



Press release

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Pupils team-up with charity for educational Money Diaries project

Pupils from a Lancashire high school have teamed-up with national debt advice charity, Debt Advice Foundation, to publish an innovative money guide for students who are planning to go to university.

As part of the charity's educational *Money Diaries* initiative, pupils from Southlands High School in Chorley have created the 'University Challenge' book, which is aimed at Year 9 pupils and above, and **can be utilised in classrooms across the UK**.

The University Challenge Money Diaries tells the story of two students embarking on higher education; one handles their money well, whilst the other struggles with their finances - highlighting the impact debt and financial problems can have.

It is the third publication in the charity's Money Diaries series and has been researched, written and illustrated by talented trio, Abigael Kirby, Ryan Dickinson and Rebecca Bradley, who are all in Year 11 at Southlands High School.

David Rodger, Managing Director of Debt Advice Foundation, which is based at offices near to the school, explains: "The aim of the Money Diaries publications is to educate the younger generation about money management and help them avoid the pitfalls of debt in the future.

"The fact that these have been written by school pupils, makes them appealing to youngsters and the stories are designed so school children can easily identify with the characters and learn the importance of financial awareness."

Last year, former Education Minister, Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, praised the Money Diaries initiative and the way it gives school children an introduction into finance and handling of money.

Brian Souter, Deputy Head Teacher at Southlands High School said: "This is the third Money Diaries we have worked with Debt Advice Foundation on and it is great that our pupils are involved in a project that is giving students, both at our own school and across the country, a useful resource that will help prepare them for money management in the future."

10,000 copies have initially been published, with 50 free copies being sent to every school across Lancashire for use in citizenship lessons.

The three issues of Money Diaries are aimed at upper junior, lower secondary and middle secondary level. These are all available to download for free at
www.debtadvicefoundation.org/education/downloads

Schools who wish to order hardcopies of the books should email andrea.hoole@debtadvicefoundation.org.

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Photo Caption: Writers of the University Challenge Money Diaries and pupils from Southlands High School; Abigael Kirby, Ryan Dickinson and Rebecca Bradley.

Further information:

Contact the press office on 0800 779 71 36 / 0788 973 60 44 or email pressoffice@debtadvicefoundation.org

Editors Notes

About Debt Advice Foundation

- Debt Advice Foundation's telephone helpline service is available six days a week on 0800 2922077, lines are open from 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 9am – 5pm on Saturdays.
- Debt Advice Foundation is a registered charity, with the following objectives:
 - Provide free, impartial and appropriate advice to people with unaffordable debt.

- Help people with debt problems to gain free access to solutions that will help them.
- Promote the education of young people in money management so as to reduce the likelihood they will mis-use debt later in their lives.
- Undertake or fund research to understand why problem debt happens and its effect on individuals, families and the wider UK economy.
- To use this evidence to become a force for beneficial change within the credit and debt solutions industry and to work with government to bring about legislative change to benefit UK consumers.

- Debt Advice Foundation features in the FSA (Financial Services Authority) consumer website – Money Made Clear (www.moneymadeclear.org.uk) and Direct Gov (www.direct.gov.uk) as a source of free and impartial debt advice.

About the Money Diaries project

- The Money Diaries project was launched in 2008 and is a working partnership between Southlands High School and Debt Advice Foundation.
- Debt Advice Foundation provides funds for the initiative, as part of its commitment to actively promoting money management to young people.
- The Money Diaries are available for schools and pupils to download for free on the Debt Advice Foundation website: www.debtadvicefoundation.org
- Three issues of the Money Diaries are now available:
 - Money Diaries - **Birthday Blues** (Upper Primary)
 - Money Diaries - **The Price of Fame** (Lower Secondary)
 - Money Diaries - **University Challenge** (Middle Secondary)