



Good with words...

by HAYDN LEWIS

haydn.lewis@thepress.co.uk

THESE wordsmiths from secondary schools in York and North Yorkshire have got through to the semi-finals of the UK's only national spelling competition.

A team from Fulford School in York and another from Selby High School both won their round of local heats of the 2011 Times Spelling Bee at Wakefield Cineworld on Wednesday.

More than 1,000 schools

from across the UK entered a team for the competition this year.

The Fulford team were Georgina Elkington, 12, Peter Clarke, 12, William Penn, 11, with Jack Beeken, 11, as a reserve, while Selby High's contenders comprised of David Critchley, 11, Thomas Walker, 11, Isobel Macgregor, 12, with Libby Embling, 12, as a reserve.

Now both schools will go forward to the semi-finals in May.

On Wednesday the students competed against eight teams

from other schools from across Yorkshire to earn their place.

Georgina Elkington, of Fulford, said: "It was amazing.

Her teammate, Peter Clarke, said: "Exhilaration to the max."

Fulford teacher Mark Harney said: "I think it's a fantastic competition that gives everyone a chance. I feel very proud to be part of the winning team. Go Fulford."

Stephen Williams, a teacher from Selby High School, said:

"It was a wonderful competition.

"I'm really happy to have won but equally happy to have taken part. I think it's fantastic that a competition like this exists."

In their heat, Isobel Macgregor, from, Selby was the last player standing.

The 11 winning teams from the semi-finals will go on to travel to London to compete in the grand final at Indigo2 in the O2 Arena on Thursday, June 23.



WINNERS: The Fulford School team photo, from left, Georgina Elkington, Peter Clarke, William Penn and Jack Beeken



WINNERS: The Selby High School team from left, David Critchley, Thomas Walker, Isobel Macgregor and Libby Embling

How good is your spelling? Here are some of the words the teams had to spell, but which is the correct spelling?

1 a) corilate
b) correlate
c) correlate

2 a) litigent
b) littigant

c) litigant

3 a) sarcophegus
b) sarcophagus
c) sarcophigus

4 a) cataclysm
b) cateclism
c) cataclysom

Answers: 1 b) correlate; 2 c) littigant; 3 b) sarcophagus; 4 a) cataclysm

