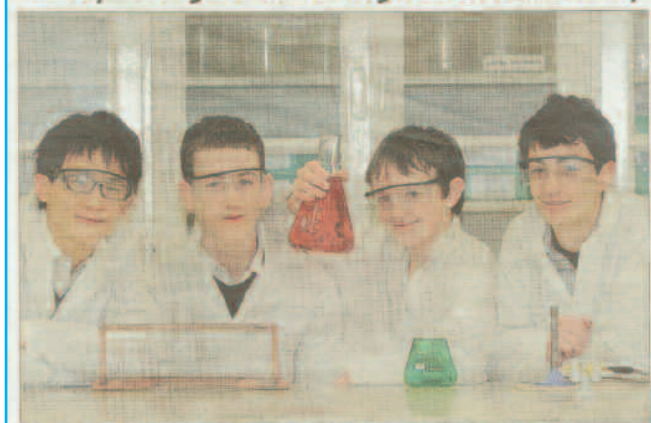


They've got the right chemistry



SCIENCE SUCCESSES: From left, Kelvin Wong, James Paul, Oliver Manners and Owen Duffey. Picture: Mike Tipping

THESE young scientists proved they were a class act when they won the regional heat of the Top of the Bench contest.

Oliver Manners, James Paul, Owen Duffey and Kelvin Wong representing Bootham School in York, won the Central Yorkshire heat of the competition, which is run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They were up against stiff competition from other schools throughout the region.

But, for the second year running, the team from Bootham has gone through to the national final, with an all-expenses-paid trip to London.

Mark Robinson, head of chemistry, said: "This is particularly impressive for Bootham, since none of our previous team members were allowed to compete, as they had already been in one final."

"This win just makes us feel very grateful for being in a school environment in which abilities and interests can flourish so well."

"We'd like to thank the other competing teams for the friendly and challenging opposition they gave us, and Brian Grievson of the University of York's chemistry department, for a great quiz."

York drama students earn a rave review

DRAMA students from York rose to the challenge in their recital of a Shakespeare classic.

A group of 22 thespians from Bootham School attracted a rave review for their abridged production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, which took place at the Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds.

Margaret Hillier, head of drama at Bootham School, said: "This is a challenging piece for a young cast with the action taking place over 16 years and certain actors playing more than one role."

"There is a strong ensemble feel to the production which includes dance and elements of physical theatre."

"Costumes have been kept simple and the emphasis is on the timelessness of the themes of the play."

The pupils impressed professional theatre experts who assessed the performance and awarded them with a glowing review.

Jane Peake, the school's development director, said: "The students performed brilliantly and it provided them with a marvellous opportunity to perform at such a prestigious venue."

The production forms part of the largest youth drama festival in the UK.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Pupils at Bootham School, York, who presented *The Winter's Tale*. From left, Marcus Balmer, Charlotte Noon, Aggi Carrill, Betty Brown and James Digby. Front, Emily Glavin. Picture: Nigel Hollar



Laura's CD of note

BOOTHAM School's Laura has earned her name on the list of young composers to watch in the music world.

Composed, Vaughan Williams, a *Cappella Choral Works*, the disc is made by award-winning choral conductor, Laura's Music.

Laura has been singing with Leeds since April 2008 and as part of the choir has performed on Radio 2 with Howard Gardell and for The Queen at白金汉宫.

Paul Fenton, director of music at the school, said: "She is a wonderful singer and her latest success with *Cappella Choral Works* is a testament to her talent."

Laura is currently in the second year of a degree in English Literature at Newcastle University.

School's 175 years of natural history



BOOTHAM School pupils mark the 175th anniversary of the Natural History Society, Bridgwater, holding a volume of work on natural history by former student, is pictured by, from right, Holly Rathbone, John Woodley, Eve Nelson, Jack Southan and Ed Jacobson. Picture: Anthony Chappel-Ross

A YORK school's science society has celebrated its 175th anniversary.

The group is thought to be the longest continuously running school science society in the country.

The school's Natural History Society's anniversary, on February 12, also marked the centenary of Darwin's birth and 150 years since he published *On The Origin Of Species*.

The first full meeting of the school's society was "in the schoolroom in Lawrence Street on Fifth day, the 14th of 8 Month 1834" (the method of dating is the Quaker way, eschewing names of the days and months derived from pagan deities).

Charles Darwin was at that time on shore from HMS Beagle in Valparaiso, Chile.

The popularity of the sciences and geography as academic subjects - with field trips where observation of natural phenomena is still practised and taught - is one manifestation of the continuing attraction of natural history at Bootham.



HELP: York Cares volunteers, who will be working on a project at the Heworth Lighthouse young people's centre in Tang Hall. Picture: David Harrison

Volunteers wanted to make Lighthouse work of it

YOUNG volunteers are needed to help transform a youth centre in York.

Volunteering charity York Cares is searching for 100 young volunteers to transform Heworth Lighthouse, a young people's centre in Tang Hall, during the upcoming half-term week, of October 27 to 31.

Twenty youth volunteers from York College and three York schools have already signed up to the project, which has received funding from v, the youth volunteering charity.

The week-long scheme will see the creation of outdoor, eco, arts and chill out spaces at Heworth Lighthouse, which is home to outreach youth initiatives for young people aged 11 to 25, and is managed by City of York Council's Young People's Services.

Wendy Horsman, of York Cares, said: "We want to give young people aged 16 to 25 who are in or out of education and employment the opportunity to volunteer their time and skills to create a fantastic environment for other young people in the city to enjoy."

"The young will gain valuable experience for their CVs and will also receive nationally recognised v certificates for volunteering."

For an application form phone York Cares on 01904 432688, email v@yorkcares.co.uk or visit www.yorkcares.co.uk

York sixth formers' peaceful trip

College students from York's two Quaker Schools attended an international peace conference in Los Angeles. Seven girls from The Mount School and five students from Bootham School were among the 3000 students from around the world who attended the conference sponsored by the PeaceJam Foundation.

The conference was led by six Nobel Peace laureates: Iranian activist and feminist Shirin Ebadi, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, anti-land-mine activist Jody Williams, Betty Williams of Northern Ireland, Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina and Rigoberta Menchu Tum of Guatemala, led discussions on issues facing young people in the world today with special consideration given to the plight of Burma and Tibet.

The PeaceJam journey really started last March when we went to a conference in Bradford attended by Nobel Peace Laureate, Rigoberta Menchu Tum," says Bootham student Jordan Street.

"We set about raising money to attend the international conference," Jordan continues. "Through a series of house stalls, Salsa evenings and bag packing days, plus a generous grant from The Garton Trust, we managed to raise enough. We were lucky enough to have a school and staff that were fully committed to the cause as well."

Seeing the Laureates was a sobering experience. "Whilst they were speaking, I remember thinking to myself, 'some of these people on stage have been tortured, imprisoned for years of their lives or have seen their family killed in front of their eyes. When you take a step back and put it into context with your everyday life, it really leaves you in awe,'" says Jordan.

PeaceJam was created by artist and musician Suwanjiff who had vision of Nobel Peace Laureates working with and inspiring young people. After convincing the Dalai Lama to commit he went on to sign up another 11 laureates including Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma. The mission of the PeaceJam foundation is to create a new generation of young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates.

Since its launch in 1996, more than 500,000 youth have participated in the PeaceJam program. Over one million service projects have been created and implemented by participating youth, and over 100 PeaceJam youth events have taken place. More information is available on www.peacejam.org



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TOP CLASS: Successful GCSE students at Bootham School, York. BELOW: Dilan Altin, left, and Sarah Crompton who have achieved high GCSE grades at Canon Lee School. Picture: Nigel Holland

Making the grade

by HAYDN LEWIS
Education reporter

STUDENTS at two York schools have proved what their teachers have always known - they really are the best.

Pupils at both Canon Lee School, in Clifton, and Bootham private school have got among the top marks in the country for their GCSE exams.

At Bootham an unprecedented number of pupils who took GCSE Art and Design this summer - a staggering 21 students - gained among the highest marks in the country for Art.

Of 36,294 candidates, nationwide, who sat the exam, 50 are classified as receiving "Top Marks" - and of those 50, 21 are to be found at Bootham School.

Jonathan Taylor, head teacher, said: "This is quite a stunning statistic - every year we may get about half a dozen Top Mark letters like this across various disciplines, but no one can remember this level of performance in a single year, for one department."

"The Art Department at Bootham consistently produces a very high standard, which is regularly commented upon by visitors. I suppose we have come to expect it as a norm - but something like this really does show just how special it is."

Bootham School has a long and distinguished history in the world of art. Locally, names whose work is found in national collections include painters Kenneth Rowntree and Henry Tuke and the sculptor Austin Wright.

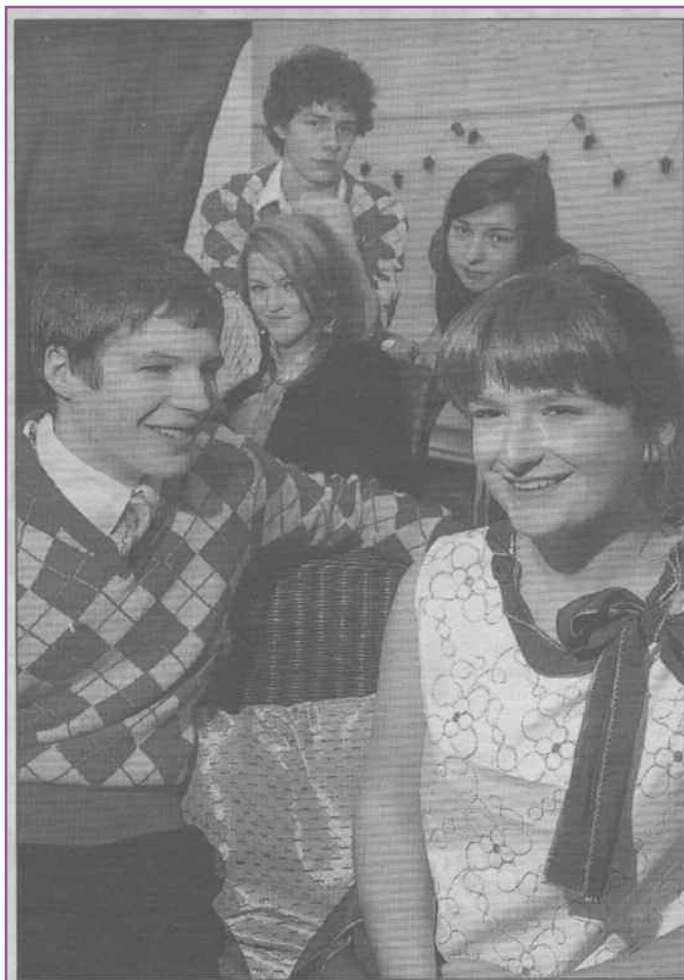
The school is currently engaged in a major project, funded by the Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust, to catalogue and research Quaker artists connected with the school and with York. The plan is to publish the findings and to put on an exhibition in association with various Art bodies and galleries.

The top GCSE artists from Bootham School are: Jessica Arton, Elias Ashby, Lucie Berry, Camilla Botterell, Polly Clarkson, Edward De Nunzio, Charlotte Dodsworth, Patrick Good, Lewis Hung, Amelia Hutchinson, Joseph Marahall, Oliver Meacock, Anjali Metcalfe, James Mitchell, Stephen Myers, William Perkins, Frederick Shephard, James Tang, Sophie Todd, Tony Wu and Charlotte Yelton.



The Top 50 Independent Schools at A-level

1	Hampton School, Hampton	1311.4
2	King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham, West Midlands	1301.8
3	Perse School for Girls, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire	1240.0
4	Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire	1235.6
5	The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton, Middlesex	1206.2
6	Withington Girls' School, Fallowfield, Manchester	1204.0
7	St Swithun's School, Winchester, Hampshire	1198.5
8	Norwich High School for Girls GDST, Norwich, Norfolk	1194.2
9	Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent	1186.0
10	Warwick School, Warwick, Warwickshire	1174.3
11	King Edward's School, Birmingham, West Midlands	1147.8
12	Downe House School, Cold Ash, Thatcham	1139.9
13	City of London Freemen's School, Ashted, Surrey	1137.2
14	Tormead School, Guildford, Surrey	1130.4
15	King's College School, Wimbledon Common, London	1128.5
16	Loughborough Grammar School, Loughborough, Leicestershire	1128.0
17	The Grange School, Northwich, Cheshire	1125.8
18	Westminster School, London	1125.3
19	Casterton School, Carnforth, Lancashire	1116.0
20	Yarm School, The Friarage, Yarm	1115.3
21	Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, Middlesex	1095.2
22	Nottingham High School, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	1092.4
23	James Allen's Girls' School, London	1089.5
24	Alleyn's School, Dulwich, London	1088.7
25	Lycee Francais Charles de Gaulle, London	1087.4
25	St Catherine's School, Guildford, Surrey	1087.4
27	North London Collegiate School, Edgware, London	1085.5
28	Marymount International School, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey	1085.3
29	Eton College, Windsor	1084.6
30	Loughborough High School, Loughborough, Leicestershire	1079.5
31	Concord College, Shrewsbury, Shropshire	1076.2
32	Wakefield Girls' High School, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	1074.2
33	Bootham School, York, North Yorkshire	1074.1
34	Hulme Grammar School for Girls, Oldham, Lancashire	1072.1
35	Oxford High School GDST, Oxford, Oxfordshire	1068.8
36	Tasit, Egham, Surrey	1058.8
37	Magdalen College School, Oxford, Oxfordshire	1054.5
38	ACS Egham International School, Egham, Surrey	1051.2
39	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	1049.8
40	St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green, London	1049.6
41	St Mary's School Ascot, Ascot, Berkshire	1046.6
42	Nottingham Girls' High School GDST, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	1046.3
43	Derby High School, Derby, Derbyshire	1044.5
44	Badminton School, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol	1040.6
45	Leicester High School for Girls, Leicester, Leicestershire	1039.8
46	Southbank International School, London	1037.6
47	Birkdale School, Sheffield, South Yorkshire	1036.7
48	Sir William Perkin's School, Chertsey, Surrey	1033.3
49	St Paul's School, Barnes, London	1032.2
50	Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire	1030.9



SPOTLIGHT: Foreground, from left, Barney Taylor and Amy Warnock with, back, Isabelle Hanson, Edward De Nunzio and Harriet Gardner in the Bootham School production Ring Round The Moon

Picture: Gary Atkinson

In the spotlight

SIXTH FORMERS and other pupils from a York private school have been taking centre stage for charity.

Bootham School pupils have been putting on a play called Ring Round The Moon, by Jean Anouilh.

Described as a "charade with music", the play is set in a French chateau where a young girl has been mysteriously invited to a ball.

The production has been running from Tuesday until tonight at the school's theatre.

Seats for tonight's performance can be reserved by phoning 01904 623261. There is no entry charge, but there will be a retiring collection.

Proceeds from the collections will be donated to PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness), a charity working in South Africa helping marginalised communities.

History in stitches

All exhibition featuring the Quaker Tapestry is on display at a York independent school.

The tapestry is a celebration of 350 years of Quaker insights and experiences.

A travelling photographic exhibition of ten selected panels from the tapestry is at Bootham School as part of National Quaker Week celebrations.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Saturday, from 9.30am to 4pm. Entry will be free.

The original, which is on permanent display in Kendal, is embroidered in narrative scenes on panels of specially woven cloth.

It all started as a result of a chance remark by a pupil to his teacher Anna Wynne-Wilson in 1981, a Quaker and accomplished embroiderer. She had the vision of a tapestry telling the Quaker story and culture.

Designers came forward, embroidery groups were formed and training workshops arranged.

Eventually, more than 4,000 men, women and children across 15 countries had a hand in its creation.



Picture: Frank Dwyer



EDUCATION: President elect Barack Obama with his daughters Malia and Sasha, and, above, pupils from Bootham School in York

President's daughters could be York-bound

THE daughters of US president-elect Barack Obama could one day be studying in York.

Mr Obama has announced his children, Sasha and Malia, will attend Sidwell School in Washington for their education when the family takes up residency in the White House in the new year.

Sidwell is a Quaker school and has strong links to York, as it is an exchange partner with

Bootham and The Mount schools in the city.

Annual pupil exchanges take place between the schools.

Jonathan Taylor, headmaster of Bootham School, said: "Who knows, the two Obama girls may yet visit the city as part of our exchange group."

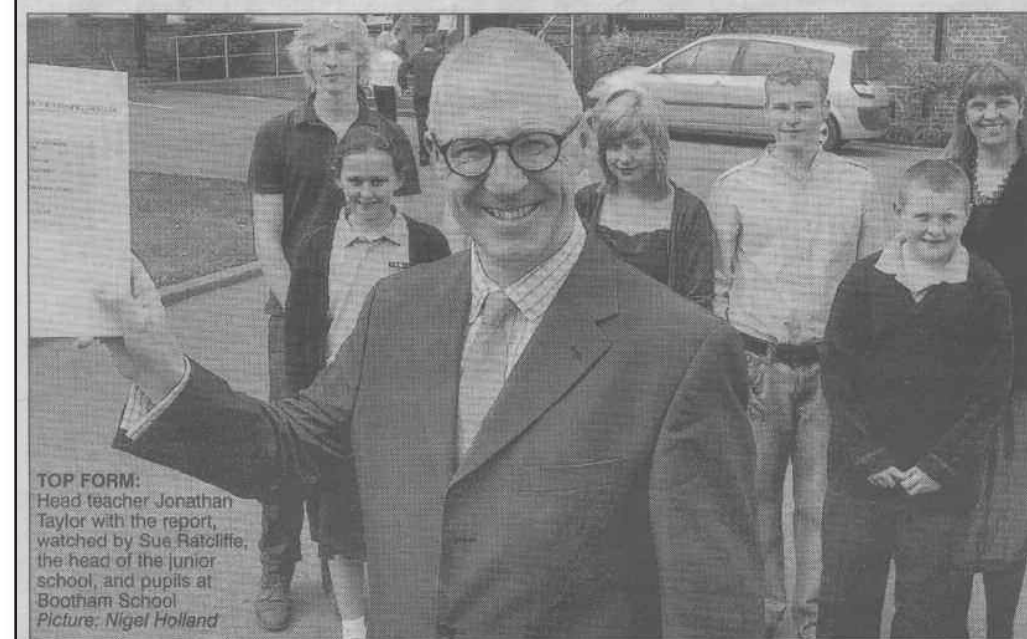
Mr Taylor explained what he believed was at the heart of a Quaker education.

He said: "I believe it is the

Quaker appreciation that there is something of God in everyone.

"That's a very positive way to approach education. It underpins the caring relationships within the school, both amongst students and between students and staff. It is proof that collaboration and resolution are more profitable ways forward than conflict, that integrity is more valuable than showiness or sharp practice."

York school chalks up ace report



TOP FORM: Head teacher Jonathan Taylor with the report, watched by Sue Ratcliffe, the head of the junior school, and pupils at Bootham School

STUDENTS and staff at a York private school are celebrating after the school sailed through an inspection.

Bootham School, York's co-educational Quaker School, has received a glowing inspection report from the independent schools council.

Head teacher Jonathan Taylor said: "Above everything, Bootham believes that with a bedrock of Quaker values, we are here to educate the whole person and that has been clearly recognised by the inspectors."

"The report states pupils are self-confident, courteous and have a high level of social skills, and praises the quality of the whole educational experience, with pupils achieving high standards across the board both academically and socially."

The inspection report covers both the senior school and Bootham Junior School, based in Rawcliffe Lane in Clifton, where the inspectors described the academic development of the pupils as "outstanding".

