

Keyword: Jack Petchey Foundation

SPEAK OUT WINNER INTO GRAND FINAL

Tim Armoo, fourteen, from The City of London Academy, took top honours in the Southwark final of Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge! 2010, held at Bacon's College in Rotherhithe on Monday, March 22.

Tim's speech 'Just Smile' won him an ipod and a chance to go through to the grand final of the Speak Out Challenge being held on July 9 at London's Mermaid Conference and Events Centre. Tim said 'I am going to smile for weeks.' Runners up were Tayo Mustapha, aged fifteen, from Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich with her speech 'Make-Up' and Abu Rojas, aged fourteen, from the City of London Academy with his subject 'Everyone Matters.' This turned out to be one of the highlights of the evening with a courageous and moving speech on disability and his experience, which also won an extraordinary reception for a charismatic young speaker. He said 'I just can't believe it! My family is so proud of me.' Judges included John Guest, Head of Education Welfare & Safeguarding, Southwark Council; and Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Chair of Camberwell Community Council & Shadow Executive Member for Health and Adult Care.

Superintendent Steve Deehan, Partnership and Criminal Justice, Southwark MET Police said: 'It's fantastic that young people are encouraged to get up and speak in front of others. They seem so more articulate and enthusiastic than I recall being at that age!' Former Mayor of Southwark, Cllr Columba Blango, presented trophies to the winners.

Run by SpeakersBank, a not-for-profit training organisation, Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out' Challenge! is the world's biggest youth speaking event. Initial rounds have been taking place in over 550 schools across London and Essex.

Thirteen schools in Southwark took part, with Tim Armoo proving the best of the 345 year 10 students, who all received a full day of training in public speaking and effective communication. The strongest from each school went forward to a final of sixteen speakers stepping up to the microphone with huge courage and heart to speak on their particular subject.

Sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation and now in its fifth year, up to 20,000 young people are expected to compete for over 25,000 worth of prizes in this year's final.

For further details visit:

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www.speakoutchallenge.com

<http://www.southwarknews.co.uk/news/00,news,19025,440,00.htm>