**Anti Knife Crime activities and initiatives at Lambeth College.**

Over 150 learners attended Lambeth College Anti-Knife Crime Conference which took place in The Theatre on Wed 28th February. Student Union President Leslie Bortey delivered an opening speech encouraging everyone to adopt a zero tolerance to knife crime.

Guest speakers include CHOZE, a local rapper and victim of knife crime whose performances inspire and motivate young people to make the right choices to reach their goals, Trident Police Gangs Unit delivered a presentation on statistics and consequences, Jessica Plummer, a mother whose son was murdered as a result of knife crime talked about the impact of her loss and Dami Alaran from *Where are you going* – talked about charities and community groups supporting young people to exit gang/knife crime and participate in positive activities. This was a thought provoking and inspiring event to get learners thinking about how we can all work together to tackle the rising problem of knife crime and keep young people safe on the streets. In the evaluation, 96% of learners said they had found the event useful, citing the testimonial from Jessica Plummer as the most impactful part of the Conference.  Learners also said the event reinforced the choices that young people need to make and the opportunities open to them both at the college and in the wider community.

At the request of the Student Union and as a follow-up to the Conference local grime artist Choze returned to the college on Wednesday 7th March 2018 and performed live to over 170 learners in the Theatre. He delivered an electrifying performance, alongside rapping his own tracks against visual effects backdrop with a live violinist, guitarist and trumpet. This was followed by a Q&A session where learners asked questions such as “what has been the biggest challenge in his life and how has he overcome it.  His message to learners was simple but positive **- make the right choices and change your life.**

In addition to this work, Trident, C019 and St Giles Trust (Gang and Serious Youth Violence arms of the Police) and community organisations such as Lives not Knives have delivered workshops this year to over 300 learners on the risks and consequences of knife crime and strategies in place to support learners away from this negative activity.  A tutorial on Serious Youth Violence and Knife Crime was delivered by LDCs during Term 2 to over 1,200 learners and in term 3 and in support of the Lord Mayor’s Knife Campaign the college will be carrying out random metal detection search operations.  The aim of this work is to reinforce the message that the college is a safe environment but also to enable learners who are concerned about these issues to have open discussions in a safe place with trained support staff.