

# Heartbeat



Monday, June 27



Issue 36

## Should we stay or should we go: Students decide

EU Referendum fever swept through the College ahead of last week's historic Euro vote.

The College held its very own special edition of Question Time, complete with theme tune, as teachers took on the role of politicians and informed experts, whilst students grilled the panellists on all things Europe.

Usual Question Time rules applied, as all audience members had to submit a question beforehand and be willing to actively participate in the discussions.

There were two debates, one with Years 7 and 8, and another with Years 9 and 10.

Mr Gardiner made a very effective David Dimbleby, alongside Mrs Reid and Mrs Callaghan for Remain, and Mr Daw and Mr Hughes for Leave.

Three 6th Form students, Rosalyn Murtagh, Kate Carey and Sophie Edmunds attended as undecided voters to grill the panel further. Miss Clarke began proceedings with a prayer for MP Jo Cox, and reflected how we should honour her memory by respecting her passion for democracy in how we speak and behave.

The debates commenced with a video from our BBC School Report team, highlighting some key issues and showing interviews with Mr Daw and Mrs Reid explaining their viewpoints.

Some of our Year 13 students who were able to participate in the referendum, explained in the film how they were approaching making up their minds about which way to vote. Mrs Callaghan said: "The range of questions from the students was very wide and very perceptive about the significance of the outcome of the referendum.

"Many of the questions demonstrated deep understanding of the possible consequences;



issues covered the costs and benefits of EU membership, the value of the Pound and effects on prices and VAT, the nature of democracy and the setting of legislation, the performance of the economy locally and nationally, and the opportunities for businesses.

Both sides had plenty of chances to set out their priorities and thinking, and audience members were queuing up for Mrs Hannigan's 'roving mic' to make excellent contributions loud and clear, belying their young years.

"At the end of the Year 7 & 8 debate, pupils held up 'Remain' or 'Leave' signs to make their judgement; Remain won by about 2:1. For Years 9 & 10 we took a vote via a show of hands before and after the debate.

"Remain was significantly ahead before, and made further small gains after. Perhaps even more importantly, everyone involved had really enjoyed the afternoon, and pupils said they had much greater understanding

of the issues... and can we do this every time there is an EU referendum, please?"

Assisting on the day was Head of Year 9, Miss Clarke, who said: "Our EU Referendum Question Time was a fantastic event.

"I am so proud of our students and thank you so much to Mr Gardiner (Dimbleby) and the rest of the panel. I actually think ours was better than the actual Question Time."

Following the Question Time event, it was on to the College's very own EU Referendum vote.

Mrs Callaghan added: "Students were given a chance to vote for either Remain or Leave in our specially made ballot box.

"Turnout was very high with 76% voting to remain in the EU."

*To see what some of our students thought of the event, please go to p2.*

*To see the BBC School News Report from the day, please visit the College website, address below.*

# Cake and tales to celebrate Shakespeare anniversary



There may not have been dates or quinces in the pastry but that didn't stop our students celebrating the life of Shakespeare in the tastiest way possible, with a cake.

In celebration of the recent 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, students in Mrs Weekes' classes were set the creative 'Rich Task' challenge of coming up with a piece of artwork to represent their favourite Shakespeare quotation which they had researched in lessons.

The students did not disappoint, as Mrs Weekes explains: "There were some very vibrant and exciting pieces of work completed, which will be displayed on Open Evening.

"However, the most delicious by far was Olivia Doyle's, 'If Music be the Food of Love' cake (pictured centre), which was swiftly enjoyed by all."

Also pictured are Sinead Kelly, Alice Bird, Olivia Doyle, Amelia Long and Lucy McQueen.

## News in brief

Year 9 examinations continue this week, concluding on Thursday.

Good luck to those students involved in the Sefton Athletics event at Wigan today. Also today, is the start of a two day Geography fieldtrip to Llanberis. There is a musical concert in St Edward Hall tomorrow for pupils from Great Crosby, whilst this year's Rags to Riches event visits our partner schools.

On Wednesday, there is the Ryman National Enterprise Challenge Finals at Doncaster Racecourse. On Wednesday and Thursday, some of our 6th Form students will visit Cambridge. On Friday, there are Year 12 Chemistry further study and careers talks taking place in S13 from 10am and, finally, also on Friday, there is an UCAS Information afternoon for Year 12 students in St Edward Hall. The event starts at 12.45pm and is expected to finish at 3.10pm.

## What the pupils said on EU talk

I found the EU Question Time to be a useful insight into our current political situation. I enjoyed the experience and hope the College hosts more of these events.

*William Weekes*

The Question Time event was very educational. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and believe more political-based sessions should be held in the future.

*Campbell Wallace*

I found what we discussed in the EU Question Time debate to be very interesting. We discussed the economics of leaving the EU and what benefits remaining would bring. It was very enjoyable and helped us understand both sides of the debate.

*Robbie Waterman*

