

Platanos College News

Monday 25th March 2013

Platanos College wins the Jack Petchey Speak Out Lambeth Finals!

At Platanos College we place an immense value on debating and public speaking as we believe this provides our most able pupils with intellectual stimulation outside of the classroom that facilitates the development of higher order thinking skills.

Earlier this term, our Year 10 pupils attended the *Jack Petchey Public Speaking "Speak Out" Workshop*, an annual programme run by the school to support our Year 10 pupils in achieving the top A/A* GCSE grades in English.

Shana Kay Harwood and **Patrick Ballesteros**, the winners of our Year 10 *"Speak Out"* school competition, were invited to take part in the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Lambeth Final* on Tuesday 12th March 2013.

The final consisted of eight Lambeth schools, including St Martin in the Fields, Dunraven and La Retraite. As expected, the competition was fierce and the standard of speeches this year was extremely high. However, our first speaker **Shana Kay** fought off the stiff competition and impressed the judges by delivering an inspirational speech against the death penalty, making her one of the favourites to win the competition. Unfortunately, she was penalised for speaking beyond the strict three minute time limit.

Our second speaker **Patrick Ballesteros**, however, also



Patrick Ballesteros delivering his winning speech

delivered a truly outstanding speech entitled *“The Influence of the Media”*. Patrick’s articulate, eloquent delivery and his logical, persuasive arguments highly impressed the judges and this won him the competition!

Patrick said: *“Public speaking and debating has really helped develop my speaking and writing skills. It has also helped me build a lot of confidence and I am delighted to win this competition!”*

Sally Benton, Regional Co-ordinator and Associate Trainer for the Speaker Trust, speaking after the event was full of praise and admiration: *“Thank you so much for bringing the students along tonight and for your continued support of the project. Huge congratulations to Shana Kay and especially to Patrick - they both gave extremely confident, well structured and self assured speeches.”*

Both pupils have truly done us proud and we are delighted that Platanos College are the well deserving winners of the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge!*



Shana Kay Harwood with the Mayor of Lambeth

Once again, well done to Patrick Ballesteros and Shana Kay Harwood!