

## Pupils told child poverty must vanish

Pupils at a Cricklewood primary school put a Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate under the spotlight as part of a radio show. Ibrahim Taguri, who is standing for Brent Central in May's General Election, told pupils at Anson Primary school in Anson Road of his plans to end child poverty by 2020.

Speaking during an interview on the student-run radio station, Mr Taguri was asked why he wanted to become an MP and what he would do if he became one.

He told the young presenters of his mission in politics and how he hopes to spread opportunity for all children regardless of their background or upbringing.

Child poverty in Brent stands at 30.9 per cent, compared to 23.5 per cent in London, and 18.7 per cent in England.

Mr Taguri said: "Education takes many different forms and we can't expect all children to learn in the same way. We need to be preparing young people for today's challenges, helping them unlock their potential."

"But we can't do that without first committing to a comprehensive approach to ending child poverty. Only then will we be able to create the opportunities for young people to succeed."

## Free check up to fight baby tooth decay

Parent of toddlers aged six months and over are being encouraged to take part in a pilot project to help combat tooth decay in young people in Brent.

The 'Now You Have Teeth' scheme, which is part of a wider oral health programme across Brent, involves recently qualified dentists providing free advice to parents on correct ways to brush teeth and also the diets of young people.

The aim of the project, which is running across 12 children's centres, is to get children from teething age into a habit of visiting a dentist regularly, so that the oral health of children in Brent improves in the years to come.

Lawrence Smith, a qualified dentist said: "Tooth decay can develop much more quickly in children than in adults, so if you were checked over every three months, the dentist can spot things earlier and give you advice so that your child won't need treatment."

"Too many children are having to go under general anaesthetic to have their teeth taken out so it's better to avoid this."

The scheme is run by Health Education North West London, NHS England, and Public Health England in partnership with Brent Council.



■ Pupils and staff from Newman Catholic College with visiting police officers

# School celebrates the success of scheme to protect students

### CitySafe Havens has created a better environment for youths in the area

**Nathalie Raffray**  
nathalie.raffray@archant.co.uk

Harlesden has the highest number of CitySafe Havens in the UK thanks to the effort of a secondary school and the 64 local business students inspired to get involved.

Pupils at Newman Catholic College, in Harlesden Road, launched a campaign last July to protect people from being victims of crime with the support of London's Citizens UK, an independent alliance of community groups.

The nationwide scheme has more than 500 havens across the UK which allows young people to seek refuge in a designated place such as a shop, business or church if they feel they could be in danger. It was formed in 2008 following the murder of 16-year-old Jimmy Mizen in South London.

All participants display a recognisable purple logo to indicate they are CitySafe.

Joao Coelho, 14, said: "We went out and signed up businesses. We talked to them and asked if they wanted to join and they were very co-operative. It's good to have done

something to help other people to keep safe."

Luke Finch, 15, added: "From what Harlesden was, it now feels a lot better. There was nowhere to go before but now everybody has the opportunity to feel safe."

The Year 10 pupils were part of a group of 20 students who worked with assistant head teacher Susan Grace, London Citizen's co-ordinator Marlon King and the police to launch the campaign after pupils said that feeling threatened while out of school was their biggest concern, particularly along Park Parade and nearby Harlesden en-

vironments.

Ms Grace said: "The Safe Havens not only benefited our school, it's benefited other schools and the entire community because anyone can go into a Safe Haven if they feel threatened."

Danny Coyle, head teacher at Newman Catholic College said: "It's no accident that the number of incidents occurring outside school has diminished massively since we became involved in the Safe Havens."

"This is just the start of a growing campaign to improve the quality of this area for all people."

## Police called to a primary school after UFO lands in grounds

Was it from Venus? Was it from Mars? Where from the solar system was it from?

Pupils at St Mary's CoFE Primary school in Garnet Road, Neasden, were stunned to come to school to see an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) had crashed in their playground last week.

The silver ship landed on a patch of grass and was surrounded with mud as smoke billowed out, with what looked like lava bricks thrown aside.

Two police officers at the scene had cordoned off the area, telling children to keep a note of what occurred over the week to help them with their investigations.



■ St Mary's children gather to try to solve the spacecraft mystery

Nic'Kyle Appiah, 8, said: "Maybe it came from the Solar System. The police told us to write a report and

they'll come back to investigate."

Pupils said they could hear news and music coming from the ship

and sighted green slime on surfaces.

The appearance of the UFO coincided with the start of the school's Literacy Week, where pupils were given assignments to explore the mystery through writing and drawing.

Simran Sandhu, a year three teacher who co-ordinated the week, said: "It's a literacy assignment which has given them a real stimulus. It's been great fun to see them get so involved in it."

Susan Lawrence, head teacher at St Mary's, added: "We like to create a sense of awe and wonder in the children because through that they learn so much."