

Sleep out raises £800 for charity

Students spend night on school floor for homeless

Anna Silverman

anna.silverman@archant.co.uk

Students at a Forest Gate school set up camp in their draughty school hall for a night to experience the hardship of homelessness.

The sponsored "sleep-out" at Quwwat-Ul-Islam in Chaucer Road raised more than £800 for a local homeless charity.

Following a workshop given by the charity, Caritas Anchor House, the year 11s swapped their beds for sleeping bags and pitched up on the hard floor.

Momina Zafar, one of the students who took part, called the experience "a real eye-opener," adding: "Sleeping on the floor was a struggle, but at least we still had our friends around to enjoy the night with.

"Many homeless people have lost everything, be it their job, family, friends, or home."

The pupils spent a small part of the night outside in freezing temperatures and said it made them realise how hard life is without a roof over their head.

"What homeless people

need is support and help from people privileged enough to have what they don't," Momina added.

"It's our job to prevent this and support our fellow citizens because if we were in their position we would want exactly the same thing."

The funds raised from the sleepout will be donated Caritas Anchor House.

They support those affected by homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence and crime.

The principal of Quwwat-Ul-Islam Girls School, Mohammed Asif, said he was proud of the pupils.

He added: "It was amazing to see our students engage with the workshop and really get to understand some of the issues facing homeless people in Newham.

"They were inspired to do the sleepout and raise awareness and money for this worthwhile cause."



Students from Quwwat Ul Islam school raised money for a homeless charity

