

Children Know Peace

Children Know Peace was the theme of a recent Lions competition for secondary school children promoted by Flint Lions Club. This year 2011/12 was the first year that Hawarden High School entered the competition and to the credit of the school and the year 8 pupils who took part there were five outstanding entries. These 5 and those from 6 other schools in Flintshire were independently judged and two posters from Hawarden High School pupils Matthew Elliott and Adam Kerrod were selected to go forward to represent Flint Lions at their regional final. Flint Lions are in the region that covers North Wales, Cheshire, Wirral, Staffordshire, Shropshire and South Manchester and there were over 700 competition entries in this region this year.

Against strong competition Matthew Elliott's poster was judged in November as best in the region and his winning poster then went on to the National Final for Britain and Ireland to be judged at a later time. To celebrate this regional success Flint Lions recently went along to Hawarden H.S. to present prizes to the school competition winners and runners up. Later in March 2012 Matthew will be attending the Lions District Convention taking place in Mold to receive his Regional Award from the Lions District Governor.

At an earlier school assembly before these presentations, the Lions discovered that one of the year 8 pupils Jenny Blythe had been raising funds to help a fellow pupil Chloe Cotton who had just returned to school after a successful prolonged and costly treatment stay in the USA. It transpired that Chloe had been at Alder Hey Children's Hospital but there they were unable to treat her brain tumour in the UK.

This selfless effort by Jenny mirrors one of the ethics of the Lions which is to aid others by giving sympathy to those in distress, to aid the weak and give substance to the needy. The Lions were so impressed with the fundraising effort by Jenny, who single handed raised £580-00 by a sponsored swim of 1000 lengths of the local swimming pool, that they were pleased to present her with an additional £200-00 to add to the fund. The Head Teacher Mr Davies said at the award ceremony "With youngsters like these in Year 8 the future of the country is in good hands," a sentiment echoed by all the Lions present.

