



Victorious Year 9 students were 'Up for Debate'...



### Debating success at Manchester Grammar

The Elizabethan Academy's Year 9 Debating Team have returned victorious from the regional heats of the national "Up For Debate" competition.

The team, consisting of **Christopher Wass, Daisy Ellis** and **Connor Bell**, along with members of the debating club, had to prepare two topics for the heats, which were held at Manchester Grammar School last Thursday: whether music and videos with discriminatory lyrics should be banned and whether international adoption should be illegal.



The Manchester regional heat attracted 17 other schools from the north of the country, each with their own elite team of debaters. The third round was particularly challenging as teams were given just 20 minutes to prepare for a debate on the ethics of child beauty pageants. This type of impromptu debate truly tests processing, eloquence and organisational skills, but the trio remained calm and put in an exceptional performance.

The results of the previous three rounds were collated and The Elizabethan Academy team was announced as one of the two finalists. They had just 20 minutes to prepare for the final debate, whether MPs should earn the national average salary.

After a tense wait, the team from the Elizabethan Academy were announced as Regional Heat Winners and were awarded the trophy. Awards were also presented to the top five individual speakers on the day. With 54 students taking part in total, competition was tough... but the trio from the Elizabethan each gained one of the top five spots.

The team must now prepare for master classes in London, followed by the national Final against the other three regional winners, which is to be held at the elite Harrow School in early July.



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## Primary Wellbeing Day

Over 180 children from local primary schools have attended a Wellbeing Day at the Elizabethan Academy as part of National World Health Day. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities throughout the day all linked to health and mindfulness.

The event, organised by Bev Fullwood (Extended Learning Coordinator for the Family of Schools), saw the children involved in a variety of activities, with topics ranging from self-esteem to the health dangers of sugary snacks. Pupils learnt how to combat stress through yoga and relaxation, and worked with England Basketball Coach James Oliver in the Change for Life Challenge Zone.

Although the activities were led by outside providers, a team of Year 10 Academy Leaders were on hand to help with the smooth running of the day. As always, their confidence and communication skills helped make Wellbeing Day a complete success.



In preparation for the day, pupils were asked to write a slogan to promote healthy lifestyles, with the lucky winners being presented with brand new bikes by Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw. The winning slogans "Be Healthy for Your Selfie" and "Don't be a Couch Potato, Be a Runner Bean" were created by Megan Dunlop from Carr Hill Primary School and Joseph Greensmith from Ranby Primary School.



Bev Fullwood said "The Elizabethan Academy works closely with feeder primaries to support transition from primary to secondary.

"We have covered many different themes including community cohesion, equality and diversity. We were especially grateful to Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw for providing the bikes - they certainly motivated children to create some great health slogans."



Jason White, who leads on transition at the Elizabethan, said that events such as these really help students feel at home when they join us in Year 7. "Whether feeder or non-feeder, our new students always settle quickly and it is great to see so many of them getting involved in the wide range of activities we offer."

## Ski Trip 2017 in Passo del Tonale



Staff and students from the Elizabethan spent the first week of the Easter holidays in the north Italian ski resort of Passo del Tonale. For many, it was their first experience of winter sports, but students soon found their feet and took to the slopes with increasing confidence.

Mrs Horrocks took advantage of the whole-school assembly on the first day of term to praise the students and their positive attitude: "I was incredibly proud of our students and the resilience they showed in the face of adversity. It didn't matter how often they fell over... they got right back up and got on with it."

### Further choral success

Following their success at the Worksoop Festival last month, the Academy Choir have just returned from the Worksoop Festival Winners' Concert at The Crossing, Worksoop, where they gave another awesome performance of *Viva La Vida* and *For Good* from the hit musical *Wicked*.

At the concert, the choir were also presented with the Capio Shield for Choral Excellence, one of the highest awards for choirs in the area. You can see both shield and winners' cup in the trophy cabinet by main reception!

