



Super Start for Stupendous Sevens - see page 5

## Dear Parents and Carers

### Citizens UK

*Citizens UK is an organisation of over 300 institutions nationwide. They build alliances with other institutions including various faith groups, colleges, schools, trade unions and local community organisations. The purpose of Citizens UK is to take action on the nation's biggest problems such as poverty, work employment, immigration, affordable housing and the living wage. They work as a union and help bring about positive change in the right way holding politicians accountable and pledging to work with them on the various problems at hand.*



Best Wishes  
Patrick Winston  
Principal

## Working with Citizens UK

Over the past two academic years, St Paul's Academy has been in a direct relationship with Citizens UK, during which time the partnership has succeeded in many goals, such as securing a meeting with Councillor John Fahy, the deputy Greenwich Council Leader, when we asked if he would help St Paul's and Citizens UK to acquire future meetings with Peabody and Crossrail Network.



## Citizens UK continued

Following on from that meeting, we also met Boris Johnson, the current Mayor of London, in the ArcelorMittal Orbit and in this discussion, Citizens UK examined him on his plans for the local area and what his plans were for future employment creation; he replied with several answers which motivated Citizens UK to continue the campaign.



At the start of the new academic year Citizens UK and SPA students visited the local **Sainsbury's** that has just been built and were able to meet the deputy store manager. At the meeting we discussed youth employment skills, and chances of work experience throughout the Sainsbury's organisation.



The Geography department recently met with **Peabody** to discuss their plans for the local area and the plot of land they own, on Yarnton Way, Thamesmead. They are planning to build 1000s of new homes, with 47% of them being affordable housing and social housing.

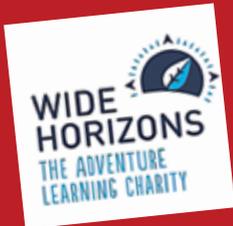


On the 25th April, Citizens UK and St Paul's students had a meeting with Teresa Pearce, who is the Shadow Housing Minister and MP for the local area. At the meeting, which included Mr Winston and students from across all year groups, we asked for possible youth employment places and to establish links with other secondary schools that would be interested in becoming a part of Citizens UK and expanding its widespread unity and diversity. We negotiated and came to an agreement, and Ms Pearce said she would personally do her best to help get in touch with other secondary schools and youth employment companies and institutions.

On the 28th April 2016, Citizens UK organised the Mayoral Election Campaign at the Copper Box Arena at the Royal Olympic Park, in Stratford, East London. Members of the 6,000-strong audience were able to question the two leading London mayoral candidates from both parties; Labour's Sadiq Khan and Zac Goldsmith from the Conservative party. The three main topics discussed were affordable housing, the immigration crisis and the London living wage and both mayoral candidates gave their opinion and outlined their plans.

St Paul's Gospel choir and the key school spokesperson, Dylan Wiggan, also attended the event, where he gave a powerful testimony on housing in the local area and overwhelmingly moved the crowd to applause.

**CITIZENS** UK



# Year 10 Geographers WIN the Wide Horizons' National Competition

## What will you do today in Geography?

I am delighted to inform you of an incredible achievement by some of our Year 10 Geography students. They entered a competition called SharingAdventures by Wide Horizons, which involved the students producing a 1 minute video on the benefits of a residential in Wales and the effect on their lives and the local community. This competition was against over 250 UK secondary schools.

It is with great pride that I can reveal that our students have **won 1st place** in the competition which means a one week residential trip to Wales worth over £10,000. The 5-day residential Adventure Learning experience will enable the students to engage in a number of outdoor adventures including canoeing, gorge walking and rock climbing. They will be located along the River Dee, situated on the edge of the beautiful

Snowdonia National Park. Mrs Cooper's and Mr Davis' Geography classes joined forces to create the videos that won the competition. If you would like to view the winning videos please visit the Geography blog (<http://mrgdavis.blogspot.co.uk>), the school twitter account or the SPA Geography YouTube Channel and subscribe.

Find out more about the Wide Horizon Ty'ny Berth and Bryntysilio Centres at: <http://www.widehorizons.org.uk/sharingadventures#sthash.FNTWm0hu.dput>



**Congratulations to all students for their tremendous achievement and I hope they thoroughly enjoy the trip to Wales. Please check out Show My Homework or the Geography Blog for the competition from Action For Conservation on working with National Wardens in Pembrokeshire. The competition is open to Year 9, 10 and 11 students**

**During the trip the students will be participating in activities such as:**

- Rock Climbing and Bouldering
- Abseiling
- Scrambling and Weaselling
- Mountain Walking
- Underground Exploration
- Orienteering
- Mountain Biking • Low ropes course
- Shelter Building



Winning Team 1- Ahmed, Demi, Kwabena, Nathan, Fabrizio and Gareth



Winning Team 2- Tony, Steve, Folarin and Joseph.



Winning Team 3- Melanie and Fay.



Winning Team 4- Breeana, Victoria, Elizabeth, Laurette and Jessica.



Winning Team 5- Amy, Maureen, Eljay, Megan and Ieva.

## Speak out challenge

The Speak Out Challenge was on 23 March at Eltham Hill School.

Kyle Louro and Nikola Wasilewska both overcame their nerves and were amazing!

Kyle finished 2nd and had the audience in fits of laughter from his speech named, 'My Short Struggle'.

Nikola graced the stage with elegance and dedicated her emotional speech 'Flowers', to her mother.

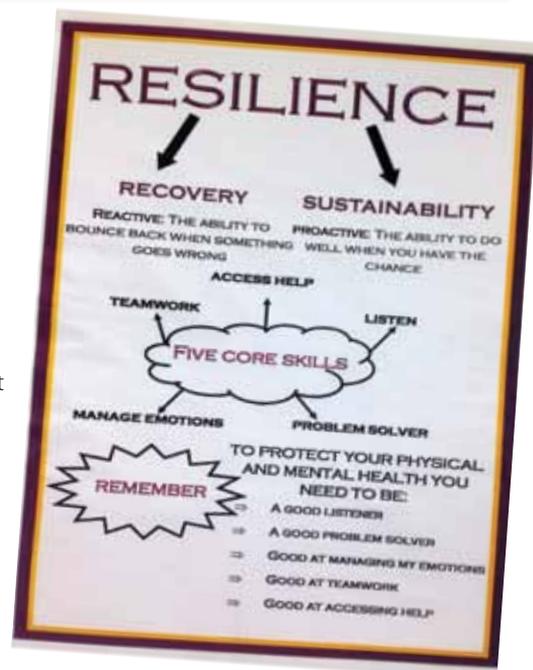
Kyle and Nikola both deserve further accolades and congratulations: they made us proud.



## Year 9 Resilience Day

Research shows that many young people have negative attitudes towards mental health difficulties among peers and avoid seeking help. One of the ways St. Paul's has sought to support our students in dealing with such difficulties has been to run Health Days for each year group. This term Year 9 enjoyed their Health Day, which included Resilience Workshops.

Resilience is the number one defence against developing depression. The workshops helped the students explore in a fun and interactive way the five core skills needed to overcome adversity and succeed in life. They learnt how to be a good listener, how to be a good problem solver, how to manage their emotions, how to be a good team player and most importantly of all how to access help. These skills will support our students to become highly resilient and in turn this will help them protect their mental and physical health.



## Year 11 Student crowned WTKA Inter-Continental Champion

Congratulations to Tawab Mousavi, a pupil on St Paul's Academy Gifted and Talented PE and Sports Programme, who has just been crowned Lightweight Inter-Continental Muay Thai Kickboxing Champion. Tawab has added this title to the National title he won in emphatic fashion in November last year.

His journey to becoming an Intercontinental Champion began when his natural ability for Muay Thai Kickboxing was identified during a Physical Education class at Nemesis Gym in Erith. Thanks to the partnership between St Paul's Academy and Nemesis Gym, Tawab was able to continue his training there through a scholarship system and will go on to fight in Germany as a member of the English National squad for a World Title in May.

We are hugely proud of what Tawab has achieved in a relatively short kickboxing career thus far and wish him every success at the World Championships in May.



## Super Start for Stupendous Sevens

The Year 7 Boys' Football team kicked off their footballing journey at St Paul's Academy in earnest in September of last year. This keen group of boys were immediately presented with a challenge when on only their second full day as students at SPA they represented the Academy for the first time. The boys faced a local team from Sidcup and unfortunately lost 6-2. Following this initial defeat, the team, under the management and coaching of Mr Innocent and Mr Crinnegan, regrouped and refocused and since then have never looked back.

The team have gone on an unbeaten streak in all friendly and cup matches since their initial outing, training and playing matches on a weekly basis. Such training and experience of playing regular competitive fixtures has proved extremely productive for this

hardworking and determined group of players.

This hard work and commitment has certainly paid off, as this season they made it to the fourth round of the Kent Cup, last 8 of English Schools' and are still currently in the District Cup Competition. In the National Cup the team played 8 games, winning 7 of those 8 games and unfortunately crashed out in the quarter-finals of the competition following a 2-1 defeat to Queen's School of Watford. Commenting on the defeat afterwards Mr Innocent noted that although it wasn't the boys' best collective team performance to date; (that came coincidentally in round 5 with a 2-1 win against Howard School in Maidstone, Kent). this quarter-final fixture did however prove to be a fantastic game, showcasing tremendous power and sheer determination from the boys.

The athleticism, technique and resilience displayed by the entire team during the earlier rounds of the competition unfortunately did not shine through as strongly for each and every player during their quarter-final defeat to Queen's.

Despite their last 8 English Schools' defeat, the Year 7 team are still currently in the District Cup Competition. The team and management believe that they can end their season on a high by winning the competition and bringing their first ever piece of silverware back to SPA. Having played 19 competitive fixtures to date, winning 18 and losing only one it is safe to say that the statistics are strongly stacked in this talented and hardworking team's favour. We wish them every success for the remainder of their season and look forward to hearing about many more successes during the boys' next 4 years at SPA.



## SPA Netball Greenwich League Champs excel at Kent Netball Invitational Tournament

The SPA netball season has drawn to a close for this year with all teams across Years 7 to 11 recording tremendous successes both within Greenwich and throughout Kent. The season saw all teams within Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 win their respective Greenwich Schools' Netball Leagues. Every team managed to complete a clean sweep, winning all of their matches and remaining undefeated. This is an exceptional achievement for all of the girls involved in netball at SPA and is testament to the commitment, dedication and passion which the girls have shown to their sport throughout the season. As the girls continue to work hard and improve, with many pupils now also playing club netball outside of school in the local borough, it is exciting to think how far students will go and how much they will achieve in their sport.

With the title of League Champions to their name, Thursday 21st April saw our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams travel to Rainham School for Girls, alongside their coaches Miss Duffy and Miss Stone, to compete in the Kent Netball Invitational Tournament. Having moved up from the Kent Netball Emerging Schools Competition which the current Year 8s came second in last year, players and coaches knew that competing in this higher level competition against some of the best schools in the county would be a challenge for all involved. However, it was a challenge that the SPA contingent revelled in.

Having trained extremely hard all season to improve upon their individual and team performances, both teams took to the court to record wins in the first games with the Year 7s defeating Trinity School Belvedere 2-0 and the Year 8s defeating Sittingbourne Community College 7-0. With both teams getting off to a steady start the girls continued to work hard for each other throughout the duration of the tournament, displaying some exceptional levels of skill, determination and team work.

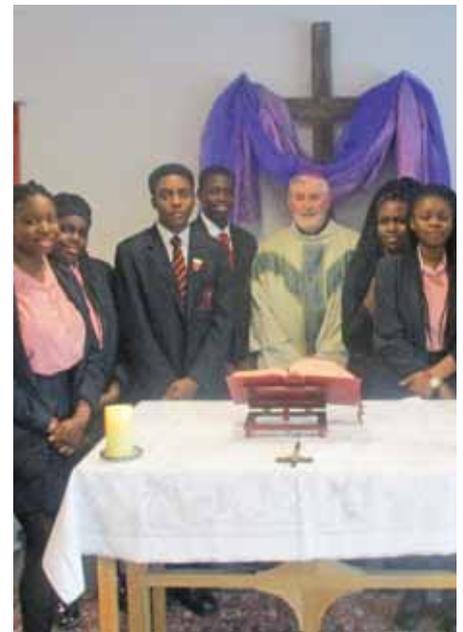


## Weybourne Easter Activities

It was lovely to be able to welcome a small group of residents from Weybourne Care Home to take part in some Easter craft activities.

The residents soon became involved in working alongside students in Year

11, making their spring blossom trees, daffodils, sun catcher wind chimes and finishing with dotty sticker activity eggs. They all stayed for some refreshments and were able to take their craft work home.



*"Bishop Pat Lynch joined staff and students at SPA for Mass on St Patrick's Day".*



## Easter Activities

We have now completed our Easter Appeal this year, selecting four charities to support; Sister Ann and her educational work, Street Children Empowerment Foundation, Greenwich & Bexley Hospice and Thamesmead Food Bank.

Our Easter Fayre was a huge success, with stalls ranging from 'hook a duck', penalty football, hoopla, as well as seasonal crafts and Easter card sales. Not only was this an excellent fundraising event, but also a hugely enjoyable activity; all members of our community were able to make a positive contribution, whether it was giving time and talent or simply supporting the event.

*We raised in the region of £4,000, a magnificent sum, which reflects the generosity of our community and commitment and enthusiasm of our staff and students.*

*Raising money for charity requires a great deal of organisation and initiative and we are always looking at new ways to support our charities, as well as raising awareness in our community.*



## Boxgrove Reading Project

Since moving to the Abbey Wood site, the Academy has made increasingly strong links with our local primary schools and a small number of Year 11 students have enjoyed taking part in Boxgrove's 'Reading Project'.

Since last October, students have been listening to children read in years 4, 5 and 6, encouraging their interest and helping to improve their skills.

Our students have been excellent role models and have been able to gain confidence and experience different environments to work and succeed in.

*We will continue to support this project next year.*



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### TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2016

Summer Term  
Monday, 11th April  
Friday, 22nd July

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Summer Half Term  
Monday, 30th May  
Friday, 3rd June

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Autumn Term  
Tuesday, 6th September  
(Year 7 only return)  
Wednesday, 7th September  
(Years 8 – 11 return)  
Thursday, 22nd December

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Autumn Half Term  
Monday, 24th October  
Friday, 28th October

## CHARITY MONEY RAISED

Since becoming an Academy, we have raised in excess of £148,000 for a variety of different charities and organisations.

During our Easter Appeal, we held a series of fundraising activities and raised in the region of £4,000 to support our nominated charities.