



To bee or not to bee as pupils win spelling contest

PUPILS from Hemel Hempstead will pit their wits in the semi-finals of a spelling contest that saw students from more than 1000 UK schools taking part.

The youngsters from Hemel Hempstead School won the local heat of the 2011 Times Spelling Bee competition at Staples Corner Cineworld on May 3, beating five other schools to the top spot.

Students Zennor Simpson, 11,

Deborah Adu, 12 and Sam Studd, 12, with reserve James O'Connor, 12, will now go on to take their place in the competition semi-finals later this month.

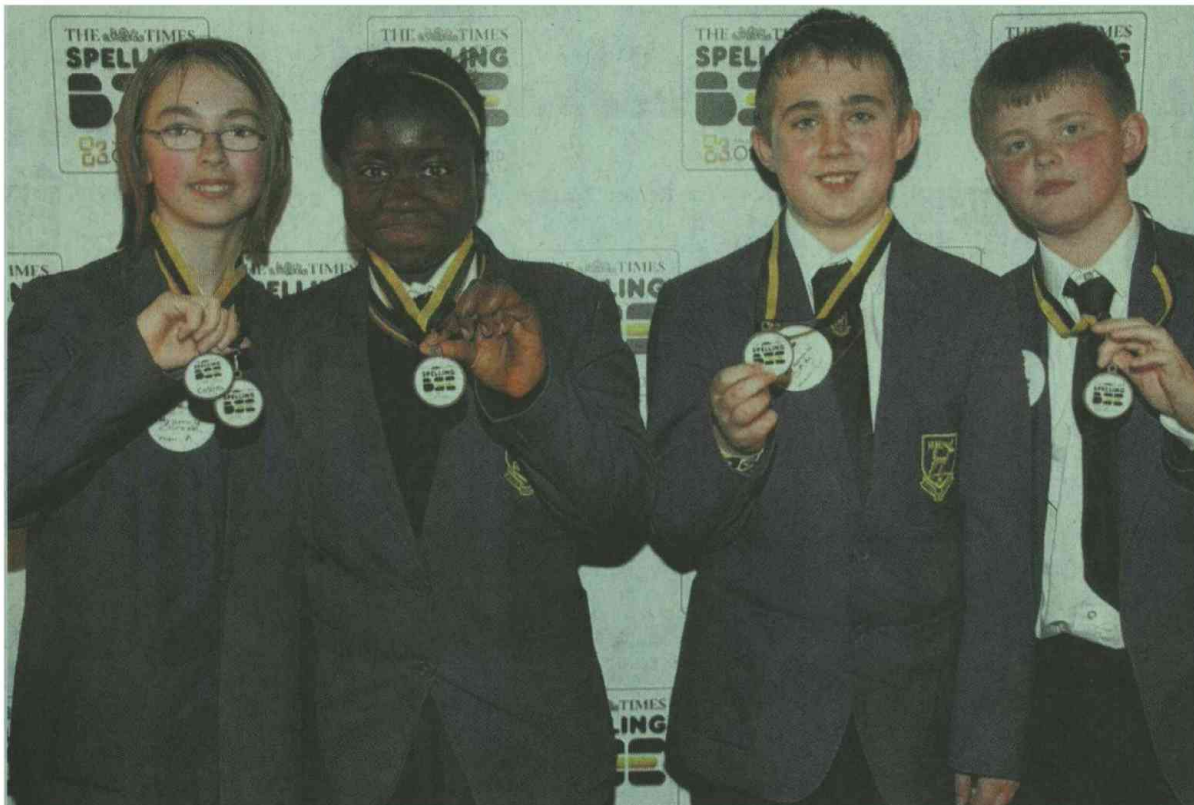
Sam said: "It has been a fascinating and extraordinary, yet nerve-wracking, experience!"

If successful, the 11 winning teams from the semi-finals compete in the Grand Final in London on Thursday, June 23.

Teacher at the school Ellen Krajewski said: "I am just so proud of them, they have done really, really well. I just about have fingernails left!"

Zennor Simpson was the last player standing as teams spelt challenging words on the day, such as diagnosis and conciliate.

For more information about the contest visit www.timesspellingbee.co.uk



Bees' knees: from left, Zennor Simpson, Deborah Adu, Sam Studd and James O'Connor.

