



Watford Grammar School for Girls

Engaging the whole school

The GSF2010 National Sixth Form conference sparked a flurry of peer education activities at Watford Grammar School for Girls. They started by delivering assemblies to the whole school. Milly Bowen, one of the GSF students, observed, “The students responded to the message ‘Education Beats Poverty’ and gave our campaigning team more confidence when planning fund raising and peer education events.” A peer education lesson for sixth form World Development students followed, as did a General Studies afternoon on Education Beats Poverty for the whole of Year 13.

The school’s birthday provided a further focal point for the GSF students to engage their peers, using the theme, *What would you do for an education?* The day began with a sponsored walk to school, with many girls and staff choosing to get up early to walk considerable distances, just as many teachers and students have to in developing countries. This was one of a range of fundraising activities that took place during the day in support of the work of the MICAIA Foundation (a non-profit organisation in Mozambique) in its sustainable development programme in the Mpunga community of Moribane in Mozambique’s Manica Province.

Following the GSF2011 conference, which focused on the global crisis in maternal health, GSF students at the school are planning a wide range of engagement activities to inform others about the causes and effects of high maternal mortality rates and what they can do to make a difference. These activities include:

- Whole-school assemblies
- Masterclasses on the issues for gifted and talented students in each year group
- A General Studies workshop for Year 13 students
- A whole-school event for Mother's Day

Assistant Headteacher, Sylvia Tai, said, “GSF has galvanised the students into action. They have been inspired to raise funds, but most importantly to educate their peers.”