

Platanos College News

Friday 16th May 2014

Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Final 2014

Earlier this week on Tuesday 13th May, two of our pupils reached the final of the annual Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' competition - the UK's largest youth speaking competition.

There were 21 finalists from 10 schools across Lambeth contesting in the annual public speaking competition.

In a darkened auditorium, our two Platanos College representatives were encouraged to the stage by the MC, last year's winner, our very own Patrick Ballesteros from Platanos College.

Abdullah Suleman was first onstage for Platanos College. He had chosen the subject of "*lying*" and during the course of his three minutes amused and entertained us with the problems that can befall us because of an inability to tell the truth.

Our second pupil, **Caterina Pereira**, caused the audience to question how they judged people by their appearance, and who was the more insecure – the person wearing make-up or the person who was unable to see the real person behind the make-up.

Our two contestants narrowly missed out on the top prize but they were brilliant and proved to be superb ambassadors of the school. Our supporters applauded and cheered, recognising the communication, confidence and courage of the contestants. Not only that, Platanos College's supporters far outnumbered those of other schools.

Elaine Powell herself, the organiser of the Speakers Trust, wrote to congratulate both Abdullah and Caterina on their performances: *"Abdullah and Catarina were fantastic*



Patrick Ballesteros (from Platanos College), last year's winner, delivering the opening speech at the final.

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yesterday. They were both composed and delivered polished, engaging and thought-provoking speeches. Please congratulate them again for me. I hope they are proud of themselves, I definitely am."

Our pupil, **Abdullah**, said: "It was an amazing experience. It was challenging but the event has really pushed my skills up to another level. This has given me a lot of confidence."



Abdullah Suleman delivering his speech onstage and receiving his award from the Deputy Mayor of Lambeth, Mr Aminu.



Catarina Pereira delivering her speech onstage and receiving her award from the Deputy Mayor of Lambeth, Mr Aminu.

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