



Havering Sixth Form College Celebrates Black History Month

Last Friday, a number of Havering Sixth Form College students organised an event in the Gate House to celebrate Black History. As well as providing food, the Gospel Choir sang and great speeches were made to inspire the audience. The event was such a success with students (and staff) dancing and singing, that the participants didn't get time to watch the film that had been planned. In total, over one hundred and fifty pounds was raised for the **Afro-Caribbean Leukaemia Trust** where bone marrow donors are in short supply for the Black and ethnic minority communities.

Michael Findley and Ayesha Wright Celebrating Black History Month



Amazing facts

Less than 3% of potential donors on the UK Bone Marrow Register are from Black and ethnic minority communities, despite the prevalence of leukaemia amongst these groups.

In real life terms, the odds of finding a bone marrow match are a staggering 1 in 100,000 if you're black or mixed race compared to about 1 in 5 if you're white; underlying the overwhelming odds faced by those in the UK suffering from leukaemia.

Students at the event were inspired and moved by the story of Daniel De-Gale, a former leukaemia sufferer who was diagnosed with the condition in April 1993. Initially, Daniel won his battle against leukaemia when in 1999, at the age of 12, he received a bone marrow transplant at Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Daniel De-Gale, who died on Wednesday 8th October 2008

Daniel was in remission; however, due to complications with his health that led to multiple organ failure, he died in hospital surrounded by his family in October 2008 aged 21.

Daniel's mum Beverley, who established the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT) in 1996 says: "We are very grateful for the love, support, kindness, generosity, dedications and concern that you all have shown for our beautiful son. However, we ask that you please do not send us any flowers but instead continue to support the charity as this is what Daniel would have wanted, so that we can keep helping to give others the gift of life."

For further details of how to support the work of the ACLT please go to:

www.aclt.org

A big THANK YOU to students Claver Lionel and Nokuthula Mangena who kick-started the whole Black History Month event in college; Well done girls!