

PRESS RELEASE FROM CICERO CLASSICS COMPETITION

21st CENTURY ARGONAUTS WIN THEIR OWN GOLDEN FLEECE

Embargoed until 5pm Saturday 14 May 2011

“The Cicero Competition has not only opened my eyes to the huge population of people who study Classics, but allowed me to see it from the perspective of other cultures – a true life experience!!!!”

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has donated a prize for the 5th consecutive year to the Cicero Competition as the results are announced at the Annual Conference of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers on Saturday 14 May 2011.

This Worldwide competition created a huge amount of interest amongst 6th form students across the globe, with Australia, France (including Martinique in the Caribbean), Italy, Spain, Andorra, Tunisia and the UK in a joint video-conferencing day, as they took part in cultural and Latin tests described as **“challenging, yet entertaining”** by Brahmjort Jagpal from Malvern St James, UK. Another student described the competition as **“Highly entertaining – I don’t think I have ever laughed harder in my whole life, than when translating the passage from Cicero. His wit shines through even today – or should I say his ‘urbanitas’!!!”**

Congratulations go to Italy who were the International Winners, followed closely by France and the UK (Alice Williamson from George Watson’s College, Edinburgh). Only half a mark and the Tie-Break question separated the top three contestants this year!

Congratulations also to Rachel Fletcher from College of Richard Collyer in London, for the U6 Translation, and Rex Stretton Pow (Bristol Grammar School) for the L6 Translation.

This annual Competition has grown from strength to strength under the pro-active determination and tenacity of its Co-Founders, Patrick Voisin (Pau, France) and Anne Dicks (Malvern, UK), who says “Over 600 students competing in 20 centres around the world were able to make friends and communicate in various languages - including Latin. It might seem ironic that a combination of ancient cultures and modern-day technology is facilitating new friendships and shared enthusiasm for young people.”

In the words of Don from ‘A Ray of Hope UNESCO Youth Ambassador for the Culture of Peace’: “CICERO is now a global amphitheatre, built around the pillars of the Classics with an ever-expanding foundation of friendship. The classics might be important but they shrink into insignificance compared to global friendship. Many congratulations to everyone involved, from organisers to students.”

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CICERO: CERTAMEN IN CONCORDIAM EUROPÆ REGIONUMQUE ORBIS: ‘A Competition to promote harmony throughout Europe and the countries of the World’. Please see www.ciceroconcordia.com for further information, including pictures and videos.

PATRON OF CICERO COMPETITION: Federico Mayor Zaragoza, former Director-General of UNESCO, now President of ‘Foundation for a Culture of Peace’

CICERO 2011 TRANSCRIPT OF OPENING ADDRESS FROM WEBSITE:

Patrick Voisin, the director and co-founder of the Cicero competition quotes “I am happy to open the Fifth edition of this great adventure that Anne Dicks in England and I in France started when we first met in Oxford. This year again new centres have opened in the United Kingdom and here in France as well as in the French West Indies. The Spanish and Italian centres are getting bigger and bigger every year, as well as in Andorra.

Our more recent centres in Australia and Tunisia are also developing. In Tunisia, although the academic year was somehow disrupted by the successful Jasmine Revolution, new schools and universities from Southern cities have decided to join Cicero and their students will be travelling to Tunis in April to compete.

The increasing popularity of the Cicero competition is a major source of satisfaction as it is a proof that Classics are alive and well all over the world.

The growing enthusiasm which we have seen year after year can be felt today and it is the sign that we have always something to learn from Ancient times: they are the future of our origins, the keystone of tomorrow's world. We are not nostalgic; we want to build the future from all the lessons that Ancient cultures have left us as our heritage.

I would like to thank all our supporters worldwide, more particularly A Ray of Hope Unesco and Doctor Federico Mayor, the former Director general of Unesco and currently Director of Foundation for a Culture of Peace, for being at our side in this adventure since its beginning.

So now let's jump on to the Ship Argo, let's be the twenty first century's Argonauts, the modern representatives of humanism, and let's start the quest for the Golden Fleece.

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www.ciceroconcordia.com/cicero2011.html