

Press Release

Issue date: 27 September 2007

School children help RUH get the message across

School children from three Bath schools have been helping the RUH to get a serious message across in a really creative way.

Pupils from Combe Down Primary, Culverhay Secondary and Moorlands Junior Schools have produced art on the theme of *'hands up, sleeves up, thumbs up'*, a campaign aimed at reducing hospital acquired infections and making the RUH a safer place.

A year 10 pupil from Culverhay Secondary School was singled out as overall winner and his outstanding entry wins him a medal. The art submitted by pupils from Combe Down Primary School has earned the school its very own glow box. These amazing gadgets highlight the areas that have been missed during hand washing and demonstrate the importance of washing hands correctly. Staff from the hospital will attend an assembly to present the glow box to the school.

Hetty Dupays, arts coordinator at the RUH says: "The children from each school were really enthusiastic and submitted over 100 posters, which was pretty amazing. Some are already on display in the hospital corridors.

"It seems fitting that Combe Down School win the glow box, as we understand that the topic for year twos this term is Florence Nightingale! We are also delighted to be presenting a medal to a pupil at Culverhay School for his fantastic entry. In addition, we'll be choosing four posters from the art submitted by each school, which we would like to reproduce to display on wards and in waiting areas around the hospital."

Francesca Thompson, director of nursing at the RUH, helped to select the winning entries. Francesca says: "We are absolutely delighted with the response we had and we are really impressed with the quality of the artwork the children have produced.

"When all the new posters are displayed around the hospital I am sure that everyone coming to the RUH, whether they are staff, patients or visitors will get the message about how important our hands are in the control of infection and ultimately, the care of our patients and the wider community."

Ends

Notes to editors:

'Hands up' signifies the importance of good hand hygiene. It also shows how staff are being encouraged to put their hands up, to reinforce their willingness to be open and own up to occasions when we have not met the highest standards. *'Sleeves up'* promotes the new NHS policy about clinical staff being bare below the elbow in order to lessen the risk of spreading infection and *'thumbs up'* is an opportunity to celebrate achievements the trust has already made in tackling infections and promoting good infection control practice.

Issued by the communications office. Contact 01225 825849