



1st July 2009

Dear Parent,

Abi, Fabian, Ambika and I dressed "smart", as requested on the invitation to be at Central Hall Westminster for The Teaching Awards ceremony, on Tuesday 23rd June.

Thirty six London finalists, from a total of eight thousand UK nominees, gathered in the Hall to take part in a workshop. Two of us were from Independent Schools!

The finalists' Workshop was led by Baroness Shirley Williams, whose sharp intellect and infectious sense of humour, promoted a lively discussion about the pros and cons of abolishing SATS and possible criteria for teachers' continuous assessments of children's progress.

There was representation from different areas of specialism in a diversity of school settings and, of course, everyone was keen to put forward their opinions.

After the workshop, we met our guests for a buffet lunch and a drink or two, then more than two hundred people went into the theatre for the Awards Ceremony.

The Ted Wragg Award for Lifetime Achievement was the last on the list! I could not believe it when my name was announced, flashed onto the screen – and the word 'Distinction' appeared!

It felt so very special to receive the award from Baroness Shirley Williams.

I would like to think that the award is a tribute to all the staff at Dallington and celebrates the achievements of all the young people who have included us in their rites of passage.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone who wrote a statement to support Abi's submission to the judges and/or gave time to meet with the panel of judges when they visited the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mogg Hercules". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MOGG HERCULES