



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **Park House Pupils Take Part In Phoenix Project**

Six pupils from Park House School and Sports College, and two from The Downs School were put through their paces on Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's Phoenix Project last month.

The five-day course ran from 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February at Hungerford fire station and was based around fire service activities, including hose running, breathing apparatus procedures and squad drills. The young people, aged 13 and 14, also got involved in team building tasks, took part in discussions about potential consequences of actions and were given drug awareness information. In addition, one of the days was spent at an outward-bound centre, which tested the girls' nerves to the limits as they tried out the high ropes activities!

The week ended on a high note with a passing out parade at the fire station, where the team demonstrated the new skills they had learnt on the course to family and friends. RBFRS Area Manager Steve Buck was also on hand to present certificates and awards to the young people.

Phoenix Project aims to make teenagers aware of safety issues and risk, while at the same time developing their communication and leadership skills.

Ryan Timms, Phoenix Project team member, said: "Phoenix Project is a challenging course that allows young people to learn new skills outside of their usual educational environment. All the girls worked exceptionally hard throughout the week and shone at everything they were asked to do. We hope they will continue to develop the skills they learnt during the week and continue to apply them in their everyday lives."

Joe Slevin, Academy Director at Park House, said: "The impact of the Phoenix Project on the girls from Park House was extremely positive. Parents commented on the positive attitude that their daughters had at the end of each day. In school, teachers have commented on how the girls have spoken with pride about what they achieved and how they surprised themselves by doing things that seemed 'scary' at first.

"The girls also spoke enthusiastically about how the group became a team and how enjoyable that experience was. The drill on the final afternoon was so efficiently carried out that it was clear to everyone that the Phoenix project had inspired the girls to work hard and to achieve high standards of work and behaviour."

**ENDS**