

The Debt Advice Foundation Southlands High School

Media Information
29 September 2008

Chorley School Girls Launch Educational Debt Book

A groundbreaking initiative launched by The Debt Advice Foundation and Southlands High School, has resulted in two Southlands pupils, Ruth Gratton age 15 and Nicola Harescough age 16 becoming published authors.

The Debt Advice Foundation approached Brian Souter, Deputy Head Teacher of Southlands School, to ask if an educational tool could be developed by pupils to assist in teaching primary age children about sensible money management and a responsible approach to debt.

On seeing the quality of work produced, Dennis Benson, Chairman of The Debt Advice Foundation, agreed to fund Ruth and Nicola's "Money Diaries" project through to publication. Plans are also afoot to create a range of similar publications suited to school pupils of all ages.

Over 3,000 copies of the "Money Diaries" book have been professionally produced and printed and these will be distributed free of charge to primary schools within the region. In addition Ruth and Nicola plan to present their book in conjunction with The Debt Advice Foundation to Ministers at Westminster in November, under the guidance of Lindsay Hoyle MP.

The first delivery of the printed books was celebrated at Christ Church Charnock Richard Primary School on Friday. The Ceremony was attended by Lindsay Hoyle MP, along with representatives from The Debt Advice Foundation and Southlands School. Ruth and Nicola were on hand to personally sign the first printed copy of their book.

Brian Souter, Southlands School said: "In conjunction with The Debt Advice Foundation, we have produced a helpful educational tool – written by youngsters for youngsters. I am delighted with the quality of the results achieved."

Dennis Benson of the Debt Advice Foundation said: "There is a clear need for simple financial education from a young age to ensure that today's youngsters have the appropriate knowledge to manage their finances in the future. We hope to gain additional funding to extend roll-out of the book throughout the UK, and to develop additional publications in conjunction with the pupils of Southlands School in the near future."

Commenting on the launch Lindsay Hoyle MP said: "It is extremely impressive to see pupils at Southlands design and produce a book which can help change attitudes and cultures for

generations to come. This book is the first of what I hope will be the beginning of an extremely successful initiative which should be common place in schools throughout the UK.”

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