

# DISCOVER DIPLOMA DAY – SOCIETY, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Students get lots of ideas at taster day



Pupils were shown skills they could pick up by studying for a society, health and development diploma. **ALINE NASSIF** reports.

MEASURING heart rates and resuscitation were some of the activities on offer as youngsters found out more about a popular vocational qualification.

Representatives from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust joined Portsmouth City and Havant Borough councils and local further and higher education groups to introduce year nine pupils to one of the government's most successful diploma courses.

Students from secondary schools including Bay House, Brookfield, Bridge-mary, Brune Park, Crofton, Henry Cort and Portchester, gathered at 1000 Lakeside in North Harbour, Portsmouth to take part in a variety of activities specially designed to illustrate the subject areas of the society, health and development diploma.

Local authority and healthcare members provided workshops which included the measurement of heart rates, resuscitation, working with the disabled and understanding road safety.

Jacquie Jones, project co-ordinator for the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Education Business Partnership (EBP), who organised

the event, said: 'We know that practical demonstrations from professionals and physical involvement in activities are extremely inspiring for a lot of young people.'

'By showing the students what jobs they can go on to do with the diploma, we are putting the qualification into context and getting them to think about their long-term future.'

The diploma was introduced in 2008 to provide young people with an understanding of health, social care, children's services and community justice and help them develop skills such as problem-solving, team working, communication and creative thinking – all critical to working successfully in all these areas.

Sarah White, a supervisor from Portchester Community School, said: 'We have brought the year nine pupils who have expressed an interest in social care as a career and they have really enjoyed it. The taster day has given them plenty of ideas.'

Portchester pupil Leyla Fenle said: 'It was good fun. I really want to get started on the course now and can't wait until September.'



Front from left, Peter Cousins, Leyla Fenle and Megan Verity. Back from left, Jacquie Jones, Sarah Capon and Sara Brown and Naomi Spicer