

## CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH DRAMA

SHINING stars at a Liverpool school were recognised as part of Shine Week

Gateacre Community Comprehensive, an arts and humanities specialist college, organised a number of events to demonstrate students' skills.

Year 7 students at the school created and performed a play called Going to Big School to primary schoolchildren.

Students were also involved in a two-day storytelling event at Parklands City Learning Centre, where they performed in front of 300 pupils dressed as fairytale characters, including Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella and take part in workshops.

Pupils also took part in Act Together at the Liverpool Echo Arena and BT convention centre.

The performance, organised in conjunction with Merseyside police and Liverpool council, looked at issues surrounding anti-social behaviour.

Pupils from years 7 to 9 also created and designed their own superlambanana in Gateacre village called Tudorlambanana.

Year 11 drama student Jessica Farmer has "been invaluable during the GCSE exams this year".

As well as her own show she has helped the other 50 drama GCSE students in directing, set and prop making, as well as giving advice on coursework.



**ACTING UP** Pupils from Gateacre Comprehensive School rehearsing a play called Bouverie Street Kids about anti-social behaviour as part of Shine week. Natasha Molly, 16, (second left), plays an elderly person with youths played by 16-year-olds Jenny Mahon, Steven Williamson, Jay-Louise Fox, and Sophie Fraser 16.

# A-grade students put on an art show

**A**RT students displayed their masterpieces to inspire creativity in students across their school.

Sixth-formers at Finham Park Secondary School, Coventry, exhibited their work after achieving A grades in their AS-level coursework.

Fine art student Bhagat Manku, 17, produced successful pastel and paint portraits of her grandfather for the exhibition. She came second in an international competition led by the Artist and Illustrator magazine, for professional and aspiring artists.

Bhagat, who will have her some of her art work featured in the magazine next month, said: "The coursework has been a challenge because I worked on a bigger scale than what I'm used to in a short amount of time but I'm so pleased with the outcome.

"I was interested in art from when I was

10 years old. My mum would buy me crayons and paints and then I naturally grew a passion to draw.

She added: "Friends and family were so supportive and it motivated me to do the best work I possibly could.

"I was also inspired by a famous artist called Lucien Freud because I like the way he creates distinctive brush strokes.

"Throughout this week, I have been so proud of what I've achieved - it's shone a new light for me on taking art to the next level as a professional."

Sam Stockmans, 17, concentrated on his talent to paint seascape in acrylic and oil paints. He said: "I used to travel to Cornwall at least seven times a year to see my uncle and began sketching the sea which is what I based my coursework and exam on.

"It became a habit when I started in year seven to paint the sea and coast lines. I've been able to develop the techniques thanks to our art teachers."



**CULTURAL ART** Sixth Former Bhagat Manku with her work.

### Shining star

"I know from first-hand experience that there are many exciting activities in schools designed to unlock young people's potential.

"Only the other week I saw a primary school in East Anglia where the walls, ceilings and doors were all covered in art work and at a secondary school in Birmingham I met young people training to be basketball professionals.

"In Stockport I met children with a real gift for looking after farm animals and in Kent I was treated to some extremely tasty spaghetti bolgnese made by some young people with special educational needs. Every parent will agree with me that every child has a talent. Shine has allowed schools to bring every child together in a festival week and join the national campaign."

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families