



Pupils shine at top conference



MEMBERS of the Archbishop Blanch School Choir recently opened the national conference for the Church of England, held in the awe-inspiring setting of Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

Students performed a rousing rendition of This is Me, later followed by a version of Emeli Sandé's song, Read All About It, accompanied by a dance routine choreographed and performed by two Year 11 students.

Both songs were specifically chosen as their messages supported the theme of the confer-

ence: Rethinking Resilience. Students were privileged to not only perform at the conference, but to be able to hear keynote speeches from the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Sarah Mullally, who encouraged listeners to find their identity in knowing who they are in God and to go beyond the world's voices, and the inspirational speaker The Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the House of Commons and HM the Queen, reading powerful poems about resilience by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou.

The Education Secretary, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, also spoke, setting out his vision for children to build character and resilience; in his speech, the Minister specifically named Archbishop Blanch's "amazing young people" from whom "... we should take heart and a lot of optimism".

Students were later invited to take part in student leadership workshops and were also treated to private tours of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament, thanks to the generosity of Luciana Berger, MP.