



College students invited to dinner with the US Ambassador after American Leadership scheme success

Four Havering Sixth Form College students spent almost three weeks in America during the summer after being chosen to take part in a prestigious USA Leadership Programme.

The group made such an impression in the States that they were featured on American TV news channel CNN.

And when they returned to England they were the guests of US Ambassador Robert Tuttle and his wife Maria Hummer Tuttle (of Hummer car giant fame) at a posh dinner at the Millennium Hotel in London after presenting a documentary on their experience at Channel 4 in front of American Embassy officials.

The four students: Hassan Ali and Isobel Mitchell, who are both studying on the International Baccalaureate course; Chloe Edmunds, who is studying A Level History, Law and Psychology and Zaenab Oshinbolu, who is studying A Level Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Psychology were picked for the scheme along with eight other students from across London. Collectively the students, all aged from 17 to 19, called themselves LondonX to reflect their diversity.

Offered by the Windsor Fellowship in partnership with the Tuttle Foundation, the Leadership scheme involved the students spending time in Vermont and Chicago, participating in group activities with Iraqi and American students.

HSFC student Chloe Edmunds, who has this month received a Jack Petchey Award for her work and achievements, said: "The point of the trip was to work at building communication and bring about change. We worked alongside Iraqi and American youths to find a common purpose, abolish stereotypes and to build a brighter future for the new generation and for generations to come."

While in America the students were given advice on their presentation skills by Executive Vice President Kevin Lampe - a political strategist and media expert who helped President Barack Obama with his inauguration speech!

LondonX still meet regularly now they are home and their ongoing aim is to target such issues as "gang violence on our streets, gang culture, racism and discrimination, education and well being, health and many more". They are educationally focused, ambitious, motivated and with a strong sense of wanting to make a difference. They volunteer, write poetry, plays and music, they have a strong interest in politics and hope to change negative perceptions of young adults in the UK.

They made such an impact on the Windsor Fellowship that along with the Tuttle Foundation, they have decided to run the Leadership scheme again next summer and

have asked some of the students to return as student ambassadors. They have also been given opportunities to gain paid internships with the Windsor Fellowship.

Principal Paul Wakeling said: "There were only 12 places for students across the whole of East and West London, so we were delighted that Havering Sixth Form College students secured four of these. They have undoubtedly gained so much from their experience and we are very proud of them for being such excellent ambassadors for this College."

College Careers Co-ordinator Nikki Phelps said: "Well done LondonX and congratulations to our four students who have helped to open up more opportunities for more of our students to benefit from this scheme! It is an excellent example of student success."