

Heartbeat

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Gold stars create London 2012 murals

Young students from our local primary schools got their hands on more than just gold, silver and bronze recently, as they created colourful Olympic murals.

The enthusiastic artists, from Ursuline, Great Crosby and St Thomas' and St Edmund's, visited the College to create the striking artwork ahead of this summer's sporting spectacular.

One of the organisers, Art teacher Mrs Campbell, explained more about the day: "The students designed their own 'Wenlock' and 'Mandeville', the mascots used for the Olympics 2012. "One design for each school was chosen and became part of a design for a mural which will celebrate the event."

Working alongside Sixth Form BTEC students, the Year 6 pupils were then split into groups and worked enthusiastically on their murals.

The Year 13 BTEC students have been designing and working on this Public Art project which will be submitted as part of their BTEC Art and Design Diploma.

Mrs Campbell added: "The day was a great success and all students should be congratulated on their excellent effort and attitude throughout the day. All pupils were an absolute credit to their schools."

The murals will be constructed as 3 x 3 dimensional pieces of artwork, which will later be displayed in each of the primary schools.



Comenius in Italy

In part two of our special report on the Comenius students' exchange trip to Italy, we discover what Mrs Stewart and the students did from Tuesday to Friday.

Tuesday

The students started this sunny day by meeting at Padua's railway station. From there, they took the train into Venice.

They were given a guided tour around the city, where they had the chance to see and visit all of the historical and famous places such as the Basilica Dei Frari, Ponte di Rialto, etc.

The tour was very interesting and the students learnt a lot from the guides and the teachers. Together, they walked to Piazza San Marco, where everybody got the opportunity to see the architecture and surrounding canals.

They then had lunch and were given free time to discover the beautiful city by shopping, taking photos and screaming at the crazy pigeons!

Later, they met up and went to Palazzo Ferro Fini, where they listened to Piero Ruzzante, a member of the regional Parliament, who spoke about the politics of the country and the 150th anniversary of Italy. The students were able to ask him questions, which he answered in great detail. From there, the students and teachers walked across the city, where they had the once in a lifetime opportunity to row across the Grand Canal in a gondola. As Italy is famous for its ice creams, the guest students had free time to taste the different flavours and absorb the Venetian experience.

The students met back at the station by 7pm and took the train back to their home towns with bags of souvenirs.

Wednesday

The day started with two very interesting workshops, the first concerning physics and the second about music.

During the first workshop, we discovered the properties of water through a lot of funny experiments. In one of these, we learnt about the pressure water exerts, for example, in a swimming pool. In another, we learnt to create soap bubbles of various shapes.

Everyone enjoyed playing with water and discovering new things about such an important element for humanity.

The second workshop concerned water



and music. First, we listened to the Scottish ballad about magic, called *Lord Randall*, and then to a song by Bob Dylan called, *A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall*, which has a structure similar to the medieval ballad.

Finally, we made posters about what impressed us in the Bob Dylan song. For example, our group drew a poster about the theme of Hope, which is in the song. Everyone appreciated the song by Bob Dylan and it was very interesting to learn that we can find water also in music not only in Physics. After lunch, we learned a very funny Irish dance. It was very difficult for everyone to learn but, at the end, after a lot of exercise, we made it. While we learned the dance, the male students from each country challenged one another in a strength contest. The Italian young men were the strongest.

The day was really fun and everyone had a good time doing Physics experiments, listening to music and dancing. Tired but happy, we returned home.

Thursday

This busy but exciting day began early, as the students arrived at the school at 8.15am. They had enough time to rehearse their own National item for the Comenius Farewell on Friday night.

Through dances, songs, sketches and more, they showed off important aspects of their own nation. All students from each country got together and tried out their own works.

After their hard work, they were rewarded with a trip to the interesting boat town in Padua's city centre.

On the 'Padovabella', the students sailed the rivers in Padua and reached a famous place known for its military defence in World War II, where strategies were explained to the visitors.

After that, the students caught the boat again and reached the shipping part of the city, where they had lunch and went shopping.

Although time ran fast, the students could not wait for the planned treasure hunt. The group was divided into five teams, each made up of four Italians and their foreign students. The Green, Purple, Yellow, Red and Blue teams ran around the city asking questions about important palaces, tombs, people etc. When all the contestants arrived at the fountain in Prato della Valle, they gave their answers to the teachers and received their prize of free ice cream.

The treasure hunt was a success, so the students all went and partied, having a drink at the local bar, talking about the exciting day they had.

Friday

The week came to an end all too soon. We enjoyed our final ceremonies before saying our farewells. We had a wonderful time; our hosts, pupils and fellow staff made us all feel very welcome and gave us exceptional hospitality. Not only have we visited Padova but we have had the opportunity to see places such as Venice and Verona. Our eyes have been opened to the important history of the region. For me, it was amazing to see and touch Galileo's desk and to pray at St Anthony's tomb.

News in brief

There are Eucharistic services at 8.20am today and Thursday.

A number of Y7 & Y8 students will be visiting John Moores University tomorrow for the Salters Chemistry Festival. Also tomorrow, good look to our students taking part in the English Schools Athletics event at Wavertree. Finally, Silver Surfers meet at 3.30pm on Thursday.