



## PRESS INFORMATION

### RSPB CENTRE BENEFITS FROM STUDENTS STUDYING FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008: Havering Sixth Form College's very first International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma students took part in an active conservation day at the RSPB Centre at Rainham Marsh.

The day was part of the CAS course (Creativity Action & Service) which all IB Diploma students complete. Students undertake 150 hours of creative, active and community project work over the two years that they study the IB Diploma programme.

The CAS day consisted of students taking a leading role in a variety of conservation projects at the RSPB Centre. Students helped create a bog garden, built wood piles for insects to inhabit and cleared invasive weeds such as brambles in order to maintain biodiversity.

To find out more about the IB Diploma prospective students and parents can attend one of the preview events on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009. There will also be the opportunity for prospective students to attend an IB taster day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (please contact IBD Coordinator Jessica Lawley).



Havering Sixth Form College's first International Baccalaureate Diploma students taking part in an active conservation day at the RSPB Centre at Rainham Marsh.

# Background to International Baccalaureate at Havering Sixth Form College

Havering Sixth Form College was authorised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation in May 2008 to deliver the IB Diploma from September 2008.

The authorisation process is a rigorous one. Havering Sixth Form College's success in gaining IB World School status is recognition of the College's readiness to deliver a high quality diploma. The College has invested significantly in staff training during the implementation process and staff who are new to teaching the IB Diploma are sent on IB approved training programmes. 10 staff attended the international training in Athens in 2007 or 2008 in order to prepare for delivery of the IB this September.

The IB Diploma is a two year programme in which students take six academic subjects plus a central core. Three of the six subjects are taken to Standard Level (SL) and three to Higher Level (HL). The programme provides the student with a well balanced education because IB students must study maths, English, a science, a social science/humanities subject, a modern foreign language plus an elective. In addition to this they take a core which is made up of three parts: a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, an extended essay and a Creativity, Action & Service programme (CAS). The IB Diploma is excellent preparation for university and is recognised worldwide.

The College was pleased to report that 16 students have enrolled upon the IB Diploma and the interest for September 2009's intake is high.

The IB Coordinator Jessica Lawley commented, "The new IB Diploma students have really got stuck in to their programmes of study. They have demonstrated that they are prepared to work hard at both the academic and the additional Core elements of the Diploma. The IB Diploma develops the whole person and gives students a well balanced academic base from which to move forward to university or employment."