

## Year 9 Play in a Day by Miss R Sparks

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 24 year 9 Aimhigher students were invited to take the challenge of creating a Play in a Day! They began at 8:45 in the morning and completed and performed the play by 3pm to an audience of their peers and teachers.

The day consisted of a fun warm-up to get their creative juices flowing and then they got straight into creating the play. Sara from *Konflux Theatre* ran the session with loads of energy and enthusiasm which kept the students engaged throughout the day. For some of the students the prospect of making a whole play in that limited time was very daunting and some feared performing in front of their entire year group. However, they worked hard to make something they were proud of and all their previous worries faded away in the excitement of performing.

Even though Sara had a script to use, she let the students devise a vast amount of the play's content by setting 15 min tasks that focussed on a specific subject. The simple but powerful images that came out of the first task are shown in the pictures. The stimulus was to create a still image of an ideal home, an ideal classroom and an ideal after school activity. In contrast to this they created a still image of the worst home, classroom and after school activity, or what life can really be like!

Throughout the day Sara gave the groups more tasks to create short scenes that explored the Aimhigher themes of career and education prospects after GCSEs – the option to go straight into work, doing an apprenticeship or going to university. They also looked at different learning styles – practical, academic and a mixture of both.

Finally the play concluded with the message:

***'With the right key skills and training, you can build yourself an amazing future! What have you got to lose? Think for yourself, it's your life...YOU CHOOSE!'***

The 15 minute performance wowed their fellow year 9s, their teachers and Mrs Wilson who were all impressed at the quality of the play and the message it put across.



**Ideal life:** *'Our perfect home...looks good to me!'*

**Real life:** *'Just hanging with my mates...what's wrong with that?'*



**Career ideas:** Hairdressing apprenticeship



Sara was very impressed with the group and really enjoyed working with our school. I would like to thank all the students involved and Aimhigher for funding the event!

Some comments from the yr 9 students who acted in the play:

***'It was wicked! And really fun I would love to do it again.'***

***'It was really fun, I enjoyed everything about it and performing to the rest of our year was really good for confidence'***

Aspects they enjoyed the most:

***'Team work, learning drama skills, learning about options for my future'***

***'Doing the performance and showing people what we have done'***

***'I learned not to be so nervous and just do it'***

***'That I can be as good as the more confident people'***

***'I learned to be more confident and to express my actions and speech more'***

For more information about Konflux Theatre go to [www.konfluxtheatre.co.uk](http://www.konfluxtheatre.co.uk)

To find out more about Aimhigher go to [www.aimhigherkentandmedway.org](http://www.aimhigherkentandmedway.org) or contact Miss Sparks, Aimhigher Learning Mentor – Northfleet School for Girls.