



Meeting with Year 12 and 13 Pupils of South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy on 17th December 2015

We were given the opportunity and an hour and a half to introduce the Sixth Form, years 12 and 13, at SWBA in Bilston to the IAM and its objectives.

We were the last “presentation” of the day following earlier activities with the AA and the local Fire Service. Having the slot immediately after the lunch break was not promising but we had seventy-six pupils and eight staff attend.

Paul Woozley and Rebecca Scott provided the presentation materials which took the form of a short introduction with the balance of the time as an interactive Q & A session with two prizes of vouchers each to the value of £150 which could be redeemed against anything from Track Days through to SFL training. (A copy of the presentation has been requested from Paul Woozley and will be appended to this entry when received).

The number of drivers was around ten, the number of learner drivers around fifteen so about 33% of the pupils were drivers in some form though 100% were intent on becoming drivers shortly.

A few of the general questions which yielded interesting answers were:

- What is thought to be the greatest cause of accidents amongst young drivers to which the overriding opinion was “distractions” rather than speed or vehicles. (This may have something to do with the fact that earlier in the day they had all been shown the video from Gwent Police about the “Impact of Texting whilst Driving”!
- Second question was who was considered to be the best drivers on the road, this was split between F1 Drivers, Rally Drivers and Truck Drivers. The considered opinion was that the Emergency Services had it easy as they used “blues and two’s” to protect themselves and cause them to be “safer”.

The two pupils who won the prizes were very well pleased and intended to give them as presents for Christmas.

Helen Walker who hosted our visit was very impressed and asked if Wolverhampton Local IAM Group could come back again in the New Year to re-inforce the message given today and to engage the pupils further. I will be writing a short e-mail of thanks to her later and will ensure that she has the Group e-mail to maintain contact with us.

The ability to interact with so many interested people at one time was valuable and has clearly identified us as a Group as being active and effective within the purview of Chiswick.

I have collected copies of some documentation which was new to me which I will bring to the next Group Committee Meeting, I am assured that by that time it will be readily available on the website. (It is not as yet all in place).

Dr. Jonathan Hughes