

TESTIMONIAL

**Letter from a Sixth Form Student
at Ranelagh School, Bracknell,**

2 years after taking part in a Workshop

Explore - 2 Years On.

April 2005

When I think back to the days of Sixth Form at Ranelagh, I mostly sit there and smile - partly with happy memories and partly with bemusement that I actually managed to complete my A Levels.

I took on the role of Explore Coordinator for Ranelagh at the start of my final year. At first I had the impression that Explore was going to be something that would enable me to understand marriage a bit more, do something that was totally different to anything that had been previously offered to our year group and to have the chance to really get to grips with the questions that had been bugging me.

How could people over the age of 30 have sex?

How could two people who married at 20 know that they were going to be together until they were 90?

What happens to a marriage after a couple have children?

The list was seemingly endless, and I did feel sorry for some of our couples, who, after a few sessions were really getting bombarded with questions that we really wanted to know, rather than the politically correct questions that we felt we should ask. (Where did you meet? etc)

We had a group of about 10 students from years 11 and 12, and although we mostly hadn't spoken before, we became strangely connected after the sessions, as if we had been privy to some great secret. Looking back now, the thing that has struck me the most was our ignorance, how we thought we knew all about relationships when in reality we were dumbfounded to realise we knew next to nothing.

The best thing about Explore was the knowledge that it gave me; it was almost like a crash course for life in some ways. The fact that we could ask anything, face to face with real couples, was quite empowering. SEM had a huge impact on my life; I would wholeheartedly recommend it to any student who has ever wondered about how relationships work in reality.