

The second 'One Day National Conference: Raising the Achievement of Boys in Inner City Schools'

The second 'One Day National Conference: Raising the Achievement of Boys in Inner City Schools' took place on the 22nd of May 2006 and following his great success last year we gave Gary Wilson more time to take us through the barriers to boys fulfilling their potential in education.

The target audience this year was senior managers with the aim of affecting change in schools at a strategic level. Gary's presentation and subsequent workshop activities were a resounding success.

"Very thought provoking"; "an inspirational speaker"; "some fantastic ideas", were among the unanimously positive feedback given by the 60 delegates in attendance.

We were privileged to have two groups of young people from St Aloysius College presenting some innovative work from their school.

Chris Thomas introduced some young men from the Arsenal Double club working in the school, who gave us their thoughts and feelings about this exciting initiative incorporating football coaching and literacy classes run by Arsenal football club at a number of Islington schools.

Diana Whitmore and Terry Borondy introduced delegates to 'Teens and Toddlers'; Year 10 boys from the school took us through the project which encourages teenagers to care for younger children, developing their social and personal skills and making them appreciate the hard work involved; discouraging them from being teenage parents.

Jonny Davey led a team from the Islington City Learning Centre demonstrating the use of mobile phone technology for field work and class work and the latest touch sensitive laptop tablet computers which can link up with interactive white boards for group work in the classroom of the future.

Just before a delicious lunch of locally prepared Turkish food, delegates were given the opportunity to pose questions for a study exchange visit to South Africa exploring the issues around 'Boys' Achievement' in Kwazulu-Natal.

Feedback from the whole day was very positive and delegates left wanting more of the same for next year.

"Well organised, well run, thanks Islington."