

Burford School will See You in Court!

On Saturday 8th March, sixteen nervous, but excited students arrived outside Oxford Magistrates' Court ready to go head-to-head against other Oxfordshire schools in a Mock Trial. The Mock Trial Competition is held all over the country for pupils in Years 8 and 9 interested in law and order. Each pupil is given a role, which they can adapt and change to suit themselves. The team for Burford School, selected from 56 entries, were: *Spencer Hooton, Hayley Baskerville, Josh Stead, Charlotte Byron, Luutsche Ozinga, Natalie Hogg, Olivia O'Reilly-Brookes, Freja Rundle, Maddie Harris, James Harris, Kenny Patel, Kirsty Collins, Lucy Baker, Zoe Lane, Steph Puffit-Poynter and Georgia Conlon*. All sixteen made Burford proud with consistently strong performances.

However, there was more to it than just turning up on the day and giving it a shot. Weeks of hard work and preparation went into the Mock Trial and none of us could have done it without the help and commitment of Miss Butterfield. Special thanks also go to Mrs Wakely and Mr Williams and to Mrs. Baglin-Jones, a local magistrate who organised a court visit to Oxford Magistrates' Court, which proved invaluable in our preparation.

Council for the Prosecution

Once in the court, Burford sat tensely on their seats as we waited for the draw to decide who we would face first. The names were revealed and Burford were to



face St Birinus School against whom they would be prosecuting. This was a challenging School, who in previous years had gone far in the competition, and they put a lot of pressure on the Burford prosecuting team. Luckily, everyone kept a calm head and in the end we reached a guilty verdict. A number of people mentioned Maddie Harris' mature and confident performance as 1st prosecution lawyer and many spectators commented on Hayley Baskerville's fantastic police officer's uniform!

A Great Defence

Once round one was finished, round two began. This time Burford faced John Mason School and was defending. This half of the team performed just as well as the prosecution, with intelligent, forceful questions from Freja, 1st defence lawyer. Georgia Conlon gave a very convincing performance, keeping her story clear and speaking with clarity and confidence. Olivia was no less determined in ensuring that she stuck to her statement, and managed to leave John Mason's 2nd prosecution lawyer speechless! Eventually all the rounds were complete and the team could finally relax. Now all that was left was the final verdict and individual prizes. Burford did amazingly well and Maddie Harris achieved the cup for the best prosecutor in Oxfordshire. Overall, Burford came second - missing out on qualifying by only a few points.

What a day!

Maddie Harris