



Children for Peace

in aid of **The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust**



For Immediate Release

Photocall

Young People Take Over School

On Tuesday 27th March, 72 young people from South Leeds High School who said 'no' to racism are taking over the school for a day.

The young people took part in an educational programme run by The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust*, with support from Leeds Youth Service, to combat racism and conflict in their school and community. The result is that they will be running an enrichment day for their entire school (over 1400 students) to pass on their learning to their peers.

The day will see students delivering workshops covering themes from conflict, to school and individual identity. The activities have been planned and will be delivered by the students with support from the Youth Service and a committed staff team at South Leeds High School, to increase awareness of cultural, religious and ethnic differences to aid the building of positive relationships.

The Trust was asked by the Inner South Leeds Area committee in 2006 to work with the school. Councillor Angela Gabriel, Chair of the Inner South Leeds Area committee said: "The area committee is keen to ensure that young people get on well together without conflict and tension. When I heard about the experience and work of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust I approached them to ask if they would consider working in Inner south Leeds. I am delighted that they have been able to do so and that the young people have enjoyed and benefited from this work."

The school, which is the result of a merger between two schools, one predominantly White pupils, the other with a significant number of black and minority ethnic students, is situated in the Middleton Grove area of Leeds, close to where the 7/7 bombers lived.

The Trust delivered its Leadership Development programme to 72 young people from years 9, 10, 11 & 12 examining self awareness and identity, conflict, leadership and peer mediation. The aim of the programme is to reduce conflict and racial abuse and provide pupils with the peer mediation and leadership skills considered necessary to help the school through a difficult transition period.

Speaking about the programme, Louise Solden, Extended Schools Co-ordinator, said: "The quality of delivery (from the Trust) is exceptional. Everyone in the school is very excited about the project and there has been considerable improvements in the levels of community cohesions and harmony in the school since the project started."

At a presentation evening to recognise their achievements, all 72 young people will receive accreditation certificates from the Open College Network. Special awards will be given to those who have made the greatest impact through the application of their learning back at school. The presentation evening will take place at the school on the evening of 27th March.

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Speaking about the programme, Programme Leader, Kelly Simcock, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for these young people. The programme challenged their views and enabled them to have frank and open debates on issues such as faith, culture, conflict and race. This is the first event of many smaller events that they will carry out to educate their peers back at school."

Chief Executive, Clare White, said: "What is notable about this specific programme is that all 72 young people fully engaged in the project with such enthusiasm and commitment. We have never had a 100% pass rate for accreditation on a programme with such a large cohort."

Date: Tuesday 27th March
Time: 7.15pm
Location: South Leeds High School
Middleton
Leeds

Photographers and journalists welcome

Further information available from Kelly Simcock or Clare White on 01925 581 231

Note to editors:

- *The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust will relaunch on 20th March to The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.
- The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust is an educational peace charity set up by Colin and Wendy Parry following the death of their 12-year-old son Tim and 3-year-old Johnathan Ball after the IRA bombed Warrington in 1993. Wilf and Marie, Johnathan's parents, have given their full support to the organisation.
- The Peace Centre (Warrington) is a unique LIVING legacy and memorial to Tim and Johnathan. It was built with local, national and international support, and was opened on March 20, 2000 - the 7th anniversary of the bombing. It is a £3m state of the art, fully equipped learning centre where people develop a passion for peace through participating in our learning programmes.

Background to the Programme

The Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Trust engage young people in informal education learning, using a variety of non-traditional learning tools ranging from role play to interactive discussions and debates. The programme with South Leeds high school focussed on four clear themes-Self Awareness and Identity (OCN level 2 accredited programme), Conflict resolution, Peer Mediation and Leadership. The programme was run consecutively with 24 students from years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Each programme was run over a five day intensive period.

The programme aims to:

- Complement efforts to work towards a peaceful community in South Leeds by promoting the development of respectful relationships between majority and minority ethnic and religious communities in the area
- Equip politicised young people who are currently playing prominent roles in their community, with the skills and knowledge to provide future positive and inclusive leadership by supporting and enhancing the capacity of the education system to develop inclusive mindsets in secondary age students
- Build a sustainable network of young leaders throughout the school linking with community and other relevant agencies and groups
- Enable participants to gain an accreditation through the Open College Network (equivalent to NVQ Level 1).