

## **BEAVERWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD**

Beaverwood School for Girls and Aimhigher ASPIRE in London have received national recognition for their collaborative work at the National Aimhigher Awards, which took place in London last night.

Beaverwood School for Girls beat off competition from across the country to win the Aimhigher Partnership Practice award for the success of its work with Aimhigher to help increase the number of disadvantaged youngsters from the area who progress to higher education.

Representatives from Beaverwood School were presented with their award by the Rt Hon John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, at last night's ceremony.

Pam Jennings, Key Stage 4 Leader from Beaverwood School for Girls said:

"We are obviously thrilled at receiving this prestigious award and hope to continue our successful partnership for many more years. We have now been involved with the Aspire AimHigher scheme for four years and during this time, Student Ambassadors from Greenwich University, led by Adam Brett, have worked closely with a group of students every year, supporting them both inside and outside the classroom. As a result of their commitment, the students have gained in confidence, improved their self-esteem and successfully completed Key Stage 4. We are very grateful to all the Ambassadors for their dedication."

Janice Larkin, Project Officer, Aimhigher ASPIRE based at the University of Greenwich said: "We are absolutely delighted about this award and it is a fitting testament to the hardwork of everyone involved – Beaverwood staff and students and the Aspire staff and student ambassadors based at the University of Greenwich. The success of this project is further borne out by the shortlisting of one of the students, Danielle Hayford, in the Key Stage 4 Aimhigher Learner Achievement Award." Danielle finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in her category and was selected from a field of 5000 students nationally.

There were over 130 entries to the scheme this year, which celebrates the most successful and innovative Aimhigher work being undertaken across the country.

John Denham commented: "Aimhigher has opened the doors of opportunity to literally thousands of young people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person involved in the programme for their hard work and commitment and in particular congratulate Beaverwood School for Girls who, through their partnership with Aimhigher, have seen one of the highest improvements in GCSE grades in the country."



**Pictured L/R are :John Denham, Pam Jennings, Adam Brett and Claire Cooper (actress from C4 Hollyoaks)**