

## **Wilf's Presentation – PSHE Conference: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July – New College**

Thank you for inviting me along today to represent the voice of young people at this conference.

My decision to become a MYP for Swindon was because I felt that the work would be interesting and I would be able to expand my horizons and learn about new aspects, especially the lives of young people, and how one can make an impact.

My campaign is centred on anti-bullying, in schools, in an attempt to work against the action and improve schools attitudes towards bullying. Bullying affected my life for a substantial period and hence I am passionate on the issue. I hope to run a variety of activities across school to promote awareness towards bullying, such as the Feeling Safe survey.

Being a member of Youth Parliament for Swindon, we work alongside the Swindon Youth Forum, which is a group of young people from all backgrounds living in the borough, who ensure we are listened to and have a say in the things that matter to us, with the aim of influencing the decision makers in Swindon. At our last residential we have decided that our campaigns for the next 2 years. There will be another residential in August.

There Campaigns came up.

1. Encouraging young people to strive to achieve.
2. Zero tolerance toward bullying.
3. A healthy mind and body = A healthy future.
4. Nurturing young people's talents.

As you can see, from what we have chosen 'Healthy relationships' is something we value, and hope to promote, this is why I was pleased to be asked to attend this conference.

As well as these campaigns, we are supporting a national campaign to look at the way PSHE is delivered in schools.

**The member of Youth Parliament for Swindon – Ellie James, unfortunately can't be here today but has asked that I read out a statement on her behalf:**

As part of the manifesto for the United Kingdom Youth Parliament, thousands of young people across the UK voted for a 'Curriculum to Prepare us for Life' within schools, this includes a better political, financial and sex and relationship education.

From this, a scheme has been developed called 'Review Your School'. It will question what life skills young people want to learn, how they want to learn it and if what they are learning currently is preparing them for life. A survey from the sexual health charity Brooke said 78% of young people say they have never been consulted

about what they learn in PSHE and Citizenship. The question we are asking is: 'do you have a Curriculum for Life in YOUR school?'

**Section 1** of the scheme is a questionnaire for the teaching staff responsible for the PSHE and Citizenship provision in each school.

**Section 2** focuses on the students. Firstly, we'd like to complete a focus group session, preferably of student council members, and then use the results of this session to complete the second student's questionnaire. The focus group session would cover the structure of lessons, who teaches lessons, topics covered and pupil involvement and most importantly where the young people believe improvements need to be made, if any. Then, with such valuable information gathered it would only be right to present this to those who can facilitate change. Suggested steps include organising a meeting with a head teacher or even a school governor to make sure that a Curriculum to prepare us for Life IS being provided. Of course, any strong areas should be highlighted too, and to ensure the quality in the future? We think a yearly review of PSHE and Citizenship should be ensured to maintain quality and persist with presenting recommendations to Head Teachers and governors. Life skills are just as important as academic skills, therefore we hope that you take on this suggestion and recognise these reviews are vital to a true 'Curriculum for Life'. A written plan we provide has a detailed description of what the focus group session would include so all the session leader, either a teacher or student leader, would need to do is follow the instructions and ensure all young people involved and the teachers fill out the questionnaires. If you give us your details we will more than happily send over this plan and will assist you in the duration of the review.

I myself also see PHSE in schools as important, and it defiantly needs improving.

If you would like to be part of this, please speak to either myself or Paul Dobson [swindonsteppad@aol.com](mailto:swindonsteppad@aol.com)

who looks after our work, as well as The Swindon Youth Forum. We will be here all day so please come and speak to us. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.