

## CHALLENGE TEAM UK

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## Content and style of presentations – Information

Presentations are designed to educate and inspire teens. Presenters are not professional actors or performers and have varied experience in public speaking. They share one important thing in common – a strong belief in the value of saving sex for marriage. A hallmark which captures the attention of the audience is sincerity. Presenters are volunteers (aged between 18 and 25) who speak about a lifestyle choice that they have made.

Presentations last approximately one hour and are best followed by a short time allowed for questions from the audience. A presentation is best delivered to year groups of 60-150 students, rather than to class groups. The optimum age group is Years 9 to 11.

In a punchy, honest and natural way, presenters talk to pupils about sex and relationships. The speakers are not anti-sex, nor are they trying to scare kids away from sex. Rather, they believe that sexuality is so special that it should be given the respect that it deserves. They talk about the difference between thinking short term and thinking long term.

Using humorous skits and short interactive talks they inform students about possible physical and emotional consequences of sex. They talk about bonding with another person, about sexual desires, about sexually transmitted infections and about babies when you are young. They talk about abuse and rape. They talk about alcohol. The young men explain why they have decided to save sex for their future marriage partner.

There are no moral overtones and there is no religious content. The presenters do not 'preach' at pupils, nor tell them what they should or should not do. The choice of saving sex is presented as an attractive and realistic option to consider.

Four presenters, two male and two female, use their own experience and stories to inform the presentation. Each presenter has a different background and this is sensitively used to give the presentation reality and application. Because they are young people themselves, team members can understand the issues their peers are dealing with. They are full of energy and eager to enjoy their life to the full, just like the teens they speak to.

A presentation begins with a light-hearted sketch, after which the presenters introduce themselves and the subject of sex and relationships. The purposes of sex are established and differentiated between those which are long term and those which are short term. Long term purposes are identified as creating bonds of love and creating babies. Marriage is highlighted and the benefits of saving sex for marriage are explained. The word 'chastity' is used to summarise the lifestyle of a person who has chosen to save sex for marriage – a lifestyle of respect for one's own sexuality and the sexuality of others. Sex is presented as a unique and special gift which everyone has to give – at the time they choose and to the person that they choose.



Next the possible consequences of sex are explored. Unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections are discussed. Condom use and condom failure is covered. The fact that condoms reduce risk but do not eliminate it is explained. The only 100% effective protection against unwanted pregnancy or infection is to save sex and practise chastity.

The emotional bonds created by sex are then discussed. Interspersed with personal stories and humorous skits the presenters cover topics of friendships and relationships, dating, abuse and rape. The possibility of starting over for those who regret previous sexual experiences is presented positively.

The freedoms brought by choosing a lifestyle of chastity are then detailed. Freedom from worrying about being pregnant or having got someone pregnant, freedom from worrying about contracting or transmitting sexually transmitted infections, freedom to fully enjoy the present and make plans for the future, freedom to enjoy friendships with both sexes without overtones, being valued for who you are, standing out from the crowd and respecting yourself are all presented positively. The dangers of alcohol and the value of choosing friends wisely are raised.

## **Who runs Challenge Team UK?**

The concept of the Challenge Team started in Canada in the early '90s. A group of students decided they wanted to challenge the prevailing culture and toured schools with amazing success. Numbers of presenters and interested schools grew. In 2000 the group came to the UK for the first time and is now being developed here. The UK organiser is Sue Relf, an experienced project manager and administrator who runs a local community centre and has been involved in youth and community work for many years. Sue's husband was previously a member of the Senior Management Team of a local comprehensive school. A Charitable Trust has been established. A group of regional coordinators is being set in place. The first UK tour took place over a four week period in the early spring of 2004. Since then over 87 500 teens in the UK have witnessed a presentation.

Trustees are:

Dr Trevor Stammers MA BSc FRCGP DRCOG DPAB (a national authority in sexual health)

Dr John Chaplin MB BS DTMH (a pioneer in AIDS prevention programmes)

Mrs Sheila White

Mrs Christine Fidler BA

## **How is Challenge Team UK funded?**

Presenters are volunteers. Host families nearby to schools are used if at all possible to provide free accommodation while touring. Costs are kept to a minimum. The fee of £175 per school covers travelling and other expenses. Challenge Team UK has simple administrative procedures and no expensive overheads. The trust also receives unsolicited donations from supporters.



## Who are the presenters?

Presenters are recruited for periods of time. They are usually students. They are interviewed and carefully selected and are:

- committed to the lifestyle choice of saving sex for marriage
- experienced in working with teens, good communicators and good relationally
- good team players with leadership potential
- able to supply excellent references
- CRB Checked

Before each tour the presenters attend an intensive preparation programme when presentations are prepared and rehearsed and the details of scheduled itineraries explained.

## How to book a presentation:

For information on when teams are available email [info@challengeteamuk.org](mailto:info@challengeteamuk.org) / Tel: 01323 721047

## Some feedback from previous tours:

“Presenting on the theme of sex to adolescents cannot be easy yet the team managed to do it in a way that was fun, interactive and never dull but informative, challenging and appropriate. At no time were they patronising or condescending and so they held the attention of their three audiences throughout.

Most importantly, the feedback from pupils was very positive. I spoke to many who praised the presentation highly and clearly got a lot out of the session. Although they would not use such terms, my impression from all they had to say was that they felt more *empowered* in terms of their own bodies and decisions they might wish to make in the future. The staff who saw it were equally effusive in their praise.

Once again, thank you very much for the presentations. We all feel that it was money well spent!”

**Assistant Headteacher, Christ the King Catholic School, Nottingham.**

“All three year groups gave positive feedback. Some Year 10 girls said it was the best presentation they had ever seen in a PSHCE context.”

**PSHCE Co-ordinator, Ratcliffe College, Leicester**

“This morning at the school they gave the most marvellous presentation. There was a real chemistry with our Lower Sixth Form. Their timing was perfect; and there was a nice balance of laughs and the serious message. I was impressed with how they got the ‘fear factor’ in; but emphasised the ‘freedom’ message so well (above the fear)”

**Head of Lower Sixth, Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, London**

“As always – excellent. The Team had youth, innocence, experience and sincerity – the audience had clear empathy with them.”

**Head of Year 9, Gravesend Grammar School, Kent**

“I am just e-mailing to say thank you. You did a presentation at my school and I am very grateful that you did. It felt like everyone around me did have boyfriends and were doing stuff that I hadn’t. I felt really pressured and like an outcast. After your performance I realised that this wasn’t true and I’m very grateful to you for making me realise it. I think that your performances are fantastic and I really admire you for doing it and spreading a message that teenagers don’t often hear. I’m going to save sex for marriage and I bet many others like me will too.”

**Pupil**



# How The Challenge Team Fits Into The National Healthy School Sex And Relationships Education Government Guidelines

Challenge Team UK does not provide comprehensive sex education and does not offer to provide sex and relationships education on behalf of or instead of the school. Challenge Team UK does not provide contraception education. It delivers a presentation which gives schools a supplementary service that fulfils criteria from the Sex and Relationships Education Government Guidelines (2000) outlined below:

page 4:

The SRE Guidance (2000) is supported in legislation by the Learning and Skills Act (2000) which requires that young people:

- *learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children*

page 5:

For Secondary Schools, the SRE Guidance ... requires provision of an SRE programme which includes, as a minimum, information about STIs and HIV/AIDS ...

(and) states that at secondary school level, SRE should prepare young people for an adult life in which they can:

- *develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their judgements, decisions and behaviour*
- *be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality*
- *understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity*
- *have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge the kind of relationships they want*
- *understand the consequences of their actions ...*
- *avoid being exploited or exploiting others*
- *avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex*

page 6: Working in partnership on issues to do with SRE at a strategic and operational level

*Linking to other relevant initiatives*

*In terms of SRE, local healthy schools programme co-ordinators should ensure links are made with: .... Community and religious organisations ...*

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*Updated May 2010*  
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