

Wandsworth schools and families

MAY 2016

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Resolving conflict

Young people at Burntwood School have been learning how to resolve conflicts, with the help of the Wandsworth Mediation Service.

The service ran a series of workshops to teach young people that conflict is an inevitable part of life, but can be dealt with in a constructive way.

Over six weeks they looked at themes including expressing feelings and identifying anger, what triggers and escalates conflict, what lies behind it and how to overcome it. Students used role play to act out scenarios from different points of view and explore different possible outcomes.

To find out more about the Wandsworth Mediation Service's schools work contact Rachael on 0207 223 7744 or email: WMS@wandsworthmediation.co.uk

Students meet the president

Five Sixth Form students from ARK Putney Academy were selected to meet Barack Obama at a town hall meeting in central London.

Maia Drummond, William Theji, Rosalee Henry, Xavier Bailey and Francini Nuernberg were selected after the American Ambassador, Matthew Barzun, spoke to the academy's Sixth Form and was impressed by their questions and passion for global politics.

They had the chance to hear Obama speak and then deliver an extended question and answer session with a range of young people from schools and universities all over the country. Francini, who was interviewed by Reuters immediately after the speech, told the press; "it was an honour to meet him. Obama really encouraged us to fight for the things we believe in to create change in the world."



Cleaning up the air

Schools have been learning about climate change, air pollution and how our travel choices can affect the environment.

Interactive theatre production ‘The Pollution Solution’, performed by the Big Wheel Theatre Company and funded by Wandsworth Council, has been teaching students how the choices they make about how they get to school can affect their local environment.

The initiative aims to encourage sustainable travel like walking and cycling and cut rush hour traffic congestion caused by ‘school runs’.

The primary schools to receive a visit were **St Boniface, Gatton, Smallwood, Allfarthing, Swaffield, Albemarle, Sheringdale, St. Anselm’s and Holy Ghost.** In total approximately 560 pupils got to see the show.

Meanwhile Wandsworth is one of four south London boroughs to take part in a Mayor of London-funded

scheme to improve air quality. It included a competition to design a poster about air quality, which was won by St Mary’s School in Putney.

Winning pupils were presented with a school banner showing all the posters entered. The school also received a cheque for £100 to spend on environmental projects.

For further information on the council’s efforts to tackle air pollution visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/airquality.



The council’s environment spokesman, Jonathan Cook, with the banner showing poster competition entries.



Award-winning Mr Day

Head of Careers at **Ernest Bevin College**, Jeremy Day, has won the national Pure Potential Careers Guidance Award for providing outstanding careers provision for students.

Headteacher Rukhsana Sheikh said: "When it is time to leave the college, he helps our students with the whole process of applying for university places, apprenticeships and employment and has an incredible success rate in placing our leavers in the highest quality opportunities."



Golden challenge

The Wandsworth Youth Council has received a Gold Commendation for its work on November's Takeover Challenge. The day saw around 40 young people shadowing Wandsworth's senior councillors and council officers, police officers and NHS staff.

The Children's Commissioner Up for the Challenge commendation scheme is a way of formally recognising participation in the Challenge. The gold level is for organisations that have done the most to involve young people in their work.

New branch for Granard tree

Children's author Michael Foreman has officially opened Granard School's new Cedar Building.

The school has been expanded and the new building will make the space needed for the extra pupils. It will include breakfast and after-school clubs, eight classrooms, cloakrooms, WCs, kitchen facilities, meeting rooms and a staffroom. All the school's classrooms are named after authors, and in September when a new Year 2 class moves in, its classroom will be named after Mr Foreman.

The building is named after a 300 year old cedar tree that dominates the school grounds, and features in its emblem. A mosaic of the cedar tree, which all Key Stage 2 children were involved in creating, has been set on the outside of the new building

Last year Granard was in the top five per cent of all primary schools in the country for its results in phonics.



Finding the facts on faith

Students from seven Wandsworth secondary schools have been finding out about other faiths at this year's Faith Direct event at the town hall.

They were able to fire a series of quick-fire questions at representatives from the borough's local Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i, Humanist and Buddhist communities.

The Faith Direct initiative was organised by the council and the Wandsworth Multi-faith Group. It aims to increase young people's knowledge of the different faiths and beliefs practised in the borough, promote understanding, tolerance and respect and offer an open forum for dialogue.

The young people conducted a whistle-stop tour round the room interviewing each representative in turn. The schools taking part were Ashcroft, Bolingbroke, Burntwood, Chestnut Grove, Graveney, St Cecilia's and St John Bosco.

Find out more about the work of the multi-faith group at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/faithgroup.

Space seeds

Students at Ashcroft Academy have been growing seeds sent to them from the astronaut Tim Peake. Ashcroft was one of 10,000 schools chosen to grow the rocket seeds, which have been in orbit to see whether space affects the way plants grow.

Record applications

A record number of parents have applied for a place at a Wandsworth primary school this September, but every child that needs a place has been offered one.

The total number of applications from borough residents reached 3,233 - a 4.6 per cent increase on the previous year and a new record high. Overall 96 per cent of parents were offered one of their preferences, with 77 per cent offered their first choice school and 90 per cent offered one of their first three choices.

A recent report from Ofsted into the quality of schools and teaching in London found that 93 per cent of Wandsworth's primary schools were assessed as either good or outstanding.



Young musicians dazzle the South Bank

The eighth annual A Brighter Sound concert featured 1100 young singers and musicians from schools all over the borough performing to a sell-out crowd at the Royal Festival Hall.



The March 21 concert was organised by the council's Wandsworth Schools' Music Service and featured young people performing in orchestras and choirs from the borough's primary and secondary schools, including the 650-strong Wandsworth Junior Choir and the flagship Wandsworth Pops Orchestra.



The concert was attended by Wandsworth's deputy mayor Leslie McDonnell. Master of the Queen's Music Judith Weir was also there to watch a performance of her composition *I Carry Your Heart With Me*, sung by the **Burntwood Chamber Choir**.



Other highlights included Janacek's *Sokol Fanfare* by Wandsworth Academy Brass and members of the Philharmonia Orchestra and a performance by **Paddock School** of their own composition.



Wandsworth Schools' Music Service is the lead partner in the Wandsworth Music Education Hub. Other members of the Hub taking part in the concert included musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Opera Studio.

The Schools' Music Service offers music programmes to borough schools and has created three symphony orchestras - the Wandsworth Pops Orchestra, Wandsworth Concert Orchestra and Wandsworth Junior Orchestra - as part of its ensemble strategy to enable the growing numbers of children learning musical instruments in the borough's schools to progress through performance.



Later this year the ensembles will also be performing at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and will be undertaking two European summer tours.

Amaya cooks up a storm



Burntwood School pupil Amaya O'Reilly aged 14 has won the third annual Wandsworth Young Chef of the Year competition.

Her dish of prawn rice-noodle salad to start, a main course of Kung Po chicken with white rice, and raspberry brownie dessert wowed the judges, including celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson.

Second place was taken by Shanice Gayle from **Harris Academy** Battersea, and Arthur Butler from **Chestnut Grove School** came third.

The competition is run by the Mayor of Wandsworth and the council's public health team. It teaches young people how to cook good healthy food to a budget, and gives them the opportunity to access training, mentoring and valuable experience in the catering industry with a view to helping them get jobs in the future.

Young people from eight borough schools took part in the final and were given extensive support and mentoring by chefs from major catering contractor Compass. They were also taken on a trip to Billingsgate Market to learn how to source, select and fillet fish and attended a masterclass hosted by The Hospitality & Catering Academy of South Thames College.

The Mayor of Wandsworth

Cllr Nicola Nardelli said:

“ Hopefully all the finalists have received a taste of what it is like to cook professionally and an insight into how to succeed in the industry. I'd like to thank them for all their months of hard work, and I'm especially grateful to Nick Vadis from Compass, Ross Anderson from South Thames College and Antony Worrall Thompson for their support. ”



Rebecca speaks out

Rebecca Barnes, a Year 10 pupil at Saint Cecilia's, has won the regional final of the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' competition.



Rebecca fought tough competition against other Wandsworth schools and won after delivering a strong and moving speech entitled 'Have a Heart'.

Second place went to Akhera Williams from **Chestnut Grove Academy**, while Jonathan Baodu from **Ernest Bevin College** was third.

Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge is the world's biggest youth speaking event. Speakers Trust Associate trainers, funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation, visit all the state schools throughout London and Essex delivering a day's training in public speaking to year 10 students.

Each school then chooses a pupil to represent them in the regional finals. Rebecca will now go on to take part in semi-finals next month.

Awards for top schools

Headteachers and governors of borough schools have been to the annual Pupil Achievement Awards Ceremony at the town hall to celebrate their success in 2015.

They include awards in KS1 and KS 2 reading, writing and mathematics, value-added for pupil progress from KS1 to KS2 and awards at secondary level. In all 16 schools received awards.

A special award was presented to **Brandlehow Primary** and **Holy Ghost RC School** who were in the top 100 schools nationally when ranking the average points score at schools where all pupils achieved Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics in 2015.

Garratt Park also received an award for the special school with the highest national value added score between KS2 and GCSE.





Run for peace

Swaffield School welcomed runners from 12 different countries to launch the UK leg of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run. The Peace Run is a global relay to promote international friendship and understanding.

The runners arrived with the Peace Run's flaming torch and shared two assemblies with Swaffield's pupils, who created their own peace flag to present to the runners.

The visit culminated in all children and staff passing the torch in the playground before it left for Battersea Park. Some Swaffield pupils were also selected to take part in the Peace Run at the Peace Pagoda in the park.



Students quiz author online

Year 7 and 8 pupils from **Saint Cecilia's** were invited to a special live-streaming event at Southfields Library with best-selling children's author Robert Muchamore.

The event which was broadcast live to various schools in UK and abroad, gave pupils the unique opportunity to ask a number of questions about his life as an author and his future plans. At the end pupils received a signed copy of the latest book from the 'Rock War' series.

St Joseph's is the place to be

St Joseph's RC Primary School in Putney has hosted a Being is Believing event to showcase the work it is doing to help improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families, teachers and staff.

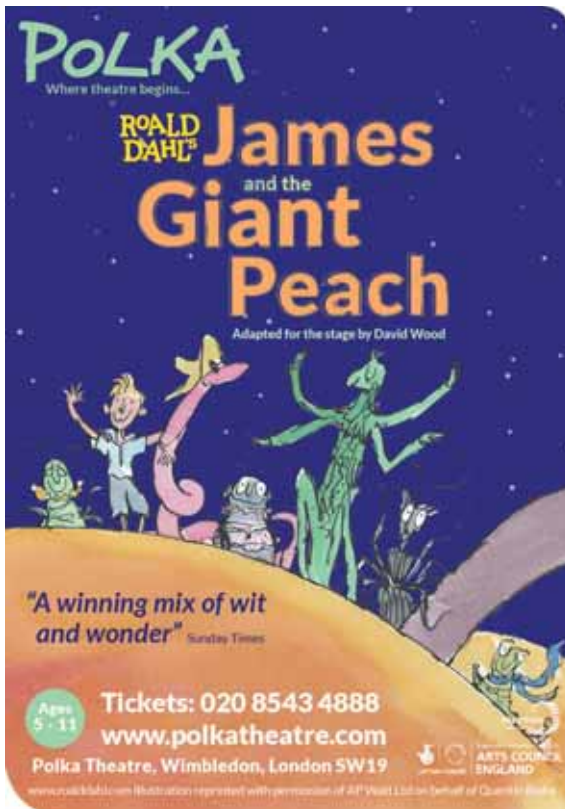
The event showcased the work of Place2Be, a charity which since 2006 has been providing in-school support and expert training. The event included a performance by the Year 5 choir and heard presentations from school and Place2Be staff along with children who have benefited from the service.

Head Teacher Yvonne Wozniak said: "Having Place2Be in our schools helps children cope with the range of problems that children inevitably face in their lives – they become more settled and less distracted."



Volunteer counsellors deliver weekly one-to-one sessions which are tailored to those children who are most in need. There is also a break-time service open to all children in the school offering a quiet place to talk and express feelings during the busy school day.

Place2Be works in 12 schools across Wandsworth reaching a school population of more than 4,500 children.



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