

## NCC Citizens - Mayoral Assembly

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016, the NCC London Citizens team along with a coach full of 60 people; parents, students (both from Newman and Queens Park), teachers and members of the local community joined forces to make their way to the Copper Box for Citizens UK Mayoral assembly.

We all departed from school around 4pm to make our way to the event which started at 6.30pm in Stratford, to join up with the 6,000 more Londoners to launch Citizens UK manifesto and secure commitments of Mayor candidates (Zac Goldsmith and Sadiq Khan, now newly elected Mayor of London) on four key issues; housing, living wage, good jobs and new communities.

When we arrived, we took a school group photo before entering the arena. Then on entering, we were all given a wristband to represent which delegacy we were from; either North, West, South or East London citizens. As North London citizens, we were then met by our North London coordinator, Paul who gave some of our pupils key roles to perform during the event. Javan was given the job to present the gifts to Sadiq Khan.



Javan said 'I was told to sit with three other students from two other schools; we were given two boxes and flower pots to give to Sadiq Khan and Zac Goldsmith. I was excited that I was going to give a gift to Sadiq Khan; I had to take the box because the flowers triggered my hay-fever. I was privileged to give a present to Sadiq Khan, who became the mayor of London the next week.'

Two more of our students were chosen to represent Newman, by carrying the banner with our school

name and badge on it. During the key workers march onto stage, Jose and Emils were the students chosen to represent the school by marching to the stage holding the banner.

Before candidates arrived, people came to the stage to speak about various personal circumstances and issues. Our very own, Ms Grace took to the stage to talk to the whole arena and this was a proud moment for NCC.



Over 6,000 Londoners attended the event, from schools to churches, mothers to children. All faiths, all ages, all occupations, came all together to persuade and secure commitments from the candidates on what we as citizens believe to be the key problems in London and what we want to change in our city.

During the event, people spoke on the problems of housing, living wage, good jobs and new communities and the candidates listen to what we wanted from them. After, they replied with their offer on each of the issues, and then we confirmed what commitments they made.

Jose and Emils said, "It was a very exciting experience with a massive sense of community. Everyone got to share ideas with the mayoral candidates. This was also a good occasion to show the mayoral candidates our concerns about London."

We then returned back to school at around 9pm, after a long day and busy event. It was an unforgettable experience, meeting different communities and seeing politicians at work arguing key current issues which affect London. We hope the new mayor; Sadiq Khan will work on our commitments to make a change.

**By Ms O'Connell, Javan Bruff, Jose Azevedo and Emils Bondars.**