

Young People Display Olympic Spirit: The 2013 Inspire>Aspire Awards

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Some of the country's brightest young people visited Stour Space in London to receive medals for their award worthy posters from the Inspire-Aspire programme from Olympic Bronze Medallist gymnast, Beth Tweedle and Ex Shadow Minister for the London 2012 Olympics, Dame Tessa Jowell.

The Inspire-Aspire Awards programme reached 25,000 young people this year by using the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the character qualities of Olympians to inspire young people to set personal goals and to develop future aspirations.

Winning a Gold, 2nd Level award at the event was Cici Makakova from Tiffin Girls School who chose Alexandra Panayotou as her inspirational figure as part of her work on the programme. Also winning awards from Beth Tweedle were Inthuja Sivathas and Abbarnah Sabesan also from Tiffin Girls School.

Expressing her reasons for her chosen inspirational figure, Cici said:

"Her mental strength, her capability to do anything allows me to look up to her as my idol!"

Before presenting the awards, Olympian Beth Tweedle told an enthralled audience that it takes commitment and courage to reach the top. She spoke about how it was sheer determination that had helped her gain her medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Tweedle expressed how important using the Olympic and Paralympic values in everyday life can be, not just in sport.

Inspire-Aspire aims to help young people gain a better understanding of their own character qualities and values and inspire them to create a personal development plan. Cici explained how much of an impact participating in Inspire-Aspire has had on her:

"This project has taught me the values in life and allowed me to bring my feelings onto paper."

Notes to Editors

Please contact Stephanie Powell, Trainee Communications Executive on 01334 844900, 0790 881 5259 or stephanie@inspire-aspire.org.uk for more information. A local School contact and professional photographs are available.