

29 March 2010

Press Release

SCHOOL PUPILS EXPLORE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN CRC JUSTICE DAY

Real-life crime and the sharp end of the justice system were on the curriculum for secondary school pupils during an exciting day at Cambridge Regional College.

Legal experts, Support Services, Police Officers and prisoners joined forces to bring the criminal justice system to life for pupils studying the Diploma in Society, Health and Development.

The students, aged from 14 to 16, saw police dogs in action as a would-be 'criminal' went on the rampage, and had a taste of life on the inside when they were locked up for a short ride in a G4 prison van, with individual cells for a dozen 'offenders'.

Two prisoners from HMP Sudbury – one serving a life sentence for arson and the other 20 years for drug dealing – talked to pupils about their experiences, and traffic Police Officers described the tools and skills needed to catch a criminal on the run.

The Justice Sector, a 'Collaborative Day' organised by CRC as part of the Diploma programme, was attended by more than 100 pupils from nine schools, including Soham Village College, Ely Village College, the Parkside Federation, Netherhall School, Melbourn and Bassingbourn Village Colleges, Long Road Sixth Form, Helena Romanes School in Essex and Meridian School in Royston.

Pam Byrd, head of the College's Care, Health and Early Years Academy, said the day had been a great success, with pupils getting to the heart of the justice system.

“This was an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the origins of anti-social and offending behaviour, and consider ways in which crime and disorder can be reduced in the community as part of their Diploma course,” she said.

“The pupils were able to talk to a wide range of people involved in the legal system, from convicted criminals, to police and legal experts, and ask penetrating questions. It was a very successful day.”

The pupils study for the Diploma at school alongside their GCSEs, under the auspices of the College, and attend five sector-related Collaborative Days at CRC focusing on different parts of their course.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.