

**Press Release embargoed until: 1am Weds 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

## **Operation Black Vote Director inspires Mossbourne Academy students**

**Simon Woolley, Director of Operation Black Vote, is speaking with pupils at Mossbourne Academy, Hackney, for charity *Speakers for Schools* on Weds 12 December 2012.**

Simon Woolley, Director of Operation Black Vote, will be delivering a talk about the importance of political awareness, economic empowerment and social equality in modern Britain to a select group of pupils as part of the series of successful free talks delivered by *Speakers for Schools*.

***Speakers for Schools*** is the idea of BBC Business Editor, Robert Peston, who wanted young people in state schools and colleges to have the same opportunities to hear from inspirational speakers as those who attend top independent schools, for free. Leaders in business, media culture, academia and politics have pledged to give a talk to students in a state secondary school once a year to raise aspirations and broaden horizons. The idea is to level the playing field and for it to become the norm for leaders in their fields to give talks in state schools and colleges.

**Simon Woolley says:** "Visiting Mossbourne Academy is an opportunity that can potentially change the lives of many young people – by talking directly to the people that represents the UK's future workforce, I hope to drive home the message that aspiration is available to us all and can help shape what we become later in life – whether it be a lawyer, doctor, civil servant, entrepreneur or even a politician and a senior one at that – the importance of working hard and maximising opportunities should not be lost on our young people".

### **For media enquiries:**

Please contact Carol Glover at the Education and Employers Taskforce on 0203 206 0513 or 07720088475 or Rob McKenzie on 0203 206 0508 or 07833 505055. Photos will be available.

### **Notes to editors:**

*Speakers for Schools* is run by the Education and Employers Taskforce, an independent charity that aims to ensure that every school and college has an effective partnership with employers which provide young people with inspiration, motivation, knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to help them achieve their potential.

*Speakers for Schools* was launched in England in October 2011 and has since launched in Wales and Scotland. Please visit: <http://www.speakers4schools.org/> for a full list of supporting speakers and more about how it works.

### **Venue:**

Mossbourne Academy, 100 Downs Park Road, London, E5 8JY.

(Ends)