



Double success for our bright sparks of the future

Two teams of Havering Sixth Form College business students have proved they are full of enterprising and innovative ideas by coming runners-up in two separate 'challenge' competitions.

A team of six students entered the Make Your Mark Challenge 2009 run by Enterprise UK where they had to use local inspiration to come up with a 'cool creation'.

The other team of nine students had to give a presentation on the development of a new product that was part of the green agenda in the Greenwich Community College/Institute of Directors Enterprise Challenge.

The Make Your Mark team had already won through the HSFC and Havering borough rounds before attending the London finals at the London Met University on November 26th. The team were one of only 10 chosen finalists and consisted of Business Studies A Level students Jake Tunilla, Grace Jackson, Jack Browning, Jack Hodges, James Barnes and David Woodman.

Each team in the final had to pitch an enterprise idea to a panel of business experts. It had to be a 'cool creation' - a profitable business that minimises its impact on the environment – and had to take its inspiration from something local. The HSFC group based their idea on Havering Council's recycling scheme and developed a business plan to recycle unwanted mobile phone accessories.

A Level Business Studies Course Leader Chris Burley said: "They had three days to produce a Dragon's Den style three-minute presentation and pitch which they performed extremely well on the day. They were very professional and answered some searching questions from the judging panel.

"It was a great result to be placed as London runners up. The students really deserved this success as they were excellent!"

The other College team of nine A2 Business Studies students travelled to the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall on November 20.

The group, consisting of Phoebe Howell, Mergim Gashi, Chris Nicholls, Danny Bennett, Daniel Breyer, John Kelly, Oliver Christie, Greg Saunders and Pelumi Ojo, had worked together for two weeks on developing an innovative product that was part of the green agenda, and came up with the idea of controlling street lights with motion sensors.

They spoke with a number of experts at the council, including the College's Chairman of Governors, Councillor Keith Darvill, to research the idea.

Chris Burley said: "On the day there were a number of excellent motivational speakers - all young entrepreneurs - in the morning, and in the afternoon the team worked with one of the directors to develop their presentation.

"They were then asked to present their pitch to another director. It was an excellent pitch - all of the students got involved, answered some tough questions and then received some excellent feedback.

"They came second out of 15 teams, which was a very creditable performance. They learned a lot from the day and thoroughly enjoyed it."