

NEWS RELEASE:

16 November 2010



Young people use their 'super powers' to change Leeds for the better

Last Friday (12th of November) in The Courtyard, Millennium Square, over **120 inspiring young people** from schools and colleges across Leeds came together with business and community leaders for 'The Big Boom'.

Themed around super heroes and comic books the young people were invited to take part in a series of activities and workshops where they learnt how to harness their 'super powers' to help them make a difference in their communities.

Workshops included: drama with the Ice and Fire theatre company, RJC 'dance to express not to impress', graffiti with local artist Nick Halahan, Friends of the Earth and UK Parliament. The aim of these workshops was not only to educate, but to motivate young people in Leeds to take positive action in their local areas on issues that they care about.

The Big Boom is part of the Envision Schools Programme which aims to encourage young people across Leeds to be the positive change they want to see in their communities and through this, challenge negative stereotypes about young people.

After a hugely successful first year in Leeds which saw over 850 young people take part and deliver 19 social and environmental projects in their communities, Envision is starting its second academic year working in 12 schools and colleges across Leeds.

This event marks the start of a new academic year on the Envision Schools programme and provides a fantastic opportunity for young people from across the city to come together to discuss and learn more about social, environmental and community issues that are important to them.

Envision's youth-led approach to citizenship education centers around empowering young people to become active and confident citizens. The young people attending the event will also be working with Envision throughout the academic year on their own projects tackling issues from racism and cultural awareness to homelessness and social support. Through these projects students not only have the opportunity to take positive action in their local communities but also learn key skills and knowledge helping them participate in society and become active citizens.

'Envision is an opportunity for young people to tackle some of the urgent problems facing our world; to learn about them in greater detail and hopefully encourage others to realise the potential they have to change things for the better'
– Amareen Afzal, Allerton High.

Envision London, 47-49 Pitfield Street, London N1 6DA

www.envision.org.uk

Envision (full name Environmental Vision) is registered as a Charity and a Limited Company in England and Wales
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'It's fantastic to see so many young people in Leeds who really want to make a positive impact on communities and the world. We're looking forward to seeing their projects develop over the coming months and giving the young people an opportunity to take their ideas to decision makers and the business community.' – Katherine Myles, Regional manager.

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Event Details:

THE BIG BOOM

Where: The Courtyard, Millennium Square

When: Friday 12th November 2010

Time: 11.00am to 3.00pm

Attending: Over 120 students from 12 schools and colleges from around Leeds, teachers, business and community leaders.

Schools: Allerton Grange, Prince Henry's Grammar, Parklands, Priesthorpe, Crawshaw, Lawnswood, David Young Community Academy, Morley High, Bruntcliffe, Primrose, Notre Dame and Ralph Thoresby.

Notes to Editor:

- Envision was founded by four young people in June 2000 as a response to the environmental and social issues facing British society in the 21st Century.
- Envision won the Guardian Charity Awards 2008 and recently reached the finals of the National Lottery Awards. Nick Nielsen the Director has recently won the Shackleton Leadership for his innovative leadership techniques.
- Envision trains adult volunteers to deliver its Schools Programme to young people. Envision has received a Gold Star Award – a cabinet office initiative – for its ability to engage underrepresented young people and adults in volunteering with a difference.
- Envision relies on voluntary donations to fund its schools and colleges programme. To donate please visit www.envision.org.uk/donate
- Today Envision supports teams of 16-19 year olds from 130 schools and colleges in Birmingham, Leeds and London, helping over 4000 young people last year to design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to

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climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.

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