

John Leggott College

Student empowerment in North Lincolnshire

At John Leggott College (JLC) the responsibility for the Global Student Forum (GSF) programme rests with the Student Union Executive, which has worked with staff to develop GSF as a timetabled curriculum enrichment option for a wider group of students. Each year the students stage their very own GSF conference aimed at empowering students from local secondary schools to engage with global issues.

The College's Student Empowerment Coordinator, Deborah Sparks, told GSF: "JLC students attend the national conference every year and always return inspired to play their part and make a difference." Following the GSF2010 National Sixth Form Conference, which adopted the theme of *Education Beats Poverty*, the students organised a GSF conference to which they invited Year 10 representatives from 11 local schools.

With the help of presentations, interactive workshops and former Nigerian child soldier Ben Okafor, the event explained the obstacles to education for many children in the developing world and celebrated the work taking place to increase opportunities for learning across the globe. It also encouraged those present to play their part, with pupils exploring ways of fighting poverty across the world and of encouraging politicians to use their power to promote universal access to education. The conference culminated in students presenting their messages to Scunthorpe MP Nic Dakin and taking away GSF Peer Educator resources to help them share their learning in their own schools.

Reflecting on the College's GSF conferences, Deborah Sparks said: "This project has been such a success. The evaluations have showed that the delegates changed their attitudes to global issues. And the schools were enthused enough to want to replicate their experience in their immediate area with their feeder schools."



Pupils from North Lincolnshire schools present their messages to Scunthorpe MP Nic Dakin at John Leggott College's GSF conference.