

Embedding Giving Nation into the national curriculum: students tackle knife crime, AIDS and poverty

Southborough High School is a boys' academy catering for students aged 11-18 in the south-west London suburb of Surbiton. They joined Giving Nation in 2013, and their first year was a great success...

Social action inspired by the curriculum

PSHCE Coordinator and Geography teacher Rosanna Bassnett Barker decided to use the Giving Nation Challenge to enhance her students' learning within their lessons. By tying the project in with topics being studied in PSHCE and Geography, students were given the opportunity to bring their learning to life by tackling the **real-world problems** they were discovering in class. Projects were run by students from Years 7 and 8, as well as sixth-form students in Year 12. A huge range of projects took place, from traditional fundraisers to awareness weeks.

Passionate students

One particular project saw students tackle the huge issue of **knife crime**, having seen rising numbers of incidents in the London area.

A group of passionate students worked with outside organisations to develop lesson plans and workshops to be rolled out to other students in the school. They also held public talks with St John Ambulance, a barrister and a local knife crime prevention group to help tackle the problem.



'Volunteering is amazing and greatly beneficial; it also allows a positive change to occur to the lives of others as well as yourself... Change just doesn't happen to a person, but you can make and be that change.'

Student, Year 8

'It's fulfilling and rewarding—it feels like a difference is being made to the lives of others (understanding and experiencing the positive impact that sharing your time gives to others). You improve and learn new skills while also meeting some incredible people.'

Student, Year 12

Another group was moved to raise vital funds for a local **food bank**, having learned about the causes and effects of poverty in a PSHCE lesson. A third class ran a **fair trade breakfast** for students for a week, raising money and awareness of the importance of being a fair-trade consumer.



In total, Southborough students raised in excess of £3500 for their various charities and causes which, alongside the above, included World AIDS Day, Zambian charity 'Cecily's Fund' and the Royal Star and Garter care homes for ex-servicemen and women.

'Giving Nation encourages schools and students to shout about what they have done. It is a wonderful starting platform and the pupils are engaged as the small financial help goes a long way to boost morale. This has a huge knock-on effect! It encourages the pupils to be proud of their work.'

Rosanna Bassnett Barker,
PSHCE Coordinator