



# CASS NEWS

SIR JOHN CASS RED COAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2014



an excellent win against Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, dominating the scoreline 4-1. They then had an easier victory against Connaught School for Girls, winning the first three matches comfortably which allowed us to use our substitutes in the last two games and end with a 5-0 win.

The top 3 schools from the nine boroughs then played each other for 1st-3rd place. This is where our team came up against county players from Essex whose school is located next to a National Performance Centre for Badminton. Although we fought hard, we were outclassed by Bancroft School, who were last year's winners.

However, 3rd place in East London is our highest placement to date and the girls should be hugely proud of their achievements. They have retained the Tower Hamlets title for the second year in a row, and two of the players are still only in Year 8. We look forward to continuing this success next year.

- K Stern

## Girls badminton team are 3rd in East London!

As borough champions, the KS3 girls badminton team were selected to represent Tower Hamlets in the East London round of the National Schools' Badminton Tournament. This was held at the Copperbox Arena which is part of the Olympic Park.

Nine boroughs were represented and the winners went through to the London round.

Sir John Cass were placed in a tough group of 3 schools and played a format that included 5 games against each school (two singles matches and three doubles matches). They started with

### ALSO ON THIS ISSUE;

HISTORY OF SIR JOHN CASS

LANGUAGE MARTYRS DAY

SCHOOL MURAL PROJECT FOR THE BOY'S PLAYGROUND JAN / FEB 2014

SIR JOHN CASS' PLEA FOR SYRIA

ANISA NETS A READING PRIZE

COMENIUS PROJECT – VISIT FROM TURKEY

FEBRUARY HALF TERM NARRATIVE WINNERS

# History of Sir John Cass

John Cass was the son of Thomas Cass, Naval architect, who was a friend of Samuel Pepys, and who was employed by the admiralty at a fee of 8d a day.

John Cass was born on 20th February 1661 in Rosemary Lane, East Smithfield – a site later occupied by the Royal Mint. Four years later the family moved to Grove Street (now Victoria Park Road) in the Parish of Hackney, in order to escape the Great Plague. The young John Cass must have seen from his new home the glare of the Great Fire sweeping through the city in September 1666.

Thomas Cass died in 1699 leaving a considerable fortune, largely in property in Hackney, which still belongs to the Sir John Cass Foundation. We have no knowledge of any particular calling followed by his son, who seems to have been a fairly typical city gentleman. He was Master both of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters and the Worshipful Company of Grocers. He was an Alderman of the City and also sheriff; he was a member of the Parliament for the city in two successive Parliaments, and it was in this capacity that in 1713 he presented the City's address of congratulation to Queen Anne on the conclusion of the Treaty of Utrecht (the occasion on which he was knighted).

At this time, the incumbent at St Botolph without Aldgate was Dr Thomas Bray, the founder of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Cass and Bray became friendly, and in 1710 one provided the money and other the site for Sir John Cass's School. The school opened on 8th March 1710 and the occasion was marked by a service in St Botolph's Church at which the sermon was preached by Sir Williams Dawes (then Bishop of Chester and later Archbishop of York). It was attended by 14 peers and 40 members of the House of Commons, and was followed by a dinner in the Drapers' Hall at which a subscription of £100 was raised towards the school.

The first school building stood in the corner of the Churchyard of St Botolph's and consisted of two storeys. The school was housed on the upper floor, and the rents from the shops on the ground floor, and the fees for the burials in the vaults below, were applied to the upkeep of the school. The pupils (there were 50 boys and 40 girls) wore a blue-coat uniform, and took their meals in Aldgate, which stood

across the road, and was where the Master and Mistress lived.

On the evening of 3rd July 1718 Sir John Cass became seriously ill, and gave instructions for a new will, by which the whole of his property would be left to the school on the death of his wife. There were various delays, and by the time that he died on 5th July Cass has managed to sign only two of the eight pages of the will. There is an old legend that he had a haemorrhage of the lungs which stained the quill pen with which he was writing, and it is for this reason that the pupils of the school still wear red goose quills when they attend St Botolph's Church on the anniversary of their Founder's birth each year.

Lady Cass died in 1733 and, because of the incomplete nature of the will; the school was forced to close down from lack of funds. Several years later a lawsuit was commenced, and in view of the depositions of witnesses to Sir John Cass's intention at the time of his death, the partially-signed will was upheld.

A Foundation was established to administer the estate, the first Chairman and Receiver being Jeremiah Bentham, the father of Jeremy Bentham who founded University College, London. On his death, Jeremiah Bentham left his silver-gilt loving cup to the Foundation, and the Founder's memory is still drunk out of this cup each year.

In the eighteenth century the school was organised like most charity schools and the children were taught subjects which were likely to be useful to them when they were put out as apprentices or in service after they had finished their education.

The school was brought under Government inspection in the 1890's and until 1966 catered for pupils up to sixteen years of age.

Red Coat School was founded in 1724 by masters of the Merchant Navy to provide an education for the orphans of seamen. Originally the school stood in Mile End, but during the 19th century a new building was erected in Stepney Green, near St Dunstons's Church.

After the war of 1939 – 45 discussions were opened to bring Sir John Cass's Foundation school within the framework of the Education Act 1944, by providing separate schools for pupils of secondary and primary ages. The negotiations continued for fifteen years, largely because of the difficulty of finding a suitable site.

Soon after the war, a site in Stepney was designated for the rebuilding of a Red Coat School. In the London Development Plan, provision was made also for the re-organisation of the all-age school in Aldgate, in order to provide separate secondary and primary accommodation. In 1961 a firm decision was taken to unite the secondary part of the Foundation School with Red Coat Secondary School, and to erect a new building on the site in Stepney Way.



## Anisa nets a reading prize

A student at Sir John Cass's Foundation and Redcoat C of E School has successfully completed a literacy challenge set by a Queens Park Rangers footballer.

And her success won Anisa Khanom a jersey signed by the QPR team, who were relegated from the Premier League last season, as part of the National Literacy Trust's Premier League Reading Stars programme.

The year 9 student was entered into a prize draw after successfully completing all three of former QPR defender Ryan Nelsen's online literacy challenges.

In each challenge a player reads an extract from a book and sets questions for children to answer in order to unlock prizes.

The Reading Stars programme aims to boost children's literacy skills through football.

Recent results from the scheme show that three out of four children who took part made at least six months' progress in their reading in just ten weeks and nearly nine out of ten participants said that seeing Premier League footballers read had made them want to read more.

Anisa said, "Premier League Reading Stars is a lot of fun and I love my new prize from Ryan Nelsen."

"I now want to read more books this year."

- As seen in the East End Life

# Language Martyrs Day (21st February)



The British Isles is often wrongly assumed as being monolingual. However, other languages like Gaelic, Welsh, Cornish, and Manx have long been spoken in these islands. The United Nations declared 2008 as the

'International Year of Languages'. Since then, UNESCO has chosen the 21st February for 'International Mother Language Day' to be observed worldwide to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity. This day is used to highlight that 3,000 languages are in danger of disappearing.

The International Mother Language Day was inspired by events in Bangladesh. On 21st February 1952, students demonstrating for recognition of their Bengali language as one of the national languages of Pakistan, were shot and killed by the police. There is no such recent example in the world of people dying for a mother tongue.

Today, the Language Martyrs Day is a national public holiday in Bangladesh. It is marked by visits to the Shahid Minar

monument in Dhaka (see photo opposite). Lucky for us, our School is a Specialist Language College.

In the past, School assemblies have commemorated this day to show respect for the Martyrs killed during the language movement. This year, the International Mother Language Day had fallen during the half term break. Hence, some classes and students used the opportunity of 'Drop Everything And Read' (D.E.A.R.) session to read an article about the background to the Language Martyrs Day.

DEAR is organised by Ms Dow, who is in charge of EMTAG (Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Grant).

- Mr Bhadare (Teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages)



# Comenius Project – Visit from Turkey

As students and parents may be aware, Sir John Cass School is participating in a Comenius project with schools from all over Europe. This project is aimed at students with the intention of giving them the opportunity to create new friendships with people all over the world. Our school has very kindly contributed a sum of money towards this project allowing students to travel to countries including Spain, Turkey, France, Italy, The Czech Republic and Poland. Not long ago the second Comenius visit took place in London which was a great experience for the students and teachers who took part.

The visit to London was a very enjoyable experience for the students visiting our country, as well as the students in Sir John Cass who are currently involved in this extraordinary project. It gave the visitors an insight into our society, with its variety of cultures as well as a chance to visit our fantastic school.

During their five day visit students were able to take part in many new and interesting experiences set up by the dedicated teachers in the SJCR language department. These included a 3 hour cruise on the River Thames, a bowling night, a Tower of London tour and a visit to The Stomp Show. Lunches and workshops at our school were also included and gave students an opportunity to collaborate with one another.

This ongoing project will continue after this second successful visit which everyone enjoyed so much, with special events planned for the future.

- Sally Ali 9S



# School Mural project for the boy's playground Jan / Feb 2014

A small group of gifted and talented students have been spending time in the art department on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after 3pm every week this term to collaborate on a mural. The image itself is 8 feet by 4 feet and is being painted onto an MDF panel before it will be installed in the playground. The project is being led by Artist and Art Technician Mr.Tait who has overseen the planning and will execute the design and creative process from start to finish alongside the students.

*"I am looking forward to seeing the outcome of this mural because it is going pretty well."*  
**Lucy Do - 8A**

The students and Mr.Tait have agreed upon a theme of the City and the local skyline; and using the student's observational drawings of views of London from the schools upper floor level windows have arranged their composition.

The mural is an exciting chance to involve a small group in a collaborative work and learn the painting process for such a large piece. The students involved have all gained new skills and more confidence and should be proud of their creation. Reda Afellad - 9D produced a portrait of Mayor Boris Johnson

which showed great skill in portrait/character drawing.

*"I have enjoyed painting the mural because I learnt new things every lesson including how to project and enlarge my own drawings."*  
**Aisha Khatun - 7R**

It is hoped that the artwork will inspire those who see it as a means to aspire to higher achievement and involvement in the arts as well as an appreciation of the local and distant community and all that it encompasses.

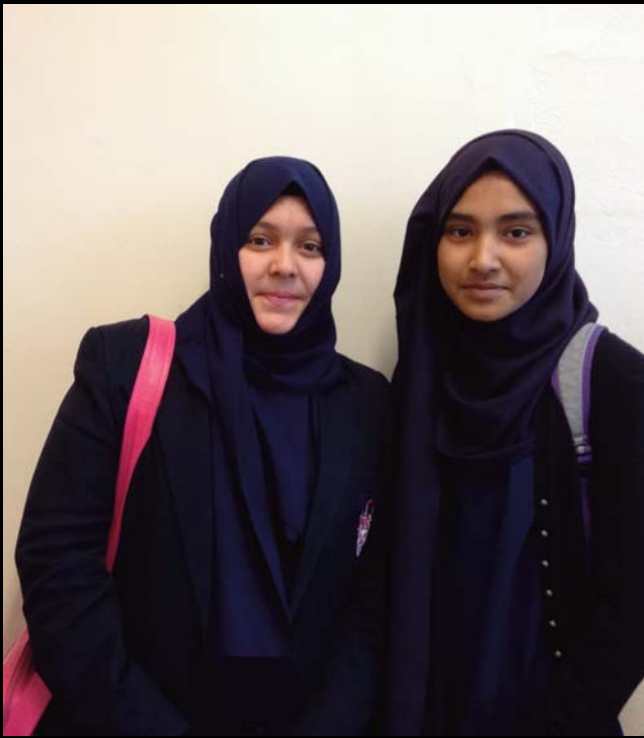
*"The mural project was a good opportunity to improve my skills in art."* Syeda Rabeka Begum- 8E

Feel free to visit during the creative process as well as speak to the young artists about the process.

Richard Tait has painted the City skyline for the past 14 years. He has designed and created between 50 and 60 murals to date.

**To view his paintings go to [www.tait1972.artweb.com](http://www.tait1972.artweb.com)**





# Sir John Cass' Plea for Syria

Just Helping, is a charitable organization that has been introduced to Sir John Cass with hope, ambition and passion. Originally, it was the idea of two students in Year 9; Amina Fardus in 9E and Amina Begum in 9C.

On 13th February the whole of Sir John Cass contributed to the success of this venture in their first event which was a cake sale. A total amount of £226.42 was raised for Just Helping, with the support on the day from peers from other Year 9 classes. The success of the bake sale goes to show that no obstacle is too big to face when people are united.

All money raised will contribute in saving lives; providing food, shelter and clothing for the Syrian brothers and sisters out there who are suffering.

Just Helping aims to continue small events throughout the academic year, making charity fun, exciting and pleasurable as well as raising awareness of worldly matters.

**Continue to support Just Helping, continue to save lives.**

*- Amina Fardus 9E*

# February Half Term Narrative Winners



The participation and standard of entries in the February half term newsletter were excellent. Each of the winners received a Kindle HD Fire from the Head Teacher, Mr Evans.

## THE WINNERS

**KS3 Morium Khanom 9A**

**KS4 Samuel Stuckey 10E**

**Post 16 Daniel Polat 12AH1**

### **Dust - Morium Khanom 9A**

*"I really wanted to write a good story so I did a lot of reading and vocabulary research before I found my subject."*

My heart was beating faster and faster. I ran as fast as I could, trying to get away before they got to me. The wail of the siren was roaring in my ears. I couldn't see where I was going; everything was either a deep black or blinding light. Fires were exploding here and there, people were shouting, dogs were barking, there were gunshots in the air followed by screams of terror. I gave a furtive glance behind me and saw the general giving orders, his soldiers rapt with meticulous attention, and bolted around the corner.

### **Dreams - Sam Stuckey 10E**

*"Taking part in word of the week and the narrative competition has made me think and vary my vocabulary when I am writing and speaking."*

The man was almost ready for the interview. His suit had been cleaned meticulously. He had planned each detail, every question, and every challenge. He knew that to succeed he had to outwit the furtive interviewers, have memorised his CV and personal statement, and then prove he could do the job. He had to ensure that he arrived on time and not be daunted by any problems that arose, and if any did, to deal with them swiftly and effectively, just as he had been taught in school, just as it had been drilled into him by his parents. He checked his pristine suit for dirt, then, picking up his briefcase and hat, marched out the door.

### **The Story of William Stanley**

**- Daniel Polat 12AH1**

*"Taking part in the word of the week and narrative competition has allowed me to explore different types of vocabulary."*

We now know what he was like and the reasons why he did what he did. Once he became accustomed to what he did, he then decided to get an animal as that would appeal to the public's sense of sympathy for the man and for the animal. Obviously, his acquisition of a dog was very important to him. The dog was a lovely Labrador which was lightly coloured with small patches of darker colour on its fur. William decided to call the dog after his late father Jeremiah. Jeremiah would turn out to be a very useful commodity to William as he would regularly use Jeremiah to appeal to the public's sense of sympathy and by the end of the month he made triple the amount he got when he was on his own. In this sense, dog really was man's best friend and also man's best money maker.

# CASS



## APRIL

**7th - 21st**

*Easter Holiday*

**1st, 22nd & 29th**

*6th Form External*

*Year 11 Interviews 3:30pm*

**23rd**

*Year 7 Parents Evening 4pm*

## MAY

**6th, 14th & 20th**

*6th Form External*

*Year 11 Interviews 3:30pm*

**8th**

*Parents' Forum 6pm*

**12th Public Examinations begin**

**19th - 23rd**

*Assessment & Learning Consolidation week*

**22nd & 23rd**

*Year 6 Interviews (t.b.c)*

**26th - 30th**

*Half Term Break*