

B.I.G Anti-Bullying Campaign goes VIRAL!!!!

I am pleased to say that bullying within the Academy has not been an area of significant challenge for us and we pride ourselves in tackling any serious issues of that nature swiftly and effectively, yet when a group of students arranged a meeting with Mr O'Neill (Director of Pastoral Care) they



outlined a very touching and moving presentation, explaining that although bullying was not overt within the academy, they still felt they wanted to support students who maybe felt isolated or withdrawn and provide a service where there was always someone available to speak to and confide in.

It was agreed that we would work towards achieving the BIG award, a nationally recognised kite-mark which benchmarks the levels of excellence when dealing with Anti-bullying.

The students then led the process with support from myself of supporting our most vulnerable students by gaining counselling qualifications from Kidscape, working with staff, parents and governors, leading assemblies and workshops, providing a support service and being ambassadors and role models in their quest to ensure NO student within the Academy ever tolerated bullying and were aware there was always help and support if anyone needed it.



Their tireless work and dedication has much to do with the fact that bullying incidents within the Academy dropped from 15 recorded incidents to 9, in the space of one year, clearly outlining the positive impact their campaign has created. Indeed, our recent OFSTED report acknowledged that behaviour and safeguarding within the Academy was outstanding, particularly illustrating the student's relationships with one another and the staffs was a unique and a shining example to all of respect and support.

Having gained the BIG kite mark this summer, the students did not stop there, they went on to produce an anti-bullying campaign video which has been published on the Academy website and plays around the academy on the set up TV's it is also to be endorsed by BIG themselves as a piece of outstanding practise. The Langley Academy would not be the embracing, nurturing and supportive collective it has become and these young people, who are both a credit to their parents and the academy, should be immensely proud of their achievements and success.

By Emma Wingrove- Inclusion Centre Manager and BIG Co-ordinator.