

PRESS RELEASE: 21 December 2016



## **Blackwater Schools celebrate young talent in Enterprise and History 'Project X' Showcases**

Students from nine schools in the Maldon area came together last week to showcase their work on two innovative cross-curricular projects. Plume Academy were excited to welcome over two hundred invited guests to the events held over two evenings (Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th December). Guests included authors, academics, local dignitaries, business people, school governors, parents and carers.

The showcase events were the culmination of a series of four 'Project X' workshops, designed to challenge and stretch the students. Sixty students took part in the workshops, from years 5,6,7 and 8. Project X adheres to the ethos of the Blackwater Partnership of schools: to work together to promote the highest level of education in Maldon. Each school held a selection process before putting forward their students to take part in Project X. They formed teams with students from other schools, and in different year groups and worked closely together over the autumn term. As well as input from teachers, external experts joined the workshops to enrich their learning experience. Through taking part in Project X, students have developed important skills, including project planning and budgeting, historical thinking, teamwork, leadership, communication, IT and creativity.

At the showcases, the Enterprise teams presented their ideas for a new health and well-being event to promote Maldon. Guests were invited to look at the leaflets and posters the teams had developed, analyse their budget and event plans and listen to radio adverts, which were recorded in collaboration with Ray Clarke of BBC Radio Essex. Cllr Miriam Lewis, Leader of Maldon District Council responded to the presentations and awarded certificates.

The History teams put on an interactive exhibition on migration during a specific period of history (Medieval; Early Modern; Industrial; 20th Century to Present), which included a dramatization of a story from their period. Robert Winder, Author of 'Bloody Foreigners: The Story of Immigration to Britain' spoke at the event and presented certificates.

Kate Garnett, Chair of the Blackwater Partnership said: "Project X has been a great experience, not only for the students who took part, but for the teachers who have worked together with colleagues in other schools to create and deliver this new and innovative series of workshops. It has been a powerful learning experience for all involved. Collaboration between schools is key to what the Blackwater Partnership is all about, and this is a good example of how that collaboration brings out the best in our students and allows them to shine."

### **About The Blackwater Partnership**

- The Blackwater Partnership is a well-established, successful partnership of 9 primary schools and a secondary school. Their aim is to promote the highest level of education in Maldon through collaboration between schools in a number of areas including pupil well-being, behaviour and attendance, staff professional development and leadership support.
- The Blackwater Partnership is bound by three common beliefs; first, that every child in Maldon has the right to an excellent education, second, that a high quality of teaching and learning is fundamental to providing an excellent education and third, that each school knows how best to meet the needs of their children.
- Schools in the Blackwater Partnership:

All Saints' C of E Primary School - Great Totham Primary School\*  
Heybridge Primary School - Maldon Primary School  
Maldon Court Preparatory School - Plume Academy  
St. Francis RC Primary School - Tollesbury School  
Wentworth Primary School - Woodham Walter C of E Primary School

\*Note: Great Totham are members of the Partnership, but did not take part in Project X