



MEETING Archbishop Desmond Tutu meets pupils from schools, including Swindon Academy

Students meet Desmond Tutu at special service

SWINDON Academy students met Desmond Tutu at a special event to mark the 125th anniversary of the United Church Schools Trust (USCT) – the Christian educational charity which runs their school.

The Swindon students joined pupils from UCST's other schools in the south of England in a service of thanksgiving, rededication and celebration at Canterbury

Cathedral. Archbishop Tutu, the veteran South African anti-apartheid campaigner and former archbishop of Cape Town, was present at the event where he gave a moving and inspirational sermon, while students gave readings and led some of the hymns.

During the service, Swindon Academy presented an album of pictures highlighting the

successes of its students.

Richard Batsford, Swindon Academy's head boy, said: "It was a really nice ceremony and it was really interesting to see lots of students from other academies in their different uniforms!"

Steph Wilkinson, the academy's head girl, said: "Canterbury Cathedral is a fantastic building, I felt really privileged to be involved

in such a large and special event but I was really nervous!"

Jan Shadick, principal of Swindon Academy, said meeting Desmond Tutu was a great experience for the students. She said: "It has been an excellent opportunity for some of our students to be able to meet others from ULT academies and share their experiences and successes."