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School sleep out proves to be real eye opener for students

By Ashley Preece
 News Reporter

A GROUP of Perry Barr pupils swapped their comfy beds for cardboard boxes recently, joining hundreds of other fundraisers at the St Basil's Sleep Out in the grounds of Birmingham Cathedral.

Students from Eden Boys' secondary school, situated on Wellhead Lane, once again took part in the annual event which aims to raise awareness of homelessness among young people.

It brought together almost 700 people from organisations across the region to get a taste of sleeping rough, while raising money through sponsorship.

Among them were 13 pupils from Year 8 and 9 at Eden Boys' School, together with heads of year Farhan Bhayat and Usman Masood.

The pupils worked as a team to build their shelter for the night, using cardboard boxes and plastic sheeting.

"They heard from young people who have turned their lives around with the support of St Basil's before settling down to try and get some sleep.

Year 9 pupil Anis said: "My St Basil's Sleep Out experience was an eye-opener.

"I was able to see how people who are not as fortunate as us live without a roof



Students from Eden Boy's School during their sleep out for St Basil's in Birmingham.

over their heads."

Fellow student Unais added: "It was very cold outside and many of us found it really hard to sleep as the temperature dropped to minus one.

"This event has made me more grateful for the things I have, and most of all my bed."

Year 8 pupil Dayaan com-

mented: "I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend such a great event.

"I now know how those less fortunate than us live and sleep in the cold. We must all be grateful of what we have."

Farhan Bhayat, head of Year 9 at Eden Boys' School, added: "This was the second time our

school has supported the St Basil's Sleep Out.

"It was a profound experience for our pupils to spend a night on the street; it certainly helped them to gain a deeper understanding of the causes of youth homelessness and consider ways in which our school can help."