

Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School

Developing political literacy at Key Stage 3

Sixth Form students from Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School visited their MP, Nick Boles, in the Houses of Parliament at the close of the GSF2010 National Sixth Form Conference. They shared what they had learnt and sought Nick's opinions on the issues they had explored. They then invited Nick to visit the school to see some peer education in action. This he did in February 2011 when he observed the GSF students educating a Year 8 class about the barriers that prevent many children in the developing world getting an education. Nick discussed the issues with the class and judged a poster competition. 'I was hugely impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment,' commented Nick.

"It has been really valuable," reflected Pam Wood, Head of RE. "The school has benefited from the raising of our profile with the local MP, so it's definitely something I would recommend other schools doing. It has really boosted the students' confidence but also made them very much more aware of the power they have to actually do something at a structural level – I don't think it had occurred to them before that their votes matter and MPs have to listen to them."



Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School students visiting Nick Boles MP in the Houses of Parliament after attending the GSF2010 conference in Westminster, London.