**2013**

**B&NES Website**

**Norton Hill School – Leading the way to combat bullying in BANES**

Norton Hill has always prioritised anti-bullying. Although our regular questionnaires indicate that there is little bullying at Norton Hill we feel that any bullying is too much and we must constantly strive to improve what we do. Mrs Bain was appointed as a lead teacher to drive pupil voice with a major focus on anti-bullying. There was an initial survey of the children and three year 9 focus groups were consulted in more detail. Mrs Bain used this information to initially work with the anti-bullying group and from there the progress has been fantastic. The national survey that we participate in has shown that there has been a real impact in awareness of anti-bullying as well as a further reduction in actual bullying. We now have 30 trained mentors to help anyone that is having problems. It is this pupil involvement that has really had a major impact and we look forward to the new developments.

Case Study written by Milly Cohen and Jess Elliot 9M1 – Norton Hill School’s anti-bullying mentors.

*An anti- bullying groups was initially set up by Mrs Bain to find out what the issues were and where they happened. Our first steps were small: Miss Mulgrew made some changes to the staff duties at lunch time which means there were more staff visibly available to help us. We also organised a poster campaign and the winning design is now displayed around the school. We then moved on to more pro-active work being run by us:*

“*We are anti-bullying mentors and our job is to monitor and stop bullying incidents in our School. A trained group of mentors visit an allocated tutor group once a week to help them with any problems they may be having; these may include any worries or problems they may be having a School or at home. This strategy helps students who feel that they cannot talk to an adult about their issue. We also have a group of cyber-bullying mentors who visit an ICT room Wednesday lunchtimes. They reply to any emails that have been sent by pupils. This is an easy system to find as it is on the School’s VLE and can be accessed by every pupil in the School.*

*Stickers are handed out at the beginning of the School year and stuck in contact books, these explain what pupils can do if they feel they are being bullied. Assemblies are also run by mentors to every house to explain the anti-bullying system and to make sure that every pupil understands the protocol if they are being bullied or their peers are. We make sure that pupils understand that we cannot keep things confidential and that they must be passed onto tutors and house staff in order to be resolved.*

*Recently we have come up with a new way to combat bullying issues. The idea is to set up a drop-in centre where mentors will be available in a specific room at lunchtimes, so they are easy to find by younger pupils. We feel this is another effective way to solve any bullying problems within the School and make it a positive and safe environment.”*

Mentors added “*I think that the anti-bullying system in our school is something to be very proud of* “Milly Cohen 9M1

*“Bullying is an awful thing (as I had previously experienced it myself) and I am really pleased to be a part of a system that stops it*” Jess Elliot 9M1

“We *became anti-bullying mentors because we wanted to help people who felt they were being bullied*” Will Waterson & Daniel Harper 8Q1

“I *decided I wanted to become an anti-bullying mentor because I knew it would help a lot of Year 7’s. Especially as I was a Year 7 only last year and I know how hard some people found it making the change to secondary School*” Alicia Cross 8Q1.

