

## **SCOTTISH EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL TRUST: PRESS NOTICE**

### **GLASGOW PUPILS TRIUMPH IN BRUSSELS**

Two pupils at King's Park Secondary School have brought acclaim to Glasgow by winning a prestigious award in Brussels . Glen Melville and Eilidh Shearer, S3 pupils at the school, fought off stiff competition from over 40 other Scottish schools to win an IBM-sponsored Trophy at the Scottish European Educational Trust's "Talk your way to Brussels" Speaking Competition held at Scotland House in the Belgian capital last week.

Glenn and Eilidh spoke about the importance of learning a foreign language and put forward their ideas for making language learning in schools more exciting. Their own linguistic skills were put to the test when they were required to deliver a summing up and vote of thanks in French.

The competition, which involved a 3 day visit, included a tour of the European Parliament, sponsored by **David Martin, MEP**, who said

"I was delighted to be involved with the trip to Brussels organised by the Scottish European Educational Trust and sponsored by IBM. To meet such motivated and enthusiastic school students from across Scotland and to hear their presentations on why learning European languages is so important was a rewarding experience. I was pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for the students to come to Parliament and learn more about the work of MEPs.

The Speaking Competition, including the visit to Brussels, was a resounding success and a fantastic opportunity for Scottish school students"

**Alyn Smith MEP** said

"It was a pleasure to speak to the students and I hope they found their trip out to Brussels both insightful and fun. Their high level of knowledge on European matters was very impressive and certainly puts many adults to shame. SEET are a fantastic organisation doing a power of work to inspire our young people to find out more about our European neighbours, and IBM are to be commended for supporting this.

I suspect I will bump into some of these talented Euro-experts either in the corridors of the EU Parliament or the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament not so very far into the future."

**Barry McGugan**, Communications, Training & Innovations Manager at IBM's Greenock location, which sponsored the competition and the trip, said:

"IBM is delighted to sponsor this event. Throughout this competition from the heats across

Scotland to the final in Brussels the young people who presented were outstanding - a real credit to themselves, their schools and to Scotland. IBM acknowledge that language skills are a differentiator when recruiting and we are keen to encourage young people to develop their language capability. This competition was a wonderful opportunity to promote that concept. Congratulations to King's Park on their success, and well done to all of the participating schools for making the whole experience such a success."

**Margaret Barr, Head Teacher of King's Park school** said "We are really proud of Glen and Eilidh. Their language skills were truly put to the test, and this is a wonderful achievement. Thank you to Paul Grimes, the teacher who supported them, and also to Jeanne Billau, our school's foreign language assistant who helped them to prepare for the competition. We are grateful to IBM for sponsoring this fantastic competition and to SEET for organising it"

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET) is a registered charity which promotes and encourages education about Europe to students at schools, colleges and universities in Scotland

SEET's "Talk your way to Brussels" speaking competition is for s3 pupils in Scottish schools, and aims to develop young people's confidence in public speaking whilst raising their awareness of the importance of language learning and increasing their knowledge of Europe and the European Union

Over 40 schools entered the competition, with 24 being chosen to go through to regional heats in Edinburgh, Greenock, Stirling and Aberdeen.

5 schools went through to the final in Brussels - Douglas Academy, Milngavie, King's Park, Glasgow (winners), Sandwick Junior High, Shetland, St. Margaret's, Aberdeen and St Thomas of Aquin's, Edinburgh

The final took place in Scotland House in Brussels, hosted by the Scottish Government and Scotland Europa. Teams of 2 pupils had to talk about why language learning is important and give their ideas of how to make language learning in schools more exciting. Their ideas will be fed back to the Scottish Government and Education Committee at the Scottish Parliament

The visit to the European Parliament was sponsored by David Martin MEP, whilst the overall competition, including the visit to Brussels, was sponsored by IBM

**For further information about the competition contact:  
Barbara MacLeod 07903 693106, [barbara@seet.uk.com](mailto:barbara@seet.uk.com).  
A short video of the visit to Brussels, together with high-resolution photographs, are available.**