



Edwinstree Middle School



A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School
February 2018

As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community, we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

This half term we have been exploring the Christian value of Koinonia, based on the Greek word for democracy. We have explored how we all have something wonderful in us, but if we combine all those 'wonderfuls' together we become really powerful. Based on this value our House competition this term, will involve our budding mathematicians and future engineers in a Domino Rally Challenge to build the longest and most challenging domino run for their house! We will be live streaming the event to the school next term!

Lots of small acts and small people working together can make something really wonderful happen!

The Watoto Choir



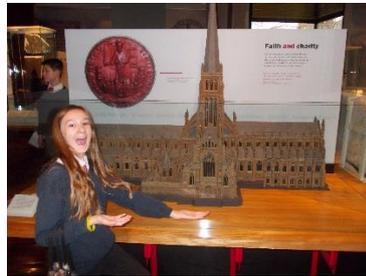
We were delighted to welcome the amazing Watoto Choir to Edwinstree for a performance of African music and celebration, which helped raise funds for the Watoto charity working with Ugandan orphans. The best singers from the Watoto villages travel abroad each year to perform in the Watoto Choir.

As you would imagine, our students were exceptionally excited to see and work with the children and their carer's over a two day period. The Choir arrived in the morning, had school lunch, they were also treated to an evening meal courtesy of the Edwinstree School Parent Association. The school held a non-uniform day for students to help boost funds for the charity, and a number of students acted as the Watoto buddies escorting them around our school. The Evening Concert was completely sold out and was a huge success. The Choir's colourful, exhilarating and thought provoking performance was a pleasure to behold.

All students and staff agreed we were left humbled by the whole experience. We marvelled at the sheer determination of the Ugandan team to succeed and improve the lives of the children in their care, against all odds.

Although most of the time we enjoy school, we felt our Key Stage 3 needed to break out in the cold month of January, so we have been visiting both Cambridge and London to enrich our learning.

Year 7 Visit London Museum and the Olympic Park



Year 7 took the opportunity to visit the Museum of London and the Olympic Park regeneration project. The Museum of London tracks the history of Britain, and in particular London, throughout the Stone Age to Modern times. This linked in beautifully with the student's current learning, which is a whistle stop tour of the History of Britain from pre 1066 to medieval times! Students spent time exploring the artefacts and finding evidence of progress in each of the ages. We have to confess, we think we went backwards after the Roman's left us – sorry any fans of the Anglo Saxons!

At the Olympic Park, Year 7 were set the field work task of talking to local residents, to find out if the park had lived up to its legacy promise and really made a difference to the people of Newham. Of course, while studying, we also had time to try out the different park land areas and games sets within the park, and spot potential athletes off to the velodrome or magnificent swim centre. Our high top bus, courtesy of Richmond Coaches, added to the learning, as we were able to compare London to Geographical models and ask the question did it fit the pattern? We are still reeling from the price of flats in the CBD advertised at one million pounds, although some of our entrepreneurs are clear they are going to own one!

Year 8 Visit - The History of Computing Museum in Cambridge



Year 8 students were offered the opportunity to visit and explore the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. The intention of the day was to see how computers have developed over the years, in order to help understand the possible futures for digital technology and artificial intelligence. During the day students visited each of the four main zones of the museum: The Main Gallery Zone, The Games Zone, to explore the development of computer games, the Mega processor Zone, to understand

the basics of how a computer works and The Classroom Zone to take part in a workshop, using the programming language Python to control physical objects.

Young voices at the O2

Our budding performers have been training since September 2017 in order to prepare for the Young Voices event that is held annually at the O2 Arena, which took place during the last week of term. Students from all year groups were involved, singing to the max for two hours with 7,500 students! The event is uplifting and pockets a life time memory for students and parents.

J K Rowling Day

Last year, the Year 7 team organised a 'Winston Churchill Day' in order to celebrate and explore how good a role model he was for boys in the 21st century. This year, and in keeping with the 100 year celebration of Women's Right to Vote, students had the opportunity to celebrate a female heroine and the nomination was J K Rowling. On the last day of this half term, students had a reduced timetable and experienced life at Hogwarts, with potion lessons, Quidditch and created magical creatures in art. They also explored J K Rowling's life before fame and after, her endurance in the face of repeatedly being told her books were not good enough, and finally what charity and donation work she carries out in support of the most vulnerable children, with a particular focus on her charity Lumos. The entire event was organised and written by our Year 7 students who once again, displayed their amazing talents and maturity in delivering such an event.

We look forward to the lead up to Easter as we explore our next value which is 'Endurance' Wish us luck!

**Jo Gant
Headteacher**