

## The Spelling Bee

Jack Kelly, Kira Neely, Farhan Abubacar and Isadora Rothwell

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, we went to St. John Fisher Catholic High School in Peterborough for an inter-school Spelling Bee contest.

The Spelling Bee takes place every year and this year there were 7 schools that participated.

The day began normally, like any other school day until 9.30am, when we left KSA with Mrs Lea-Watts to travel the long journey to Peterborough. When we arrived, we had refreshments and time to relax before the group stage. Meanwhile, the other teams were being led into the hall for their turn leaving us gradually alone, waiting. We weren't allowed into the hall until our turn so that we didn't know the words before our turn.

The rules for the spelling bee were simple: say it, spell it and say it again. During the team round we were timed to see how many words we could spell correctly in two minutes, that's exactly what we did. It wasn't until after we had taken our turn, and the remaining school came in to take their turn, that we realised none of the other schools were doing it! This was a real disadvantage to us as playing by the rules slowed us down. Sadly, we didn't win the team round.

We moved on undeterred to the individual knockout round. In this round, 4 individuals from opposing schools had to stand on the stage and spell the given word correctly or they are knocked out of the round. We could only enter two of us here so Isadora and Farhan were up. We did well in this round, Isadora seemed to be going strong, but once again unfortunately we didn't get the result. The final two students were incredibly strong spellers but the round was finally won with some contention after the host school's contestant misspelled 'shrine', apparently unnoticed by the judge – but not by everyone else!

Comments from the day:

*"Overall, the day was good, except for waiting for the really long individual rounds to finish!" – Kira Neely.*

*"I had an amazing experience going to the Spelling Bee. It was good to interact with different schools. However, it was disappointing not to be told where we came in the team round as we had been very strong." – Farhan Abubacar.*

*"It was nice, especially socialising with the other people taking part." – Isadora Rothwell.*

*"I'd like to say a big thank you and well done to all of the students who came along, especially those who stepped in at the last minute. It was disappointing to see rules not being kept to but KSA were strong and we'll be ready next year! Well done to Kira in particular who had struggled in training but managed to learn 300 words in one weekend and answered all of her spellings correctly on the day." –English Teacher, Mrs Michelle Lea-Watts.*