

Case Study

Envision School Team



School: Frances Bardsley
Region: London
Age range: 16 - 17 years old
Issue: Green spaces



What issue did they tackle and why?

The students decided to tackle the issue of international human rights. They wanted to raise awareness within their school of the work of the human rights organisation Amnesty and planned to set up an Amnesty Youth Group at school to encourage the school to take action on human rights issues.

What did they decide to do?

The students took action before Christmas, by taking part in Amnesty's Greetings Card campaign. The team ended up with over 200 cards!

After Christmas, the team used each meeting as an opportunity to learn more about human rights and take action. The team felt particularly passionate about the issue of a fair trial for Guantanamo detainees.

For their big protest, the team borrowed orange jumpsuits from Amnesty and created their own leaflets and petition. They took balloons, badges and information about Amnesty and collected over 200 signatures for their petition.

They have also invited Amnesty speakers to speak to each year group, sold badges and signed up interested students to the group.



What is the Envision Schools Programme?

Envision works with teams of young people based in schools and colleges. Starting with the question, "What do you want to change?" teams are supported to investigate issues relevant to their lives as local and global citizens. Led by their own ideas and supported by staff and trained volunteers, teams plan and implement a project to tackle whatever issue they are passionate about - learning to be young leaders and gaining vital employability skills along the way.

For further information please contact Emma Bird
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Achievements

Engaged with the local community

The students used their knowledge of human rights issues to develop their own campaign and talked to people on the streets about Guantanamo Bay. They learnt about how to speak to different people.

Raised awareness of human rights in their school

The students also raised awareness of human rights within their school through the Amnesty Greetings Card Campaign and the assemblies they organised.

Organised a campaign in their local community

The team took their campaign outside the school gates. They learnt about public campaigning and creative ways to spread awareness of their project.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Communication and persuasion skills

In delivering their project the team learnt to talk about their project and specific human rights issues to different types of people, including teachers. They developed the confidence to talk to people in the street to gather support for their campaign.

Team work

The team learnt how to work together effectively in order to achieve their project. Despite suffering setbacks, they managed to maintain momentum throughout their project and were really proud of what they achieved.

How to make a difference on human rights issues

Some members of the team didn't know much about human rights at the beginning of the year but by the end of the year all of the team had researched, talked about and taken action on human rights issues.

Testimonials

"I have learnt how to work well and cooperate well with members in my group. I have learnt to speak more confidently and express my opinions and ideas within the group."

Iqra, Frances Bardsley team member

"They started off very shy and contributions would often be very minimal, despite masses of potential...At one point or another every student had the opportunity to lead, take minutes or research. The petition was a fantastic success and they collected approximately 200 signatures during the afternoon... I am very proud of all the girls have accomplished."

Neil Milton, Envision Team Mentor for Cherwell School

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