



# FOUR ARE SELECTED FOR SPELLING BEE CONTEST

## HOLY FAMILY by MIRAN RAHMAN

Four Keighley pupils will demonstrate their mastery of English vocabulary by representing their school in a national spelling contest.

The Holy Family Catholic School children had made it on to a short-list for a competition within the school to select the final team.

They were given words to spell out verbally in front of an audience of staff and other pupils.

Darien Bailey, Hannah Kilcoyne, Saiba Nosheen and Sadie Simpson, all of whom are in year seven, emerged as the top four from the short-list. They will take part in The Times Spelling Bee and are

due to compete in local heats next March. If successful they will go through to the quarter-finals later in the year. The finals will be staged in London.

Maxine Gordon-Jarrett, head of the English faculty, said the pupils had been doing written spelling tests in the run-up to last month's competition to decide the repre-

sentative team. But she stressed that having to spell words orally in front of an audience was tougher.

She said this was the first time Holy Family had taken part in the national contest, which is sponsored by The Times newspaper.

She said: "It's very important and does two things — it makes spelling fun and it gives the pupils a sense of meaningful competi-

tion.

"No matter where they get to in the spelling bee it will promote a feeling of achievement among the students.

"It's quite an honour to represent your school at any level and it's also good for building confidence."

She added that partly as a result of text messaging and social networking such as Twitter, young people did not value accurate spelling as much as they should.

"We want to give spelling the importance it deserves," she said.

"We're going to have a weekly club meeting to coach the team but we also want to focus on spelling for the whole year group."

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"It's quite an honour to represent your school at any level!"  
Maxine Gordon-Jarrett

● Holy Family School's spelling contest team members, from left, Saiba Nosheen, Darien Bailey, Sadie Simpson and Hannah Kilcoyne

