Auburn Girls High School Competition

On the 22 of March 2013, six boys in year 8 were chosen in order to do a geographical competition at Auburn Girls High School. Those six boys are Aleks, Dalvin, Kiani, Daniel, Terrence and myself James Mansaray. We went to Auburn Girls high school by train with our teacher and were immediately escorted to the school hall where we saw about three other schools all separated around the area like Auburn Girls, Black town Boys and another which I was unable to name.

In the hall were about sixteen separate groups who all had their own different score boards. As I look around my surroundings, I started to see flamboyant pictures and drawings like dragons and mythical monsters spread right across the walls of the hall. But it was not even five minutes later that we were given our first challenge of the day, which were a set of different questions. As we were discussing about the answers and looking through the questions, we noticed that the questions given to us where not that thorny or difficult because of the fact that we were all familiar with them. The questions needed us to name some countries, their capital city and which flag belonged to which country. We were sent out by the staff and were given some light refreshments in order to help keep our energy flowing.

As the break was over, we stepped into round two where we were asked to run through the area and search for questions hidden all around the school. In order to safely complete the challenge, we were given a map of the school along with an answer sheet for all the questions that we would find. The questions were either stuck on bins, metal polls or large gates, and were specially designed to put our geographical skills of direction and knowledge to the test. As we finished round two, we were all panting and resting from all the running that we had encountered in order to find all the questions that were stored around the school.

As round three occurred, we were all bamboozled when the helping teachers placed one IPad on each group table. As they finished, the teacher hosting the competition announced that we had to create a video that would promote global inequality and sustainability in the world, in order to well inform people in other advanced countries about the lack of opportunities other unfortunate people in developing countries are facing today. As we started the video, we were completely in disarray and did not even know how to start, until Ms. told us about what we needed to talk about in the video for global inequality. So from then on thanks to the wonderful help of our teacher, we were able to perfect the video and hand it in by the time our time ran out. All of the videos performed by all the groups were broadcasted to everyone in the hall via the projector. The person who was most ambitious about our video getting shown first was Daniel, who was highly optimistic and always claimed that our video was the best.

As the food was getting prepared for the second time, we were all asked to get our meal, which was a sausage inside bread with a drink. The last challenge we were given before we left was that for round four, we were to imagine that crafty thieves have plundered very important
maps. But one of the thieves dropped a note that had a code written on it. And our job was to crack the code with the help of an Alas given to us. And if we do, we would be awarded with special prize. The minute we started trying to solve the code, I myself immediately noticed that this task was not given the name of challenge four for nothing. As we tried to properly figure it out, we became annoyed and restless and started writing anything that would fit into the lines. And by the time I knew it, our group was running all around the place, while Terrence and Daniel started to proclaim that they had cracked the code. And as I read it, I noticed that it might even be the answer for the problem. But as soon as I started running to them myself, they came leaping and shouting up and down and all around the place holding a parcel. And immediately I knew that they had actually really cracked the code. So, I too started jumping and leaping all around the place. But the excitement did not stop there because soon after we were asked to be quiet as they announced the scores from the lowest to the top.

Anticipation was creeping up my spine as I was getting in all the scores that were being announced and which groups it belonged to. They announced last, it’s not us! Second last, it’s not us! Third last and it’s still not us. As the scores kept on exceeding one by one, slowly getting bigger and bigger then bigger and even more bigger, all the way until they were about to announce the people that came first and second place! We were in the running for first. Our names were not mentioned, and you could feel the seriousness of our rival Black town, and I could see the anticipation of my team members in Liverpool. Which one would it be, Black town or Liverpool, Black town or Liverpool. And the winner is....... LIVERPOOL! I was overwhelmed. I was astonished. I looked at the others and I didn’t know what to say. I took a glance at Ms. and the one thing that came out was a loud, proud and joyous, YAY! Knowing that all the geography homework I have completed, and all the tests and assignments I handed in, were all worthwhile. In the end, they gave us a pocket sized volcano; a card game and a large book about animals that we decided to donate to the school. And at the end of the day, I felt like doing that all over again.