



Earlier than ever before the Rock Challenge team headed to Crawley on Tuesday 30th January to showcase this year's Durrington piece. The recent tradition of the team is to use the 8 minutes of performance to not only excite and delight but also to shed light on a not so often told true story. The last few years our pieces have been about using the stories of inspiring women who have made a difference and overcome adversity. This year being no exception our piece draws its inspiration from the story of Elizabeth Fry with our piece "The Angel of Prisons".

Elizabeth Fry said "It is an honour to appear on the side of the afflicted, known as the Angel of Prisons she was a Quaker, and prison reformer who transformed the lives of thousands of prisoners. Her ideas on criminal justice are still practised today.

You might know her as the lady on the back of the old £5 notes.

Showcasing at Crawley is a real thrill as we get to see the piece performed in a lovely theatre space with full costumes, hair and make-up as well as lighting. Without the pressure of competing we also get feedback from the judges to help us refine our piece ready for the Southern premier in Portsmouth where we do compete. Last year in Portsmouth we came 5th in the competition with our piece the Barnbow canaries. This year we are hoping to come in the top 3; as this will allow us access to The National Finals which is only held every 4 years.



About 100 students take part across the year groups. Some are performers, others co-host, as well as back stage crew including lighting designer and video director. We have a lot of “kit” from a huge set which arrives in a truck, lots of hairspray and even more safety pins. The students love the day getting to see pieces from other schools and working together to make our performance the best it can be. We drew first in the running order in Crawley which meant we had a lot of students to get ready for the 6.30pm. start. There was a lot of back combing of hair and tons of face paint. The performance was amazing and as a school we are so lucky to have so many supportive parents; many of them in the audience. Although not competing we did get the following awards of excellence this meant the judges gave us 9 or 10 out of 10 for the following categories:

Choreography
Performance skills
Drama
Costuming character
Lighting
Soundtrack
Stage crew



The team are already armed with ways we can improve the piece further for our performance in Portsmouth and hope to see many of you there!