

## News

### Safer schools advice for students 05.05.10



**PC Nicholson with Met police dog Sigma**

ALONG WITH partner organisations, officers from Hackney Safer Schools team helped put on various workshops for students of The Petchey Academy, Hackney, E8 to explain different aspects of policing.

Officers were joined by colleagues from the Learning Trust, Hackney Council, Metropolitan Police Specialist Crime Directorate, Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, Hands Inc and the Arc Theatre Company.

Children were offered advice by Hackney Councils drugs team and their gang and knife workers. Meanwhile, the Arc Theatre Company presented a play called 'Box X', to highlight to the students the consequences that gangs and knives can have on their lives.



**Sigma with PC Frampton and student**

Towards the end of the day the students were treated to a demonstration by the Metropolitan Police Dogs Unit. Officers from the unit explained to various classes the vital role of a police dog. They explained that by living and working together the police dog and handler form a close bonded team that is able to rely on each other in dangerous situations. With an acute sense of smell and the ability to get into spaces inaccessible to officers, police dogs are able to carry out tasks that would be both time-consuming and dangerous to officers.

The students were able to handle various pieces of equipment worn by the dogs. They were then taken outside and given a practical demonstration involving two German Shepherd police dogs. The officers and their dogs demonstrated how a police dog can apprehend a suspect and search for vital evidence.

## Case study – Community Cohesion | 2010 Petchey Academy

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**Met police dog Sigma**

Police in Hackney have been running a yearly project across the borough, in support of the national 'Every Child Matters' programme (ECM). The aim is to engage with all school age students in Hackney.

**Vice Principal for The Petchey Academy Sian Wright said:** "Our Stay Safe Every Child Matters Day is community cohesion as its best. By using the local expertise of PC White, our Safer Schools Police Officer, we were able to engage all our students in a range of exciting activities. In addition the various visiting speakers and groups were able to reach some of our most vulnerable students who might themselves be at risk of knife crime, gangs or other threats to their safety."

**PC Peter White from Hackney Safer Schools team said:** "Using outside agencies and the expertise of our own police unit gives us the opportunity to engage with these young people, educating and making them aware of issues involving young people today."