

A Time for Giving at SCC



Christmas seems to arrive sooner each year; a joy for most, but a difficult and upsetting time for far too many in our community. Whilst many of us are enjoying the silly-season, the serious need for the basics of life is a growing concern.

The teachers of Sittingbourne Community College have been collecting food and donations to help some of their struggling families at this festive time of the year. Donations are then passed on to families directly, or

through the local food banks run by The Trussell Trust at local churches.

Ms Teresa Faulks, the organiser of the collection and Student Support Manager, said, “More and more families are dependent on food banks due to a variety of reasons, the biggest one being benefit sanctions.

It was the recent release of *I, Daniel Blake* that began Ms Faulks efforts. Her daughter, Hayley Squires, ex-student of SCC and award winning actress, starred in the film. “I guess I was a bit naïve about how food banks worked,” explained Ms Faulks. “I thought you just went along and got some food. Seeing the film, I realised you needed a voucher with limited availability. So, I decided to create a food bank for my school community.



Haley Squires with Dave Johns 1

“Initially, we took the donations to the Trussell Trust food bank in Sittingbourne. The Trussell Trust is the largest operator of food banks in the country. But, we realised there was a direct need for my own students and their families who were experiencing hardship. It’s surprising how many people don’t realise the rules behind getting access to this help, and I think we serve an important need with a simple solution.”



Ms Teresa Faulks and Mollie Hamer (Year 11)

So far, the teachers have donated food, toiletries and money that have been distributed to families of SCC students that are experiencing severe hardship.

Nevertheless, the figures surrounding these issues are still disturbing. So far this year, 1.1 million food parcels have been handed out by food banks across the country - 440,000 specifically for children – and these numbers are not going down.