

# GSF2010 National Sixth Form Conference: Impacts on students and outcomes in schools

## Executive Summary



### Introduction

This report assesses the sustained impacts of the GSF2010 National Conference on students and the resultant outcomes in GSF schools, and collates feedback on how GSF can maximise future impacts. It is based on surveys of GSF2010 teachers and students in December 2010.

### Impacts upon students' attitudes, perceptions and confidence to engage others

The positive impact of the national conference on students' attitudes, perceptions and confidence has been sustained among those responding to the student survey. Five months after the conference, nearly all respondents continued to agree with statements reflecting a range of attitudes and perceptions associated with a positive engagement with global issues. In particular, 94% of respondents remained confident peer educators in relation to the issues at the heart of GSF2010 (a drop of only two percentage points from the close of the conference). That confidence also extended to engaging politicians for 69% of respondents (compared with 28% prior to the conference and 76% immediately afterwards) and to contributing to the media for 77% of respondents (compared with 28% before the conference and 82% immediately afterwards).

### Actions taken by GSF2010 students

By December 2010:

- Each school completing the survey had reached a mean of 780 students through peer education, and 50% of schools surveyed had already exceeded a GSF target of reaching 1,000 students.
- 60% had undertaken fundraising to support international development work, and a further 20% of schools reported that they still had plans to do so.
- 53% of schools surveyed had contacted local media and a further 27% of schools surveyed still had plans to do this. 47% of schools surveyed reported success in obtaining media coverage.
- 60% of schools surveyed reported that their students had been in contact with their MP, and a further 27% of schools intimated that their students still had plans to do this.

The data revealed a high level of activism among GSF students, who believed that their involvement in GSF had directly influenced their decisions in taking a wide variety of actions aimed at tackling poverty.

### Feedback on resources and support

The survey showed a very high level of satisfaction with the resources and support provided by GSF, with 96% of students surveyed who had used the Peer Educator DVD rating it as either 'good' or 'excellent'. This satisfaction was echoed by responses to the Teacher Survey such as: "*The resources were of very good quality*", and "*The resources and ideas supplied by GSF are wonderful*".

### General feedback

Teachers were overwhelmingly positive in their feedback about the impact of their school's involvement in GSF2010, with comments such as:

*"The GSF has changed the lives of the students involved, all of whom are now seeking further opportunities for global leadership."*

*"Impact on individual students has been amazing."*

*"It has had a very positive impact. This is our first year and we are very impressed."*

### Conclusions

The evidence from teacher and student surveys demonstrates that the GSF formula is highly effective at inspiring and equipping students with the resources and confidence to engage peers, politicians and the media, and also at motivating students to take a wide range of actions in relation to the issues explored. A key factor in this formula is the range of resources provided by GSF which are judged by students and teachers to be of high quality. Nevertheless, teachers have identified a range of additional support they would welcome, particularly in relation to the sharing of ideas between schools and in developing students' skills in peer education, which GSF's emerging Alumni scheme and expanding Beacon School programme will provide.