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education



Hackney pupils have created a short film, called 'Where The Lies Are', to investigate to what degree children are affected by food advertising

News in brief

Be bright and stay in sight

PUPILS from St Paul's with St Michael's Church of England Primary School, near London Fields, have dressed in their brightest clothing to raise awareness of road safety during the winter months. Since the clocks went back on 30 October, it has been much darker in the mornings and evenings, when people travel to and from school and work. As a result, children from the E8 school wore their brightest clothing last month, with two pupils even donning fairy lights. Hackney's 'Be Bright, Stay In Sight' campaign encourages pedestrians and cyclists to wear clothes and use accessories that help them to be seen in the dark by other road users. The best colours to be seen during the daytime are bright and fluorescent. Lighter colours are more noticeable in the dark, and anything with reflective material will show up in the headlights of vehicles and street lights.



Access to computer science

YOUNG students are learning coding and computer science thanks to a new national initiative. Brand new desktop computers from the company pi-top have been sent to IntoUniversity's learning centres across the country, including the Hackney South centre on Livermere Road, E8. Pi-top co-founder and CEO, Jesse Lozano, said: "Our goal is essentially to change the way people learn and make STEM learning accessible to students no matter what their background. Right now, there is a skills gap which means hundreds of thousands of computer-based jobs go unfilled in the UK every year." The Hackney South centre opened in 2010 and works with schools in the surrounding area. Student Hasan Raffi, 11, said: "Computing is very important. It provides a network that allows us access to anything."

The power of ads

STUDENTS from Hackney have hosted a gala premier of their own film, warning young people about the ways in which advertising affects their food choices.

The short film, called 'Where The Lies Are', was shown at Hackney Picturehouse on 26 November and will now be made available online.

Pupils from Our Lady's Convent High School, London Fields Primary, Mossbourne Parkside Academy, and the Petchey Academy worked with local organisation Cordwainers Grow, E9, to investigate to what degree children are

“ We want to put the power to make healthy choices about food back in the hands of our young people ”

affected by food advertising and marketing.

The students, aged from nine to 14, looked at the strategies used by food companies, marketers and advertisers to target children. They also did their own surveys of 'healthy' food, discovering that the packaging wasn't always what it seemed.

As one pupil, Rachael, said: "When you buy food you should always check

the back, and not the front, because that's where all the lies are."

In addition to the film, the project is also giving rise to new research. Dr Frances Hansford, a researcher specialising in food and nutrition, interviewed and observed the students to find out whether they changed their own food habits in the course of the project. Her evaluation will be published in the new year.

The film follows the release of statistics by the UK's National Child Measurement Programme, which revealed that 41 per cent of children aged 10 and 11 in Hackney are overweight or obese.

Natalie Mady, Co-Director and Founder of Cordwainers Grow, said: "We want to put the power to make healthy choices about food back in the hands of our young people.

"We're not pointing the finger at children and telling them what to eat. They are discovering the different pressures that the strategies of the food industry create, so they have information when deciding what to eat."

Pupils get to the very core of pain relief as part of a 'Tech in Health' day



Students Peter and Casano from Cardinal Pole Catholic School

HACKNEY students have collaborated with technicians to help create devices to help those in chronic pain.

Pupils from Cardinal Pole Catholic School and Petchey Academy were part of a 'Tech in Health' day staged by CORE, the Centre for Osteopathic

Research and Excellence. On 30 November, Year 8, 9 and 10 students took a workshop to learn about new health technologies, including artificial eyes for the blind and robotic exoskeletons to help people walk.

The students then spent a day using brand new

technology donated by the BBC to try to build their own devices that could monitor and alleviate pain.

Casano Kirlew, from Cardinal Pole, said: "It was really fun. I want to work in some sort of technology department, as I find it really interesting."

Danny Orchard,

co-founder of CORE, added: "We hope to inspire the next generation to focus on technological solutions to help pain reduction."

For more info on CORE, and crowdfunding for the opening of its first pain clinic in Clapton next year, visit: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/raise-the-volume