



Knowsley
City Learning Centres

CLC Newsletter

www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk

May 2008

Firm Foundations



Knowsley lays foundations for exam success.

Firm Foundations

www.myfirmfoundations.org.uk

A different way of learning and gaining qualifications.



Steve Stewart, Standards Taskforce Director. Ashley Davies and Kieron Richardson from Hollyoaks. Damian Allen, Executive Director Children's Services. Cllr Graham Wright, Portfolio holder for Education, Lifelong and Children's Services. Cllr Ron Round, Leader of the Council. Pupils from Alt Bridge, All Saints and St Edmund Arrowsmith School.

Building on the success of the Plus One Challenge, the Firm Foundations programme is set to enhance and personalise learning in Knowsley particularly in maths and English GCSE's. The programme is being backed by Hollyoaks stars Ashley Davies who plays teenage mum Amy Barnes and Kieron Richardson who plays Ste Hay. The launch was held at Huyton Creative Learning Centre.

Firm Foundations will encompass a range of traditional and innovative approaches to encourage learning amongst 15-16 year olds. This includes online learning, pod casts, revision programmes and downloadable video clips to help young people to develop their own individual learning alongside one to one tuition. Knowsley Council aims to build on the nine year's of continuous improvement in GCSE results while also equipping young people to succeed in the workplace and improve their life chances.

Damian Allen, Executive Director for Children Services explains how this is about making sure learning methods are tailored to the individual needs of students: "It is well documented that all of us learn differently, some visually, some by listening and others by reading. To help make sure that our students are learning as effectively as possible we have introduced a range of resources to help maximise potential, wide opportunities and inspire and motive young people to learn".

Councillor Graham Wright, Cabinet Member for Children's Services said:

"Firm Foundations is about making sure our young people take control of their own learning with the support of a tutor so that they achieve the best results they can. Motivating students to achieve is a main aim of the programme and that is why we are offering incentives for passing tests."



All final year students will receive personal revision packs produced by Knowsley CLCs which include tips and resources to help them prepare for their exams. They will be challenged to achieve a GCSE or ALAN (Adult Literacy and Numeracy) pass in maths and English and to raise their predicted grades by one in at least one subject between mock and real exams.



Damian Allen
Executive Director for Children Services

Test Model Learning Environments - TMEs

The CLCs have developed a Test Model Environment (TME) in each centre which allows teachers to work in a realistic learning environment that will reflect the type of learning spaces that are being built under the Knowsley Future Schooling programme. This is in preparation for migration to the new Learning Centres; teachers in Knowsley will be coached in supporting students to learn within 21st Century learning environments.

The concept of developing TMEs was arrived at as a solution to preparing teachers and students for colonising the new learning centre spaces, before they were built.

The TMEs will comprise a replica of the Home Base that Years 7 and 8 will colonise upon migration to the Learning Centre and will allow teachers time to try out new ways of working in "real time" with hands-on support.

The TMEs will enable teachers to "test drive" the learning spaces before embarking upon full scale habitation upon the opening of their Learning Centre. Students will be able to test out the benefits of these flexible learning environments by trying out new approaches to learning and testing out the types of furniture, technologies and space layouts prior to working with them in the new centres.



Production Studio - Huyton CLC

In recent weeks the studio at Huyton CLC has facilitated a full range of activities in support of our partner schools media curriculum. All Saints Catholic High School 6th form I Media Group produced advertisements as part of the media portfolios; Brookfield High School designed games and advertisements to support their GCSE Media coursework and Roby college media group designed a daytime TV information programme which looked at music, dance and outdoor activities. Not to miss out on the fun several primary schools have visited the studio to performed nursery rhymes, plays and number songs which were all captured on DVD.

Knowsley CLCs in collaboration with several northwest authorities have produced a DVD showcasing the education developments throughout the region. The DVD was launched at the Governing Schools of the Future Learning Together Partnership event.

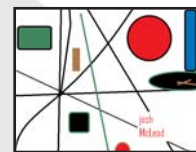
As part of Knowsley's commitment to support young people and to seek their views on issues affecting their lives, the CLC and Children's Services organised an event to capture the young people's views on leadership. The sessions allowed the young people to question and challenge the decision making process in Knowsley. Their views were captured and shown to delegates attending the KMBC Leadership Conference 2008.

Creating & Manipulating Images @ Huyton CLC

St. Josephs year 2 children came to Huyton Creative Learning Centre earlier this year. After consulting with their teacher, Mrs Hart, it was identified that the children had to cover Unit 2B - Creating Images of the National Curriculum which include drawing lines; straight, diagonal and vertical, creating various shapes in different sizes, using different primary colours and getting used to using the 'undo' button. This lesson would then allow Mrs Hart to link the activities to the curriculum later on in the year.



The students use a computer graphics package to create pictures; select the most appropriate tools to match their purpose; develop an image and modify and correct their work as they go. The Microsoft package Paint was most ideal to use to cover all areas. By using this software package we got to use various tools such as creating lines, shapes, colours and using the 'undo' button. The students produced fantastic work and the day was a total success!!!



Knowsley Renews Taecanet E-Learning Service



Knowsley MBC has renewed its agreement with Taecanet to provide all Knowsley schools with the web based e-learning service for the remainder of the academic year. A survey was conducted late Autumn and early Spring and a growing number of schools replied that they were using the service, wanted to continue to use it, or intended to use it in the near future.

By Christmas 2007 users of Taecanet's service had completed more than 1,000,000 Learning Journeys nationally and case studies show that significant improvements in Year 6 science SATs results have been achieved. Taecanet now includes Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Citizenship for KS1, KS2 and KS3. Work is now underway to complete KS4 Science, and KS2 and KS3 Numeracy will be commissioned during this summer. In addition sample units in Modern Foreign Languages and Literacy are planned. Current users can allocate all relevant science units to Year 6 and Year 9 students in a single "SATS revision pack", and teachers can separately set "revision tests" to measure performance before and after setting the "Learning Journeys". The service now offers more than 3,500 learning activities and is Free to all schools in Knowsley.

Detailed colour coded performance reports keep teachers updated with each student's progress, as well as whole-class traffic light reports for trend analysis. All this is available to schools NOW at no cost, and remember the service runs 24 hour per day from any internet access point.

Enterprise in Art - Liverpool Capital of Culture 2008

During enterprise week year 10 pupils from Brookfield High School were challenged to create an exhibition of work to celebrate the Capital of Culture. Each student created a large painting around the given theme. The final results as you can see are outstanding.

Students worked independently to produce high quality work in the Art studios and the Kirkby CLC. They used a range of techniques including Digital photography, graphics, painting and Textiles. Pupils have worked alongside teachers in the organisation of the exhibition. Work has also been compiled to produce an exciting calendar for 2008 along with a range of prints and cards.

The exhibition will remain on display at Kirkby CLC until the summer term.



Gifted and Talented Dance and Gymnastics, Film and Drama



During half term Kirkby CLC hosted the Gifted & Talented Dance and Gymnastics activities. This was a week long programme designed to challenge the young people.

The students took part in a range of activities including designing a dance costume, researching the history of dance, choreographing dance and gymnastic routines.



Throughout the week students took part in gymnastic and dance lessons and created their own routines. At the end of the week the students were split into small groups to create a dance costume with limited resources. This allowed the students to use their imagination, there were some fantastic costumes designed for the fashion show.

On the final day the students performed their dance and gymnastic routines to an audience of family, carers and friends.

The City Learning Centre's also ran a Film & Drama activity for Key Stage 2 Gifted & Talented students. As part of the activities children designed badges, investigated and created play scripts based on famous fables. The students also designed backgrounds, props and costumes to go along with their plays which was made into a DVD.



The student's scripts were based on famous fables which they then re-wrote and created storyboards and film scripts. The students rehearsed the plays and then filmed them using the latest chromakey technology. Backgrounds were designed using paints and colours, scanned in and used as a backdrop on the green screen.

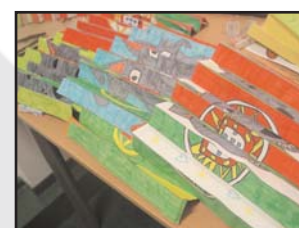


Easter Half Term - Spirit of the Wolves Revisited



As part of the City Learning Centres Easter programme students took part in the Spirit of the Wolves Revisited. This follows on from the hugely successful summer activity where the student's tracked explorers as they travelled around the Peneda Gerês National Park in the Minho region of Northern Portugal, to conduct educational, cultural and conservation activities. The students participated in researching the park once more to see the progression of the conservation issues discovered in the summer. The students also created artworks for wolves,

learnt a variety of rainforest dances, practiced their Portuguese and produced a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their week's work. As the students presented their findings to their families and carers they performed their rainforest dance which was a great success. You can view the children's work at www.spiritofthewolves.org.uk.



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