



NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE!

STUDENTS HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF CYBER BULLYING

Thursday 22nd November 2007

Students at Cambridge Regional College are helping to raise awareness of bullying, through a competition that is being run at the College this week, to coincide with national 'Anti-Bullying Week'.

The College is running a 'Stamp Out Bullying' poetry competition that is open to all students, encouraging them to write a poem that reflects their personal experiences and feelings about bullying. The theme of the competition is 'Cyber Bullying' and has been chosen specifically to encourage students to think about how misuse of IT devices can result in bullying.

The poetry competition runs all this week and in order to raise awareness, entries will be displayed in the Mall at the College's Science Park campus until 30th November. They will then be incorporated into a special booklet that will be distributed throughout the College. The winning poems will receive £85 worth of gift vouchers.

The activities this week have been organised by the College's Youth Worker Chris Hickey and Welfare Adviser Susan Leonard. They said, "We have a good response to the competition each year and are impressed that students are willing to share their own personal experiences in order to help others". The College takes the issue of bullying very seriously and hopes to raise awareness amongst students of the support available, both inside the College and from external agencies.

Students have been given rock sweets with the message "Bullying Sucks", as well as mouse mats, flyers and stickers with the same message and logo.

This is the third year that the College has run activities to coincide with anti-bullying week. There are displays throughout the College that showcase the issues surrounding bullying, and give information about where to get help if you find yourself affected by bullying.

-ENDS-

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has published research suggesting up to one in five pupils have been bullied via the internet or mobile phones. This research identified seven types of cyber-bullying, ranging from abusive text messages, e-mails and phone calls to bullying in internet chat rooms, social networking sites and instant messaging.

Up to one in five pupils have experienced some form of cyber-bullying according to the study, which was based on responses from 92 children aged 11-16 from 14 London schools.

Girls were significantly more likely to be subjected to cyber-bullying, especially by text message. However, around a third of victims had never told an adult about the problem.

"Unlike other forms of bullying, cyber-bullying can follow children and young people into their private spaces" Jim Knight, Former Minister for Schools 2006.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lesley Devaney, Marketing Assistant, on 01223 532225.