



St Mary's School
for
Deaf Girls

Dominican Convent,
Cabra, Dublin 7



NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

Leah Ennis McLoughlin and Mrs. Feeny meet the Queen of England

PROUD MOMENT: Leah
at the tree-planting

By Cormac Murphy and
Adelina Campos

A DUBLIN schoolgirl has
spoken of her delight
after meeting Queen
Elizabeth II at Aras an
Uachtarain.



Leah Ennis McLoughlin, a pupil at St Mary's School for the Deaf in Cabra, was given the honour of ringing the Peace Bell as the queen planted a tree. President McAleese gave Leah a thumbs-up after she performed the duty along with Belfast teenager Danny Rea. "They were asking me where I was from. Then the President was saying 'thank you, you did a great job'," Leah revealed.

The youngster described her emotions as she performed the task. "I felt honoured and proud to represent my school and all the deaf girls here," Leah said.

Leah and Danny, who are both deaf, were chosen to ring the Peace Bell as the queen planted a tree in the grounds of the President's home in the formal ceremony.

After they had tolled the bell once, President McAleese blew them a kiss before introducing them to the queen. During the ceremony, head gardener Robert Norris handed the queen a spade and she carefully shovelled three piles of earth on to the tree.

He said it was a special moment for him and his family.

The queen planted an Irish oak, following in the footsteps of Queen Victoria who planted a giant redwood in 1861. Danny (16), who attends the Northern Ireland Jordanstown School for the Deaf or Visually Impaired,

Dissolving Boundries

Following on a successful visit last year when we travelled to Our Lady's Grammar School in Newry, we have been communicating with the school via Forums on the This year, it was our turn to host the Newry school, so we met them at the train station, then went to Collins Barracks Museum, where we saw exhibits, watched a video about High Crosses, and had lunch. We even got to try on some of the costumes!



Graduation 2011



Mrs. O'Connell presented each of the girls with an engraved Newbridge Silver pen as a memento of their days in St. Mary's and a reminder to continue with their education.

The girls presented Mrs. O'Connell with framed memorabilia from their very successful F1 in Schools project, in which they won 2 National Awards during Transition Year.

Contemporary Music Centre Performance - 2011



On Thursday, 19th May, 1A and 2B had a performance in the Contemporary Music Centre.

This is the culmination of a year's work with George Higgs - George has been working as composer in residence at St. Mary's for the past year as part of the Artist in the Community Scheme.

To conclude the year's work, the girls performed as the 'Sense Ensemble' on an instrument George has built especially for the occasion: "The Machine of Song".

www.georgehiggs.com

