



Knowsley
City Learning Centres

CLC Newsletter

www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk

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Welcome to the Knowsley City Learning Centre newsletter.
Once again the Centres have been extremely busy with a range of primary, secondary and community activities.

Training Young Researchers at Whiston CLC



The City Learning Centres were the venue for the first sessions in a programme of training for Y8 students who will become researchers in school.

The aim of the sessions was to work with student-researchers to improve participation in teaching and learning by gathering the views of their peers on a range of subjects. At Whiston CLC, students from Bowring School and All Saints were the pilot group who, alongside the Schools Partnership Research Officer, one of our Teaching and Learning Consultants and the

Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Bowring School spent the day learning about qualitative and quantitative research, triangulation, questionnaires and asking good questions. Kirkby CLC was the second venue to hold the session which involved students from Brookfield School, All Saints and Ruffwood.

Everybody was very impressed by the enthusiasm and interest shown by the Young Researchers. Their efforts on the day suggest they will be very good at gathering and representing the views of their classmates to school councils, senior management teams and school governors.

Both sessions were very enjoyable. Students all agreed that working in the CLC was "great –brilliant - fun!"

Kirkby's Zone is finally here!!!



For the last 7 weeks a small group of people from Kirkby Locality Centre have been working on a fantastic project. Once a week they, with the help of Paul Culshaw and the staff from Huyton Creative Learning Centre, have been using Microsoft Publisher and Word to produce a newsletter. The newsletter consists of information about activities and individuals within the service, including birthdays, anniversaries, good news, lots of photographs and a 'fun corner' filled with jokes, games and a guess who! This is an on going project and the first of many newsletters to come!!



During the Easter holidays Knowsley CLCs held the Portugal Experience seeing over 130 young people from across Knowsley participating in a range of exciting activities. The activities allowed the children to explore and research the culture, history and language of this fascinating country. The children not only learnt basic Portuguese but they also participated in rooster puppet making, plate design, cookery were the students made Caldo Verde soup, collage design, making their own passports and designed a PowerPoint presentation which was show on the last afternoon to all the students' parents and guardians.



The children said:

"I really enjoyed this week. The staff are really great. I would like to say thank you to all of the staff."

"I enjoyed drawing Portuguese cartoons and making stories on the story maker."

"Thanks for making it fun, it was boss and a great week."

"I liked to come and learn about Portugal and I will come back next year."

"It was brilliant the best ever Kate the teacher is lovely so is Michael Obrigado (this means thank you) to everyone who works at the CLC."

The parents said:

"Connor gets a lot out of these sessions as he has special needs & social skills problems it is very important for him to be mixing & socialising with other children."

"Children really enjoyed all the activities; they made lots of new friends, wonderful staff and facilities many thanks."

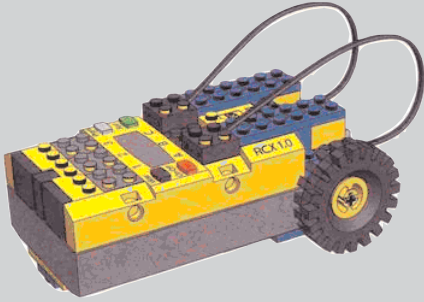
"An excellent activity introducing children to a culture and language they may not normally encounter. Thanks to all."

"Lovely to see the confidence in all the children during the presentation Brilliant!"

"Both my children really enjoyed the four days; it was fantastic that they had somewhere to go that was free and educational thank you all."



Lego Mind Storms



A combination of years 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils from St Luke's Primary School have recently attended Kirkby City Learning Centre on a Monday afternoon for a 6 week period to cover control technology. To do this the pupils used Lego mind storms. Lego mindstorms for Schools is a modular concept for teaching groups of children from 8 to 16+ in a classroom which also covers QCA units from Art & Design and Science. During the 6 weeks the pupils were able to build there own robot and also add sensors such as light and heat to it. Once built the children programmed the robot to move in different directions using computers.

Media Activities

Over the last few months a number of schools have used the CLC to film presentations, performances , and news programmes.

St Albert's filmed a fantastic presentation all about the city of "Liverpool" this gave the children the opportunity to research landmarks and present there findings in a fun and exciting atmosphere! This also gave the children the chance to work as part of a team out side of their usual school environment.

Brookfield High School filmed game shows and advertisements for their Media Studies G.C.S.E Course work. This entailed the students working together to produce scripts and to direct and edit their performance.

St Columbas reception class acted out there favourite book "The Royal Dinner". The children dressed up in costume and made an Oscar winning performance.

Overdale Primary performed the popular book "Handa's Surprise" dressing up as the animals that steal all of Handa's fruit that she is taking to another village to give her friend and let me tell you there were a few cheeky monkeys in the group!

Plus One Challenge / House Magazine



Knowsley's Plus One Challenge programme has been featured in the most recent edition of The House Magazine - the only political title that provides MPs and peers with the chance to write articles about the issues they want to see raised. The magazine features articles and features by some of the most senior politicians, journalists and political commentators and is regarded as a valuable resource for understanding and influencing debate. The

House Magazine is also distributed to the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Assembly as well as industry and academia. Knowsley were specifically requested to submit an article on the Plus One Challenge for inclusion and this is a real credit to all who continue to support the project and most specifically to our young people who take part each year. A copy of the article can be viewed on the Plus One Challenge Website www.knowsleyplusonechallenge.org.uk

We wish all our young people every success in their forthcoming exams.

SENTE (Special Educational Needs Technology Enrichment) training



Kirkby CLC has been the venue for SENTE (Special Educational Needs Technology Enrichment) training for eleven Springfield staff. Springfield has been invited to become a SENTE centre by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. Two trained tutors from the school are running workshops for Teaching Assistants on how to use ICT to support the learning of pupils with special educational needs. Once completed, Springfield will function as the North Merseyside SENTE Centre, with the ability to run the training to a wider audience within Knowsley schools and North Merseyside.

John Parkes - Acting Headteacher of Springfield.

Knowsley CLC's - reality_governance.com

Knowsley CLCs supported the recent reality_governance.com event.

School governors in Knowsley took part in a ground-breaking "e-conference", using a video link up to talk to other education leaders in the North West.

CLC staff setup the video conferencing link and provided full support during the event.

The reality_governance.com event was a UK first and linked governors in Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral, Wigan and St Helens.

The Knowsley conference was opened by Councillor Round, Leader of the Council who also presented long service awards to governors who have been in office at least 12 years. The event then went "live", allowing the governors and advisors to talk to each other via the multi session video conferencing.

Damian Allen, Executive Director of Knowsley's Children's Services, is Chair of the Partnership and was delighted with the video link up.

He said: "This gave us and the governors from across the North West a real chance to listen to each other and talk things through."

Cronton CofE After School Camera Club



Cronton CofE have been using Whiston and Prescott City Learning Centre to run an after school club on a Wednesday after school. The aim of the club is to allow ten Yr 4 children access to using digital cameras and video editing software namely Windows Movie Maker. Supported by CLC staff students are using the skills they have learnt to create a virtual tour of the school. The finished tours will then be voted for by children at the school with the winner having the tour placed on the Cronton school website. The six week activity will then be ran for a further six weeks with a new set of ten children from the

school. The aim of the club is to allow children to experience using digital media and to express themselves with such equipment and software.

Following on from the virtual tours the children will also have the opportunity to have a go at doing MTV Boom Academy. MTV Boom asks children to create videos from a music sample supplied by MTV. The children will have access to video cameras in order to create their own interpretations of a song they have selected.

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