



Driven: Cavendish and Hemel Hempstead School volunteers, pictured above, have agreed to run projects to promote the work of Crimestoppers, with representatives from the police, the charity and schools

## Taking steps to make streets safer

### Pupils are being asked to help promote Crimestoppers

IN the wake of the tragedy that hit Hemel Hempstead earlier this month with the stabbing of a much-loved young man, volunteers are out in force helping young people to find out how they can help tackle crime.

Visits to schools is one way campaigners are bringing the message to young people and encouraging them to take an active role in keeping their community safe.

On Wednesday morning, volunteers from charity Crimestoppers visited Cavendish School for a special assembly on how young people can use the service to help tackle crime.

David Green is a volunteer with the organisation that allows members of the public to anonymously supply information about crimes and criminals to police.

He gave the talk to sixth form pupils at the school, and some visitors from Hemel Hempstead School, to highlight the work of Crimestoppers.

David said: "Hopefully the assembly has helped spread the message about the work that Crimestoppers does and how it can help people.

"It's always good to get into schools to talk to young people, it's another way to get the

information out there.

"We're trying to encourage young people themselves to volunteer to organise and run projects to help spread the message."

Sixth form volunteers have been invited to take part and put a project together.

Not only is their aim to highlight the availability of Crimestoppers and the work the charity does, it is also to point people towards the [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org) website, which is full of helpful information.

David added: "There have been quite a few incidents of knife crime in Hemel recently and letting young people know about Crimestoppers and the Fearless website, aimed at young people, is one way to help.

"When information comes in to Crimestoppers it might be a bit of a jigsaw but when the pieces come together then you get results.

"It's not primarily about prevention, but the act of talking about it can help to make people aware of the situation and the potential consequences of their actions."

Speaking after the assembly, 17-year-old pupil Danielle Town said: "I didn't realise it was available.

"Stuff happens outside my house a lot, and I think my mum would be happier if she could report stuff to something like Crimestoppers."

Tom Byrne, 17, also a pupil at Cavendish School, said: "I think I'd prefer to call Crimestoppers to the police, otherwise you'd end up getting mixed up in court cases etc."

Post 16 learning mentor at the school Julie Cattermole said: "We're very community spirited here and all the students care about the town they live in."

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping to find criminals and help solve crimes, which enables anyone to report information anonymously.

Last year the charity received 90,868 calls and online forms with useful information.

This resulted in 8,264 criminals being arrested and charged, and £25,339,693 worth of illegal drugs being seized.

More statistics on the success of the charity and the work it does can be seen on its website.

**> Anyone can phone 0800 555 111 to pass on information about crime, or do so online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)**

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