

FRESH IDEAS

Learning for the future with trains, plays and new diplomas



Darnborough students worked with professional actors to produce Can I Go Out?



Discovering a new way to learn

AN impressive delegation of VIPs visited Hackney Community College to learn more about new Diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds – due to be introduced in schools and colleges from September.

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families led the group as it toured the Shoreditch college, which will be one of the first in the country to offer the brand new qualifications.

He was joined by Minister for Schools, Jim Knight; Apprentice

winner, Tim Campbell; former Learning Trust chairman, Sir Mike Tomlinson; and Chairman Emeritus of Toyota, Sir Alan Jones.

After hearing tutors and parents' views on the new courses, the VIPs chatted with construction students to find out how the Diplomas could have helped them.

Ian Ashman, Hackney Community College Principal, said: "These new Diplomas really will transform the way that young people can learn and achieve. By working in partnership with

schools, we can deliver a more practical, skills-



Ed Balls, Jim Knight and Tim Campbell (left to right) visit the HCC mechanics workshop

schools, we can deliver a more practical, skills-

focused curriculum, with high academic standards, giving students a better choice of options, either into employment, or on into higher education."

MORE INFO

For further details visit: www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/

A quick guide to Diplomas

The Diplomas will offer a mix of theory and hands-on learning, and are being touted as an alternative to more academic GCSEs and A-levels. Three new Diplomas will be offered in Hackney schools

from September: Construction and the Built Environment; Society, Health & Development; and Creative & Media. The courses can be studied at different levels, with GCSE and

A Level equivalency. They are industry-related, but not job specific. Eventually, 17 Diplomas will be offered with three levels of attainment: foundation, intermediate and advanced.

We're not staying in

All stories by
Sylvia Arthur



Students from Gainsborough Primary School got to display their creative talents when a play they helped to write and produce debuted at the E9 school.

Can I Go Out? was developed by pupils and parents with help from local company, Immediate Theatre.

It aims to capture the reality of life today for children, young people and their families and confronts issues of street safety and 'what can be done to make a change'. After each performance, the audience

has the chance to respond to the story and try out ideas to resolve some of the issues raised.

Professional actors Clara Onyemere and Jotham Annan worked with the group and performed in the play.

The project began when the school's Parents' Group invited Penny Cliff, writer-in-residence with Immediate Theatre and Sanctuary Housing Association, to set up a weekly, after school drama workshop in playwriting and acting for parents and children.

Can I Go Out? forms part of Immediate Theatre's Big Blue Fence Project, which works with groups in E9 to reflect the views and issues of people living around the 2012 Olympic site.

Train for work

CREATIVE pupils from Hackney have been involved in constructing an imaginary new railway from London to Cambridge.

The six students from Hackney Free and Parochial School were among teams from across London that presented their ideas to industry experts.

The event at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers was the climax of an innovative workshop series called 'Vision to Reality'. The aim was to set young people real work construction challenges and encourage creative thinking.

Thirty six Young, Gifted & Talented (Y>) students living along the proposed Crossrail route from Maidenhead to Heathrow took part.

The Government-backed initiative is designed to

stimulate the brightest young learners, particularly under-achieving and disadvantaged students.

Those who took part were tasked with developing a strategy for constructing a hypothetical railway between London and Cambridge, one of Britain's most crowded rail lines.

Alex Cobb, from Hackney Free and Parochial School, said: "I really enjoyed working with the other students and found the most interesting design part most interesting."

Geraldine Craig, Careers Advisor for Greater London, said: "There is such a wide choice of careers on offer such as architects, surveyors and engineers. We want to encourage more people to join this interesting and vital section of the industry."