



ST. MICHAEL'S CE SCHOOL



VISIT BY DAMON HILL OBE TO ST. MICHAEL'S

10 FEBRUARY 2020

At St Michael's part of our vision is to equip pupils with the 'confidence and skills to make a positive contribution in God's world.' To live a life which makes a difference takes character, resilience and tenacity.

To reinforce these messages, we regularly invite well-known personalities to share their experiences and inspire us about developing character and confidence.

On 10 February we were delighted to receive a visit from Damon Hill OBE, former Formula 1 World Champion.

We were very grateful to Amin Momen, co-chair of the PTA, in making this visit happen.

Our special assembly

We held a whole school assembly during which some Year 6 pupils interviewed Damon. These focused on how to overcome challenges and achieve your dreams. His answers highlighted the importance of persistence, hard work and having a passion for what you do. A summary of the questions and answers is below. Afterwards, Mr. Bawn, our Deputy Head, challenged Damon to a computer game race, using the Silverstone circuit as backdrop. Damon demonstrated that he still had the skill behind the wheel – or console!



What the pupils said

I found out that Damon wanted to ski as well as race cars. I also learned that you should try your hardest and never give up. (Isadora – Year 6)

I did not know his dad was also a racing driver. I learned how speedy, dangerous and risky motor racing is. I also learned the importance of persisting and keeping on trying. (Max – Year 6)

I learned that his son and dad are racing drivers. I want to be a professional rugby player and his advice to persist really helped me (Boris – Year 5)

I learned that race driving was a sport and that he needs to go to the gym a lot and do lots of exercise. (Rosie – Year 4)

I enjoyed the computer race with Mr. Bawn. I learned that he had to go through a lot of things to be world champion. It means I can achieve what I want through practising and practising. (Chloe – Year 2)

I learned that it doesn't matter if you lose. I liked watching him play on the PS4. (Henry – Year 2)

I liked meeting a real famous car driver. He told us to never give up. (Troy – Year 2)

Questions for Damon Hill on his visit to St. Michael's: 10 February 2020.

How did you get into Formula 1 driving? Who inspired you in your life?

Like many, I was influenced by my parents. My dad was a racing driver who won two World Championships in the 1960s.

How many trophies do you have and where do you keep them?

I have a lot of trophies, not just for the 22 Grand Prix wins but also for second and third place. I have just moved house so they are all kept in storage. When I was growing up, my dad's trophies were around the house.

What's the best car you've ever driven?

The Williams car in which I won the World Championship in 1996. It would travel about 220 miles an hour on the straight, but the tailgate helped slow it down so I could take the corners. Without the tailgate it would go even faster.

What was your most memorable moment in and out of F1 racing?

I think winning the World Championship in 1996. I got into the car not knowing if I was champion and at the end of the race got out as world champion.

What did you want to be when you were in Primary School?

I always liked sports. I was also influenced by my father to go into racing. But I also liked skiing.

What challenges did you have to come to become World Champion?

It takes a lot of willpower and hard work. I had to go to the gym to keep fit. You have to stick at it, even when at times you feel like you want to give up. There's a saying: 'Inch by inch, life's a cinch. Yard by yard, life is hard.' When I won the World Championship, it was not just about winning – I just wanted to know I had tried my best.

What is one thing you would say to a young person today who wants to be a professional sportsman or woman?

You have to love the sport you want to do. Having a passion for your sport will help you stick with things even when it gets tough.



“Working together for the good of all”

