



Students Sparkle in Graffiti Clean-up

On Thursday 8th January, just off Ardleigh Close in Havering, the International Baccalaureate students, Creativity, Action & Service Co-ordinator Nicola Diplock and Student Liaison Officer David Beesley set about the task of clearing an alleyway of its graffiti.

Responding to an article in the Romford Recorder on Havering's graffiti-laden alleyways, the IB students decided to spend some of their 150 hours community service making a real difference to the community. The students thought up the colour scheme and the Council kindly supplied the paint and supplied the overalls!

The students cleaned up foul language and obscene signs. The alleyway has now been painted brown and green to blend in with the surroundings.

Havering Council Cabinet Member for Streetcare, Cllr Barry Tebbutt, helped with some of the painting. He said "Teenagers are all too often given a bad name because of a tiny minority. It's extremely important to recognise many young people in Havering are more than happy to take an active positive part in the community – and this is one example."

Ex Gaynes student Omar Andrews, said to a reporter from the Romford Recorder who turned up to cover the event: "Don't tar all young people with the same brush because of what you read in the media - we aren't all the same."

Student Luke Weeden, 17, said "Graffiti is a nuisance, looks messy and can be intimidating for some people. Before we started painting the alleyway you may have thought twice about walking down here in the dark."

The local council, were delighted with the students efforts and pledged a handsome donation to the IB's fundraising for their forthcoming trip to Morocco.