



## **EducAid staff presented with £1,200 during visit to College**

A total of more than £1,200 was presented to Havering Sixth Form College's partnership charity EducAid during a special visit recently.

Staff from schools in Sierra Leone run by EducAid -a charitable Trust which offers free education among underprivileged and war-affected young people -travelled to the UK to experience the British education system and to further enhance links with Havering Sixth Form College.

During the trip, visitors from Sierra Leone took part in College lessons and helped out in various departments and were able to exchange ideas and practise with their UK counterparts.

The money was handed over during a presentation by Senior Tutor Lucien Taylor and College Christian Union representatives Samuel Imhogiemhe and Chiamaka Chidomere, to EducAid Director, Miriam Sesay.

It was collected through various fund-raising events held at the College such as netball and football tournaments organised by the Christian Union, the College Festival, Black History Month, cake sales in the ICT department, book sales in the library and a music recital.

Handing over the funds, Lucien said: "We are delighted to be handing over this money that has been raised in many different ways. This visit is a two-way exercise, we hope to learn from you and we hope to come to visit Sierra Leone. We have many ideas and plans for the future."

He added that as well as the fund-raising events, old computers and teaching resources, now obsolete for College purposes, had been sent to EducAid along with gift boxes containing useful stationery items. Also many student leavers had agreed to donate £5 from their College deposit to the charity.

EducAid Director Miriam Sesay thanked everyone at the College for the money raised, saying that the £1,200 was enough to pay for the food, education and medicine for 10 students for a whole year.

She added: "EducAid has been in existence for 11 years and we now have five secondary schools and one primary school. We are being asked all the time to start up more schools – communities in Sierra Leone and other countries in West Africa are crying out for decent, quality schools and we want to help and have an impact on as many children as possible."

She said the schools run by EducAid had recently come second in Sierra Leone for exam results which was quite an achievement as they were up against all the top paid-for schools.

"Our aim is to send these children who have very little out into the world with the best quality education we can give them," Miriam said.

She said the partnership between EducAid and Havering Sixth Form College was extremely valuable and hoped that the charity could give something back to the College by sharing ideas about its Peer Mediation and Community Service schemes.

The College's key objectives for the partnership are: To raise funds for EducAid; to share technology with EducAid; to share teaching and learning resources with EducAid; to extend our partnership with partner schools; to embed EducAid into the curriculum.