



Stacey Dixon with a campaign poster at the front with Chris Larcombe, 12, and Mia Parsons, 12, working behind.

Picture: Lucy Shaw DELS20121123C-003_C

Pupils launch community campaign against drugs, alcohol and smoking

BY ELLA RHODES

STUDENTS at a Derby school have been learning about the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction and raising awareness in the community.

Six sessions with year-eight students at Woodlands School, in Allestree, were run by Stacey Dixon, of Derbyshire's Women's Work charity.

The students learned about addiction to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, along with peer pressure.

Ms Dixon said: "I came to the school in July for a health and wellbeing event and did a drugs and alcohol misuse workshop.

"The students all really enjoyed that and came up with some brilliant ideas about what changes they'd like to see in their community."

She returned later in the year and has been helping the pupils develop a leaflet to use in a campaign.

They have also created T-

shirts, posters and a slogan: we matter.

Ms Dixon said she had been inspired by the students' attitudes. She added: "These children are inspirational. They can speak their opinions in a really intelligent way.

"These kids are the next generation and will one day be teaching other children about these issues.

"They've all been sharing their own experiences and now, if they ever feel pressured to try drink or drugs, they'll know who to turn to."

Mia Parsons, 12, of Allestree, said the project's aim was to increase awareness of the effects of drugs, alcohol and smoking in their community.

She said: "All those things can have a bad effect on your life and they can affect adults and children."

Amy Kelly, 12, of Mackworth, said the campaign was important. She said: "We want to show that children and other people matter. We have



Pupils wearing their campaign T-shirts.

Picture: Lucy Shaw DELS20121123C-005_C

learned about the effects of drinking, smoking and abusing drugs on adults, children and families."

Students handed their leaflets to parents and peers.

They also learned about the ways alcohol and cigarettes are packaged and presented in the media.

Kathryn, 12, of Allestree said: "We put the information together to give out to young people across Derby.

"We talked a lot about the

messages sent out by the media. Sometimes alcohol can be seen as cool but then we hear about all the health problems it can cause, too."

Chris Larcombe, 12, of Allestree, designed a comic strip about peer pressure.

He said: "We looked at the ways alcohol is advertised and the fact that some people drink because they want to seem cool but it's usually because of peer pressure.

"We talked about changing the packaging of alcohol."

Deputy head teacher Simon Hollingsworth said the sessions had been fantastic.

He added: "It's so great that our students have been involved. They're helping to raise awareness of the negative impacts of drink, drugs and smoking and the pressures placed on people to take drugs and to smoke.

"I'm incredibly proud that our students are so enthusiastic about spreading this message."

ella.rhodes@derbytelegraph.co.uk

'Candlelight' weddings available at town's register office

A REGISTER office is making its wedding services more romantic with "candlelit" ceremonies.

Burton Registration Office will use electric flickering candles to create the atmosphere and the service will be available throughout winter.

Lisa Hallifield and Nick Brown, from Ashby, were the first couple to take advantage in the newly refurbished re-

gister office in the High Street.

Lisa said: "When we first visited the office we saw the candlelight option and thought it looked great and that is why we went for it.

"It's a very special day and the candlelight ceremony makes it even more special."

Staffordshire county councillor Pat Corfield, cabinet member for culture and com-



County councillor Pat Corfield.

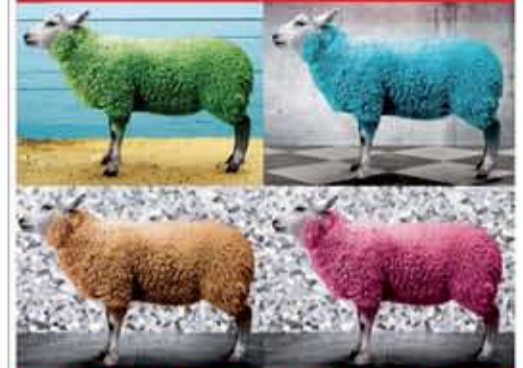
munities, said: "Winter ceremonies, particularly in the afternoons, can often lack natural light so we thought why not offer candlelit ceremonies? What could be more romantic?"

"Candlelight ceremonies are timeless and elegant and there's no reason why register offices cannot be transformed into this perfect romantic setting the special day.

"Couples will be offered the option of having a candlelit ceremony during the winter months at no extra cost, and there is no danger of the bride's dress catching fire as the candles are all LED flickering candles, which are cleverly hidden behind cream candelabras and look amazing."

Anyone interested in booking a ceremony should call 0300 111 8001.

WINTER SALE



RYALUX CARPETS

70 Shades of Ryalux
80% Wool Twist at the incredible sale price £25. 19m² including top brand underlay and as always our excellent free fitting service.



Kings Carpets
"For that better deal everytime"

Kings

1908

Beeston - Furniture and Carpets
129 High Road, Beeston,
Nottingham NG9 2LL
Tel: 0115 925 8347

West Bridgford - Carpets
1 Ethel Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 5LT
Tel: 0115 945 5584

Arnold - Carpets
11 High Street, Arnold,
Nottingham, NG5 7DE
Tel: 0115 967 0119

www.kingsinteriors.co.uk

*Free fitting from 16sq yards (13.33m²) and over.