



Assembly ideas

Young people affected by HIV

Introduction

Young people around the world are affected by HIV and AIDS, their families are infected, they care for ill parents, their teachers have died. Many of those young people do not have access to the drugs that could keep them alive and well. South Africa has the largest number of people with HIV and AIDS in the world. Thembi is one of them. She is willing to tell her story about living with HIV.

Thembi is a 19-year old South African woman who has created an audio diary about her life and living with HIV. She shares her experiences of telling her mother about AIDS, visiting a clinic to try and get life-saving drugs, dealing with the reactions of her friends and neighbours and the time she spends with her partner.

Activity

Read an extract from the transcript of Thembi's audio-diary

www.radiodiaries.org/aidsdiary/story.html

Or play an extract from the online audio-diary or CD. The diary is 22 minutes long. Select the extracts used, consider removing some of the dialogue.

Ask the pupils: How did it feel to hear Thembi's story? What surprised you about her story? What do you think about how she is dealing with her diagnosis? What do you think the future might be for her and her young family?

Follow-up

IT Activity: During tutor time visit the website and share your thoughts and feelings about Thembi's story.

Discussion Activity: How did it feel to hear Thembi's story? What surprised you about her story? What do you think about how she is dealing with her diagnosis? What do you think the future might be for her and her young family?

Alternative video diaries and testimonies are available from UNICEF's project 'Voices of Youth Digital Diaries':

www.unicef.org/people/people_23635.html

For example, Kerrel McKay is a young Jamaican woman who cared for her father until he died of AIDS and is now an activist. Testimonies about living with HIV and AIDS are also available on:

www.avert.org/stories.htm

Young people making a difference

Introduction

Young people can make a real difference in the fight against HIV, discover how young people in Kenya are helping to fight HIV and educate their peers.

Activity

Read an extract from the article 'Are young people the solution to the Africa HIV/AIDS epidemic?' describing the young people's peer education efforts (some of the article content may not be suitable for all age groups) at www.headliners.org/storylibrary/stories/2006/hiv/avidskenya.

Ask the pupils: Why do you think peer education works? Would you rather find out information from people your own age rather than adults? What other ways, apart from education about prevention, could young people help?



Assembly ideas

Follow Up

Activities for form groups, PSHE, art or drama: Develop HIV prevention resources for other young people, these could take the form of posters, leaflets or perhaps dramas. Posters and leaflets could be displayed on a central noticeboard. Dramas could be performed in subsequent assemblies.

Living with HIV in the UK

Invite a speaker from an organisation that supports people living with HIV to an assembly.

Encourage the pupils to think about the issues beforehand and to prepare questions.

National organisations you can contact are Positively Women (www.positivelywomen.org.uk) and the Terrence Higgins Trust (www.tht.org.uk).

It is also a good idea to check in your area to see if there is a local organisation close to your school supporting people living with HIV.

Alternatively, you can show pupils clips of people talking about their experiences living with HIV. A selection of clips are available on the World AIDS Day website (www.worldaidsday.org). Use the clips to prompt a discussion on life with HIV in the UK, what the key issues are and how they could be overcome. You could discuss how individuals can help as well as society as a whole.

HIV around the world

Ask pupils who have participated in the research activity to present their findings from work on *The Social, Cultural and Economic Impact of HIV*.

Introduction

Covering the following points: What is HIV? What is AIDS? How is HIV transmitted? Who is affected by HIV? Use the HIV Facts section from this pack or visit www.worldaidsday.org to remind you of basic facts and current statistics from the UK.

Activity

Have two large tree trunks on display with the label, '*The spread of HIV in developed countries*' and '*The spread of HIV in developing countries*'. Ask class pairs to share their root causes for these two groups with you and stick them onto the base of the tree. Prompt them to share the process from their class by asking questions: Was it easy to prioritise? How many root causes did you have in total? Where there different root causes for developed and developing countries? Why do you think this is? When the root causes are all displayed on the tree trunk ask pupils to present their solutions and stick them on. Prompt them by asking questions such as: Who would need to take action to achieve this solution?

Summarise

Reflect on the problems and the solutions that the school has come up with. At what level do these solutions need to be implemented? What can we do as individuals? Is there anything we can do as a school? Refer to the school HIV policy as an example of action.



Assembly ideas

World AIDS Day Pledges

Visit the World AIDS Day website www.worldaidsday.org for inspiration on how to mark World AIDS Day on 1 December.

Introduction

Explain that World AIDS day was the first ever international health day and is an important opportunity to raise awareness about HIV and offers a powerful opportunity to challenge the stigma and prejudice, which can prevent us from tackling the global epidemic.

Explore the fact that HIV and AIDS may seem like an overwhelming issue, but it is all about individuals with stories to tell. Many of these stories are powerful messages of hope and strength that can inspire others to take action. Explain that today's assembly will be about pledging action and deciding on something that we will do to encourage others to take action on World AIDS Day. Together we CAN stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice.

Activity

Ask someone to read one or two of the teenage testimonies from young people affected and infected by HIV on the Avert website www.avert.org/ypstory.htm

Ask individuals to anonymously record on a red piece of card a pledge - something that they will do in their lives, something realistic and achievable that they will do to challenge stigma around HIV.

Ask class teachers to collect the pledges. Read out a few pledges and reflect on them. Create a World AIDS Day pledge display.

Videos and Drama

Introduction

Videos and drama can get messages across in a fun and interactive way. The Headliners website (www.headliners.org/aboutus/outreach/brakingthesilence.htm) contains a number of dramas, raps and videos where young people in London talk about what it's like to live with HIV. You can find a rap on facing up to discrimination, a discussion on the difficulty of keeping your HIV status hidden, and a transcript of one boy's discovery of his status, amongst others.

The clips can be used as a starting point for discussions. You could also ask pupils to write and perform their own raps or dramas in assembly, and create a display where pupils can pin up their own thoughts, poems and raps in response to the clips.



Assembly ideas

Music for Assemblies

Music can be a powerful way of getting the message across to young people.

Positive Media Messages

MAGZ says hip-hop music is one of the best ways to spread the word on HIV and AIDS: "Kids all around the world are into hip-hop."

NEW YORK, USA, 9 November 2005 – At first glance 18-year-old MAGZ appears to be just like any other up-and-coming young artist on the hip-hop music scene. But his latest song – 'People Are You Listening?' – has a serious message for the world's children, which he delivers via the power of music, in an initiative with UNICEF. The song is a call to action www.unicef.org/aids/index_29783.html

Something Inside So Strong - Labbi Siffre

This song, written about Apartheid, picked up by the gay community marching during Pride, could be performed by choirs in Assembly or played as pupils enter or leave.

The higher you build your barriers
The taller I become
The farther you take my rights away
The faster I will run
You can deny me
You can decide to turn your face away
No matter, cos there's....

Something inside so strong
I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

The more you refuse to hear my voice
The louder I will sing
You hide behind walls of Jericho
Your lies will come tumbling
Deny my place in time
You squander wealth that's mine
My light will shine so brightly
It will blind you
Cos there's.....

Something inside so strong
I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters
When they insist we're just not good enough
When we know better
Just look 'em in the eyes and say
I'm gonna do it anyway, I'm gonna do it anyway

Something inside so strong
And I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters
When they insist we're just good not enough
When we know better
Just look 'em in the eyes and say
I'm gonna do it anyway x 4

Because there's something inside so strong
And I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me, so wrong
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong



Creating displays

There are a number of ways you can create strong visual displays and use these to stimulate interest and discussion on a range of issues around HIV and AIDS.

Photographic images

Use photos or photo journalism from the BBC News website. Search for HIV and AIDS and then look at the 'In pictures' section.

For example, the series of Don McCullin images 'Life Interrupted':

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/04/health_0life_interrupted0_by_don_mccullin/html/5.stm
or for positive images go to www.onevision2006.org

Ask pupils to write about the stories that the pictures tell and to explore the characters and the hopes, fears and prospects for the future.

Millennium Development Goals

Ask classes to explore Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals: to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Explore what needs to be done to achieve this goal and what the consequences of not achieving it might be. Ask pupils to create images that show what we can do to contribute to Goal 6. For support use:

www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/mdgs/intro.asp

HIV posters

Download images of historical HIV and AIDS posters www.avert.org/historyi.htm Ask pupils to use the older posters as research material and to create modern HIV and AIDS posters. Display the historical posters and the work by young people and explore the differences.

Red ribbon displays

Explain that the red ribbon is a symbol of HIV awareness all around the world and is worn as a sign of support for people living with HIV.

The red ribbon was created in 1991 by a group of artists based in the United States of America and since then has inspired lots of different images.

Ask pupils to create their own picture incorporating a red ribbon or red ribbons and create a display for each class.

ME...

Getting involved

ME . . .

As a teacher you have already contributed to the fight against HIV by ordering this Schools Pack and incorporating the material into your lessons. We have decided to put young people at the heart of our World AIDS Day Campaign, as in many ways they have been the generation that missed out on HIV awareness messages – and because young people are the decision makers and opinion formers of the future.

There are lots of other things you can do to help really engage your pupils and make a difference, and it does not have to finish on 1 December.



Wear a Red Ribbon and encourage your pupils to do the same. Just by making HIV visible, you are both showing your support and encouraging people to find out the facts about HIV.



Put up some posters in your school. If you are fundraising for the National AIDS Trust we can give you some materials for free. Just contact our fundraisers on 0207 814 6731 or fundraising@nat.org.uk If you would like to get hold of leaflets and posters for a display without fundraising, you can purchase them from our online shop:
<http://shop.nat.org.uk/>



Organise an AIDS awareness assembly for World AIDS Day using the assembly ideas in this pack.



Encourage your school / class to organise a RED Day. Ask everyone at your school to come in wearing at least one red article of clothing, and ask them to bring in a small donation in exchange. Why stop at clothing? You can even encourage red face painting or a sponsored human red ribbon.




Photocopy the “you” pages of this section and hand them out to all your pupils. This fact sheet is addressed to pupils and tells them how they can get involved in raising HIV awareness and funds with our support. The “us” fact sheet gives ideas about how teachers and pupils can work together to support World AIDS Day and the cause of HIV, as a class or as a school. You may also want to provide copies of this to your pupils.

US...


Getting involved

US . . .

You can make a difference on your own but you could also make the biggest impact by encouraging your whole class or school to get involved. Here are some ideas:

 **Take a Red Ribbon collection box** - If you are willing to make red ribbons available to the rest of the school in return for a small donation to the National AIDS Trust, we will send you a collection box, poster and 100 ribbons free of charge. You can then organise a collection round classrooms or in assembly. Some schools like to organise an event in conjunction with taking a collection box such as a rock concert or fashion show and charge people an entrance fee. It's an excuse to have fun and make a difference at the same time! Order a box online at www.worldaidsday.org/collectionbox.asp

 **Organise a World AIDS Day Fete at school** – Organise a traditional fundraising fete for World AIDS Day with a bring and buy, lucky dip, raffle (with prizes donated by local businesses) and competitions.

 **Organise a Human Red Ribbon** – how many people can you get to hold hands and form a human chain in the shape of a red ribbon? You could ask friends and

family to sponsor you and your friends to create a chain of say 100, 200, 1000 people around your school and its grounds. It is very easy to set up your own online sponsorship page for the National AIDS Trust. Just visit: www.justgiving.com/nat/raisemoney/

 **Run a mobile phone recycling campaign** – The Recycling Appeal has teamed up with the National AIDS Trust to raise money on World AIDS Day. The Recycling Appeal collects mobile phones and printer cartridges, which are then reused or recycled. For every cartridge or mobile phone that is recycled through the recycling appeal, a donation will be given to the National AIDS Trust. It is completely free to participate, and you could get your whole school involved. For information on how to join the recycling appeal, please contact us on 020 7814 6731 or visit www.recyclingappeal.com.



YOU...

Getting involved

YOU. . .

World AIDS Day, 1 December is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This year, it's up to **you, me and **us** to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice. From wearing a red ribbon to attending an event, you can get involved as little or as much as you want and make a real difference.**


-  **Wear a Red Ribbon** and encourage others to do the same.
-  **Hold your own event** at home or in your youth group. You could hold a Red dinner party for your friends with red food and drink and ask for a donation in return.
-  **Get the facts about HIV** and make sure you know how to protect yourself from HIV by visiting:
www.worldaidsday.org/about.asp
-  **Talk to friends and family about HIV** – tell them a fact that you have learnt and discuss it. Did they know that 2005 saw the highest number of new diagnoses of HIV ever recorded in the UK?
-  **Get sponsored.** Do something yourself to raise money for the National AIDS Trust – you could do a sponsored swim, cycle or silence, or come up with your own idea.
-  **Attend a World AIDS Day event**– You will be surprised at how many events take place around the world to mark World AIDS Day. If you do not want to organise your own World AIDS Day event, why not go to someone else's. Events are listed on the World AIDS Day website:
www.worldaidsday.org/events_search.asp



Take part in a group collection like these students from Huddersfield Technology College; it's fun and raises HIV awareness

YOU...

Getting involved

 **Get other people involved!** Talk to your teacher about doing something as a class or school to mark World AIDS Day. Ask about getting a red ribbon collection box for your school or speak to your parents about whether they could take a red ribbon collection box to work.



Farlingaye High School stage an annual rock concert "Super Rock"

 **The Big Boost** is an awards programme which is run by The Princes Trust, UnLtd, The Scarman Trust & Changemakers to encourage more young people in England to set up projects that will make a real difference. Grants of between £250 and £5000 are offered to young people to start up projects that will make a lasting difference to them as well as to their communities. This could be an opportunity for you to start up an after school club for sharing experiences and talking openly about sex and sexuality, an LGBT society for young people or an awareness raising event for World AIDS Day. For more information visit: www.thebigboost.org.uk

thebigboost
getting young people's ideas off the ground

Become a friend through Facebook or myspace. Submit a picture or add a comment about what you are going to do on World AIDS Day and help to encourage others to take action. If you have a personal experience of HIV, why not share your story as a message of hope and strength. Visit www.facebook.com (search for World AIDS Day 2007 – Let's Get Talking) or www.myspace.com/worldAIDSday

facebook

myspace
a place for friends