

Cardinal Wiseman News



Official Newsletter for Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School & Language College

May 2008



The Prince of Wales' Visit

After months of planning we were delighted to welcome HRH Prince Charles to school as part of the "Seeing is Believing - Year of Food and Farming" programme. We were chosen to host the visit because of the farm and garden on site and the successful Land Based Environment courses run by the school.

Many of you will know that Mr Sean O'Donovan has developed the farm over a number of years using space created to keep farm animals and to grow fruit and vegetables.

HRH spent time talking to pupils and staff about how to look after the livestock. Clearly both HRH and Mr O'Donovan are experts in their

fields! Whilst I cannot compete, it was enjoyable listening to experts on how to get the best plants and eggs!

Business leaders from across the Midlands were led in discussion by Guy McCracken, Chief Executive Food Retail of the Co-operative Group Ltd and Sir Don Curry, Chairman Sustainable Farming & Food Group,

DEFRA, for half an hour before HRH left. 15 minutes was spent saying 'Goodbye' to the Royal Party and many of the pupils were spoken to by HRH.

All pupils were a credit to the school and to their parents.

I am delighted that the school was recognised for its unique work. Everybody is very proud to be part of this celebration of our work as a Language College with Rural Dimension.

Mrs Helen Knight
Head Teacher

Assistant Head Teacher pleased to see project extended

Sean O'Donovan, Assistant Head Teacher at Cardinal Wiseman, was delighted that children from St Patrick's and Sacred Heart were able to be presented to HRH, The Prince of Wales.

The children are part of Coventry's Growing Schools Project funded by the Sainsbury's Trust. John Hirons is employed 2 days a week to work in other schools to encourage children to

set up gardens and grow vegetables. The idea is to reconnect children with the soil and to eventually cook the food that they have grown from seed.

The project has now been extended to include Corpus Christi school.

HRH was very impressed with the knowledge and manners of our primary school children, and, likewise, the children were excited to have met the Prince.



Head Boy Ethan impressed by Prince Charles

One of the first to meet and greet The Prince of Wales at the school was Ethan Griffiths, Head Boy.

Ethan said that he would never have expected to do this when he was elected Head Boy. He said, "I was really anxious before I met Prince Charles but he made me feel at ease straight away. As we were part of the Royal Party we got to walk around the school and see a different side to it".



Head Girl's View

Lauren Stundon, Head Girl, commented that HRH's visit to the school was just 'awesome'. She said, "It was lovely to hear all the nice things the delegates had to say about our school. One of them referred to Wiseman as a 'beacon school'. I felt very proud of the school and privileged to be involved".



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Ethan commented that he felt very privileged to have been part of such an enjoyable occasion. He said, "What got me was how Prince Charles shook hands with nearly every student and member of staff as he walked past the crowd to get to his car before he went to his next engagement. He made a point to talk to everyone".