

Drama Department Report: Theatre In Education Project on 'Substance Misuse'

Year 9 GCSE Drama students have been devising a piece of drama that educates young people about the potential dangers of substance misuse. This work has been undertaken as part of a county wide initiative, launched by Wokingham Extended Services and Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction and Prevention, which culminated in a drama competition at the Oakwood Centre on November 21st.

As part of their preparation, the students were visited by Karen Bird, the School and Community Officer for Wokingham Police, and Police Constable Les Eke, giving them the opportunity to gather information to include in their final performances.

From the three drama classes, 2 groups were chosen to prepare their work in different ways. Working with Ms Upton, one group prepared a piece for the Drama competition and a second group worked with Mr Richards to prepare a piece to be shown to our feeder primary schools.

Three local primary schools came to Maiden Erlegh's Drama Studio to view the performance, with the piece going 'on tour' to four other schools. In total, the group performed to over 400 young people!



The Primary teachers said the performance was pitched at just the right level for Year Six and they and the children enjoyed seeing a wide variety of drama techniques being used. Mr Richards said "It was great to see the piece developing from its early rehearsals. The final performance was very thought provoking."

The actors in this primary performance were: **Sophie Busby, Noah Haran, Felix Chesher, Siomha Harrington, Keenan Hordle and Beth Ward.**

At the Oakwood centre, Maiden Erlegh won first place in the competition, against some excellent performances from the competing schools, The judges complemented the performance on its sophistication, and the amount of factual information presented on substances and their misuse. Ms Upton said "it was an excellent day, with students from different schools all supporting each other and sharing their work. I feel very proud of our students' achievement; they are excellent ambassadors for Maiden Erlegh School." The prize money of £1000 will be spent on improving resources for students.

The actors in the group that represented Maiden Erlegh were: **Jeremy Collins-Webb, Mae Fincham, Cameron Gibbons, Ceara Mahmood, Isabelle McKenzie, Kisshor Samyrao and Ellis Ward.**

