

Students showcase anti social behaviour work to Government Minister

Students in Milton Keynes producing a DVD aimed at tackling anti social behaviour have showcased their work to South East Regional Minister, Jonathan Shaw.

Stantonbury Campus students have already produced one DVD aimed at secondary school children, which is used as an educational tool and which is attracting interest from across the country.

Now members of the Lost Youth project are working on a second, funded through a Government Anti Social Behaviour Grant of £44,000, for primary schools.

The Minister met the students as they worked on their scripts as part of a day in Milton Keynes to see how Government support and local initiatives are empowering and strengthening communities.

During the rest of the day the Minister focussed on:

- Tackling anti social behaviour – after meeting members of the Lost Youth project the Minister met community representatives and residents to discuss initiatives to tackle the problem.
- Connecting Communities - visiting the Tinkers Bridge community which has received £43,000 Government funding; chairing a discussion between younger and older people to discuss building bridges between generations.
- Getting young people into work - a careers fair where the Minister met young people looking for jobs, and young people who have secured jobs through the Government's Future Jobs Fund, as well as private, public and voluntary sector employers.
- Support for families and young children - meeting staff, parents and children at a Sure Start Children's Centre, seeing how the Government's drive to improve the lives of children and families is having an effect locally
- Education and skills - touring the Milton Keynes Academy and meeting staff and students; the Academy, sponsored by education charity Edge, demonstrates excellent vocational education alongside excellent academic education. All students are taking a vocational course. It was the first school in the UK to open under the Partnerships for Schools (PfS) 'Design and Build' national framework.

He said: "I visited Milton Keynes last year and said then it was vital to the South East economy. That is still true today. But it is important local communities are equipped to tackle local problems, and to take advantage of local opportunities, so they are in a strong position to benefit from the recovery.

"That is why the Government is supporting young families through Sure Start children's centres; why we have provided £44,000 to tackle anti social behaviour and invested a further £43,000 in targeted support to provide opportunities for the local voice to be heard in Tinkers Bridge.

"And last year, through Backing Young Britain, we supported the council's bid under the Future Jobs Fund to create 96 new jobs.

“It is important however we also ensure our young people leave education with the skills employers require, and this is reflected with the approach of the Milton Keynes Academy, offering students work experience and mentoring in real businesses, developing their enterprise skills.

The Minister added: “Across the wider city, I have been pleased to hear of the work going on to tackle crime and disorder

“Even without a recognised high level of anti social behaviour in Milton Keynes, for anybody who does fall victim it is unacceptable. The Government is committed, through a stream of initiatives and funding, to tackling the problem and supporting witnesses and victims.

“I have been particularly impressed by the Lost Youth Project and I welcome, encourage and support the positive contribution of young people to their communities.”

For further information please contact:

Jane Manning

Press Secretary to the South East Regional Minister

079 207 51161

jane.manning@gose.gsi.gov.uk

Notes to editors

Future Jobs Fund

The Future Jobs Fund will provide funding for 170,000 jobs across the UK – 120,000 for young people and 50,000 for unemployment hotspots. Around £1 billion has been allocated to Fund. Bids to the Future Jobs Fund can be submitted at any time and are assessed against key criteria:

- That the jobs will be real jobs – paying at least national minimum wage, for at least 25 hours a week, and lasting six months;
- That the jobs will be additional - in other words that they would not have happened without the Future Jobs Fund;
- That they are suitable for long-term unemployed young people;
- The work undertaken must be of benefit to the local community; and
- A significant proportion of the jobs must be deliverable quickly.

Bids will also be assessed for cost, quality and their support for key sectors – including green jobs.

A full list of the successful bids can be found on the DWP website.

Organisations can visit www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund to express interest in bidding for jobs.

Saplings Sure Start Children’s Centre

Saplings Sure Start Children’s Centre was officially opened in January 2009 to support families with children under five years old in central Bletchley. The council run centre, one of 20 in Milton Keynes, sits alongside Knowles Nursery School on Queensway, which provides education for children aged three and four.

Sure Start Children's Centres are a key part of the Government's drive to improve the lives of children and families. They are for all families with children aged 0 to 5 years and aim to provide the best start in life for every child; better opportunities for parents; affordable, good quality childcare and stronger, safer communities.

The Milton Keynes Academy

The Milton Keynes Academy at Leadenhall has 1,500 places for 11-18 year olds and employs more than 200 teachers and support staff.

At the heart of the new school is an Enterprise Hub designed to play a major role in delivering the Academy's Business and Enterprise specialism. Students spend most of their time in year group 'learning villages' and then move to specially equipped areas of the Academy including a suite of seven science laboratories, a cricket oval, an athletics track, and a film and recording studio. www.miltonkeynesacademy.co.uk

The Milton Keynes Academy is the first school in the UK to open under the Partnerships for Schools (PfS) 'Design and Build' national framework, designed to streamline and accelerate delivery of the academies programme nationwide. Independent education foundation Edge is the sponsor of The Milton Keynes Academy. Edge is dedicated to raising the status of practical and vocational learning, so that all young people have the opportunity to achieve their potential, and the UK's future workforce is equipped with the skills to be successful in the modern economy. Edge believes that 'learning by doing' is as important as academic learning, and that there are many paths to success. Visit www.edge.co.uk for more information.

Connecting Communities

Connecting Communities is designed to support those traditional working class areas of the country that have been worst hit by the economic recession and ensure that residents there are getting a bigger say on local issues and are plugged into the benefits of government investment. In Milton Keynes this has resulted in £43,000 of targeted help. This will directly support the neighbourhood Action Plan development in Tinkers Bridge with a range of further support for developing community leaders, community building activities, neighbourhood management and youth work.

Residents have been encouraged to voice their concerns and to date two DVDs have been produced – 'I am Tinkers Bridge', which the Minister saw, and the 'Tinkers Bridge Fireside Chat' which went online on Friday 12 February.

Lost Youth Project/Stantonbury Campus

PC Dave Goodwin had the concept for "Lost Youth" in 2007. The idea was to develop a teaching pack to introduce into the national curriculum which would promote discussion points for young people surrounding aspects of anti-social behaviour. The package needed to be flexible so several areas of the curriculum could be used and be designed so any interested agency or teacher could deliver the lessons in a number of different ways.

"Lost Youth" is a multi-agency project. Students from Stantonbury Campus secondary school wrote the film scripts and assisted the professional film makers with the filming process. Students from Milton Keynes College provided the cover art work and DVD face.

To date more than 200 Lost Youth DVDs have been circulated across the country. Interest to date has come from all secondary schools within Milton Keynes. Police interest includes: Greater Manchester, Thames Valley, Cambridgeshire, Leeds, Lancashire, Workington, Surrey, Macclesfield, Heywood, Walsall.

Government and Community Partnership interest includes: Home Office Youth Task Force, GOSE, Huntingdon, Derbyshire, Harrogate, Grantham, Doncaster, Birmingham, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Llanelli, Crewe, Merthyr Tydfil, Ipswich, Northwich, Wigan, Aylesbury, West Sussex, East Sussex, Chichester, Folkestone, High Wycombe, Reading, Woking, Windsor, Maidenhead, Oxford, Newbury.

The DVD has also been purchased by Youth Offending teams in Hove, Colwyn, Carmarthenshire and Milton Keynes, the fire service in Reigate and drugs and alcohol agencies in Rochdale and Ashton under Lyne.