

20 February 2017

Dear Parent /Carer

Y11 GCSE Citizenship Studies – update on their recent work

Students in Year 11 have asked that I communicate to you some of their recent work in GCSE Citizenship studies. As part of the course students are required to select a community issue and then take steps to try to address it at either a local, national or global level. Our Y11 students decided to split into groups based on two themes to try to tackle key issues; namely the way that teenagers are represented in the media as anti-social and as people who do not care about their communities, and also the fact that perhaps youngsters seem to have little interest in politics, democracy and electoral process.

As part of their work students organised VMG presentations, posters for around the academy, contacted their local MP (who is going to come into the academy to meet a small group of students), created leaflets and posted to the local community and also carried out surveys of younger students to ascertain their current levels of understanding with regards to politics and electoral process.

In addition, the groups also carried out two major community events. One group gave up their time on a wet Saturday morning to assist at a coffee morning at Cheshire Holmes; this group baked cakes to sell and raise money for charity, ran stalls, communicated with members of the public and also helped serve refreshments. The aim of this event was to raise awareness of the good things that local youngsters do and the fact that they do care about their community and perhaps dispel some myths in the national press that all youngsters are anti-social!

A second group organised their own visit to New Marske Primary School. This group delivered an assembly on the importance of politics and electoral process and why voting is important. As part of their presentation students organised interactive events for children to get involved in a form of voting process and were able to demonstrate why it is essential more youngsters take up their legal right to vote.

Both events were supervised by one of our teaching assistants, Miss Neesam, who did a fantastic job to ensure that all students were supported to carry out their role to the best of their ability. Feedback from members of the local community indicates that all students did an impressive job in representing the academy and, perhaps more importantly, in illustrating just how outstanding they are as a set of young people. The success of the events is down to a lot of commitment, quality learning and, above all, dedication to do well.

The students have asked that I urge you to discuss both issues with your son/daughter and stress why work in these areas is so important. Could I kindly ask that you support the work of our students by taking time to have a discussion about politics, electoral processes (including democracy and voting) and also about the way youngsters are presented in the media and what can be done to break down any negative stereotyping?

Yours faithfully

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