

Community Leadership Programme



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The second year of the Community Leadership Programme gets underway



Now in its second year, and with all of the district's 18 mainstream high schools signed up, the Community Leadership Programme is taking a further 180 young people through experiences that will challenge and prepare them for their last years at school and for work or further education.

This year we're giving participants even more opportunity to unleash their potential by increasing the second phase of the Programme from two days and one night to three days and two nights.

Tim Craven, WDH's Community Leadership Manager said: "We're looking to build on the successes of last year. It's great to see how the programme changes young peoples lives for the better."

Beginning at Thornes Park, Wakefield in November the young people started to learn about working in teams, how to communicate and get along with people they don't know.

In December, the participants attended the Outward Bound Centre at Ullswater for three days, where they used their newfound skills to take part in activities such as climbing and abseiling.

The final stage of the 2007/2008 Programme will take 100 young people to the Outward Bound Centre in Wales during April 2008 where they will take part in even more challenges to test their skills and prepare them for the future.

"We are all better than we know. If only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less."

**KURT HAHN,
CO-FOUNDER OF
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More about the Community Leadership Programme

Launched in April 2006, WDH's Community Leadership Programme was established to help create confident, sustainable communities through unlocking the potential of almost 1,000 of the district's young people over five years.



WDH got together with the Outward Bound Trust to put together a programme that would help young people become better equipped to choose their pathway to employment and make a real difference to the communities that they live in.

Participants take part in outdoor activities across the UK and are put through their paces with mental and physical activities that are designed to test and develop teamwork, leadership and their communication skills.

Alex Lumb shares his thoughts about the Community Leadership Programme.

Speaking about the Programme, Alex says, "It taught me that you have to live life to the full and never feel like you should hold yourself back. You can have a brilliant time and make lots of new friends. Plus it will be one of the most exciting learning experiences you will have."

Looking to the future

Following the completion of the Programme, Alex is now looking forward to the future.

Alex says, "I am applying for an electrical installation apprenticeship and hope that some day I will have my own electrical business."



In focus

“The first year of this programme has been a resounding success as far as Ossett School is concerned. All the students who have been involved in the various days have benefited whether they went on to the subsequent events or not.



The level of self confidence that has been generated is brilliant along with the increase of self esteem for each individual. Their ability to work with others either in teams or in competition has improved immeasurably.

Their work, attitude and behaviour has improved considerably during the course, and following their trip to Ullswater, it has reached previously unobtainable heights.”

Steve Tiplady, Assistant Headteacher, Ossett School and Sixth Form College

Partners support

Thanks to the support from our partners, the first group of young people have successfully completed the Programme and are already putting their newfound skills to the test.

Help Us Raise Funds



Five of our employees including Kevin Dodd, WDH's Chief Executive; Tim Craven, Community Leadership Manager; Simon Leonard, Corporate Communications Manager; Debbie Greenlay, Corporate Support Manager and Jeff Colley, Risk and Audit Manager will run the London Marathon in April 2008 to

raise funds for the Community Leadership Programme. The team aim to raise £10,000 to ensure that the Programme continues to benefit more young people in the future.

We would welcome your support, if you would like to sponsor our team please contact Tim Craven (details overleaf).

Here's what some of the young people have said about the Programme



“I think I don't have to settle for what I have in my future. I'm a stronger person and realise I have responsibilities outside my own life.”

“We have learnt about ourselves and how we can improve ourselves.”

“I have learnt how to communicate verbally and non verbally and how encouragement is a big part of a team.”

“I now know how to learn from my mistakes and to show others support.”

“I have learnt to respect other people's views.”

“I've found it's easier to get on with people than you think.”

“I learnt to believe in myself and not be negative.”



WDH's involvement with young people spans further than the Community Leadership Programme

Mentoring

Through the links created by the Community Leadership Programme, WDH's employees are now getting involved in mentoring schemes at schools across the district. With mock interviews and career fairs, the scheme gives students the boost they need to prepare them for life after GCSEs.

The schemes are aimed at students who are not meeting their full potential, and mentoring gives them the chance to gain knowledge and experience from an impartial person, which helps improve their chance of success in their GCSEs.

Apprentice schemes



In January three of our apprentices, Lee Geldard, James Stewart and Craig Deakin went along to Normanton Freeston High School, near Wakefield to help students construct three shelters for outdoor technology lessons.



The shelters will be used by students learning bricklaying, plumbing and painting and decorating skills while studying for a BTEC Skills For Working Life course in Practical Skills.



Year 11 student and Community Leadership Programme participant Craig McNulty said: "I've really enjoyed taking part. It's been fun to learn joinery and woodwork skills, and they should really help me with my course."



Tim Craven, WDH's Community Leadership Manager, said: "Being able to support events like this is just another way that the Programme can contribute towards encouraging the development of young people by helping them towards achieving academic qualifications."



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