

SPRING UPDATE!

STYPP Campaign

Following the success of previous secondary school events run by South Tyneside's Young People's Parliament (STYPP), we are delighted to again work with them and be involved in this year's 'Mental Health and Young People' events. This year's theme is based on the result of the recent 'Make Your Mark' Ballot where South Tyneside young people, along with young people across the North East as a whole, voted for Mental Health as their top issue.

Four of our Student Council members are taking part in the event: Shreya Bhardwaj, Toby Kinghorn, Ben Whitehead and James King. Shreya, Toby and James all wrote fantastic application letters to me to be selected to represent the school. Ben Whitehead was involved last year, and he is acting as a Year 10 mentor to the other three. Elaine Thompson has attended the events too and is working often with the students to develop their campaign.

The students will be actioning their campaign in school over the next term and then will showcase their campaign on 27th June at South Shields Town Hall. Further details about their campaign will be coming soon!

Hygiene Bank

The Student Council brought their hygiene bank proposal to SLT earlier in the term and explained the rationale and mechanisms of the bank. Now named 'Canny Clean', the bank is due to launch after 30th April when staff training has taken place. Some of the students have formed the fundraising committee, and others have formed the stocktaking committee. Each are responsible for leading on those areas. All of Student Council will act as ambassadors in their form groups. They've worked incredibly hard and this and they're looking forward to seeing it launch. Parent's Forum think that this is a great idea and they are keen to help spread the word!



International Women's Day 2019

Four students (three from Student Council, one from Girl Kind) took part in an International Women's Day event as part of the Women's 100 activities at Grey's Monument, Newcastle on 8th March 2019. The students were: Amelia Woodley, Shreya Bhardwaj, Sharna Welch and Bonnie-Belle Atack. The event focused on 'Women in Newcastle' and a campaign theme of period poverty, comprising a flash mob choir and a direct action which was 'decorating' Grey's Monument with red pom-poms. The students learned and rehearsed songs in Bewick Hall (where we bumped into Bethany and her child!) and then walked to the Monument where they wound round skeins of red pom-poms round the Monument and sung. What was also great about the event is myself and Shreya are not confident singers but we promised each other to belt out the tunes for the cause and to challenge ourselves! We may not have been the most vocal, but I would give us an A* for enthusiasm!

The four representatives were fantastic and the real stars of the day! So many commented on how fantastic it was to see such engaged, eloquent and knowledgeable students. Tyne and Wear TV also carried out filming of the girls which was broadcast. They were a pleasure to take and they very much impressed all that they met and sung to.



Assembly

In January, the Student Council planned and led an assembly on 'Mutual Tolerance and Respect' giving each person a challenge for that day! Many left the hall with Aretha Franklin's 'Respect' stuck in their heads.

Parent's Evenings

At the Year 9 Parent's Evening, James King and Lewis Cooke volunteered to provide refreshments to staff to keep thirsts quenched. They were a great support to World Challenge's Lynne Watson. They were tremendous in delivering a much needed brew!

Pupil Pride

Year 7 have launched a 'Pupil Pride in Your School' poster competition! Entries are due 26th April so we look forward to selecting the winning poster to display!