



Mia Staniforth, 11, a Year 6 pupil at Elizabeth College Junior School, has visited the House of Lords to receive an award for her artwork from the charity Never Such Innocence.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 15005642)

House of Lords visit for college pupil Mia

Collage commemorating First World War places second in competition

A PUPIL at Elizabeth College Junior School has visited the House of Lords after placing second in an art competition spanning the Commonwealth.

Eleven-year-old Mia Staniforth, a Year 6 pupil, produced her prize-winning piece after the school encouraged entry into a competition for schools run by Never Such Innocence – a charity that commemorates soldiers of the First World War.

Mia placed second in the art category for her age group and received her prize in the House of Lords after a tour of Parliament.

A total of 16,000 pupils entered the competition, with entries coming from as far afield as New Zealand and Canada.

Elizabeth College Junior School head teacher Jim Walton said the school was delighted by Mia's achievement.

'With 16,000 entries as a whole, we are very proud of her,' he said.

'It was artwork she did at school, so we are thrilled it is representing us internationally.'

He added that both the junior school and the senior school had entered the competition enthusiastically because the charity held special pertinence for Elizabeth College.

'Our college's link is that we lost 110 Old Elizabethans in the First World War – whole year

by Ben Francis

groups were lost as the war went on,' he said.

'From a junior school point of view, it's about making sure future generations don't forget the sacrifice made by former students to ensure they can live the lives they do today.'

During Mia's trip, which took place on Monday 16 May, she shook hands with the highest-ranking military officer in the UK and still managed to squeeze in a shopping trip before returning to Guernsey in the evening.

'It feels good. When Mrs Polard entered my work, I never thought it would do that well,' she said.

'My dad thought I was joking when I told him.'

Mia's work was a collage of a tree silhouetted by an explosion, with words signifying the loss and suffering of the First World War on its limbs and trunk.

Never Such Innocence is chaired by Lady Lucy French, the great granddaughter of Field Marshal Sir John French, who commanded the British Expeditionary Forces from 1914 to 1915.

The charity works with schools all over the Commonwealth to promote awareness and commemoration of the First World War.