



Global Student Forum
www.globalstudentforum.org

NORTHERN DEBUT FOR SIXTH FORM PEER EDUCATION FORUM

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THE [Global Student Forum](http://www.globalstudentforum.org), where sixth formers explore contemporary development issues and their role as global citizens, has made its debut in Liverpool and Hull.

Since its inception in 2005, some 4000 sixth formers have attended the annual London forum - returning to their schools to inform an estimated 200,000 fellow students of key global issues raised during the day.

Taking the Christian Aid-sponsored forum further north had long been an objective of the event's founders, the Damaris Trust.

'We are delighted to have run GSF in the universities of Liverpool Hope and Hull (Nov 10 and 16),' said national coordinator Richard Baker. 'In all, more than 250 students from 23 schools and colleges attended the two events which took the theme "Education Beats Poverty" and featured multi-media presentations, workshops and live music from former child soldier Ben Okafor (*high res picture available on request*).

Equipped with a DVD of special educational resources, students have been tasked to return to their schools and become peer educators, leading assemblies and lessons on issues raised at the event.

'Each school has been set a target of peer-educating 1000 students,' said Baker. 'GSF is young people-driven. The students will inform, motivate and empower their peers about global issues that concern them.'

Amelia Varley (*high res picture available on request*), a year 13 student at Upton Hall School FCJ, Wirral, who co-hosted the Liverpool event, said: 'Ten years ago I was in primary school, and at that time world leaders signed up to the Millennium Development Goals. They stated that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

'I discovered how I could play a significant part in achieving those goals - that young people everywhere really can make a difference.'

Dan Lunness, from Huddersfield New College, said: Ben Okafor helped us see how we could inspire the current and next generation through creative methods such as song and poem writing.'

(ends)

- *Release issued for Global Student Forum by Stephen Goddard Associates. High res jpegs available on request. More info: 01744 733898 or 07930 198209. GSF website: www.globalstudentforum.org*

Notes for editors

1. The mission of Global Student Forum is to enable school students to critically explore contemporary development issues; and their role as global citizens. In doing so we expect there will be changes in their knowledge, attitudes and actions; and that they will be empowered to work towards a more just and sustainable world for everyone.

2. GSF was started by educational charity Damaris Trust and is funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (DfID). GSF is also sponsored by Christian Aid and the Damaris Global Learning.