

A Visit From Sir Ian McKellen

Great excitement was generated yesterday, among students and staff, by Sir Ian McKellen's visit on behalf of Stonewall.



Sir Ian began by meeting with the school's LGBT club and having a discussion about LGBT issues and the positive way that Harlington deals with them. He answered lots of the students' questions and was very supportive of the club and its members.

He then addressed Years 9 to 11, speaking about his life as a gay man, how he became involved with Stonewall, the ways in which the lives of gay people in the UK have changed during his lifetime and how they have not

changed in other parts of the world. He finished by performing a short excerpt from Shakespeare's play 'Sir Thomas More', which went down very well. The students sat, on the floor, for almost an hour and listened attentively to everything Sir Ian had to say on this important topic. They were then able to ask some questions about both LGBT issues and Sir Ian's career as an actor.



He then moved on to a more informal question and answer session with the sixth formers in the theatre. A number of the students had submitted questions before hand and these were on a mixture of LGBT issues and acting, with more of an emphasis on acting as many of the questions had come from Drama students. Again, Sir Ian finished off with a short performance of Shakespeare.



While he was here, Sir Ian also very kindly autographed a copy of The Lord Of The Rings, which be raffled by the LGBT club to raise money for charity.

We are very grateful to Sir Ian and Stonewall for offering us this opportunity. Everyone, thoroughly enjoyed the visit as well as learning a lot more about the history of the LGBT community and how they are and should be treated in the UK and the rest of the world. It is a day that will remain long in our memories.

