

WROUGHTON YOUTH SESSIONS, ON BEHALF OF WROUGHTON AND WICHELSTOWE PARISH COUNCIL

Dates: 22nd July to 30th Sept

Number of Young People interactions: **127**

Age ranges: **10 to 15**

Topics discussed: **Friends, Family, School, Relationships, Future**

We have had a great few months at Wroughton but are ready to go back inside, the young people were keen to share with us their views of going back inside and whilst they were excited about it they were concerned about the dark evenings and requested if we could run the sessions earlier to allow them to go home when it was less dark and late. Several young people shared that they missed out on a majority

of the indoor time last year as they weren't allowed to travel home on their own at the times we had set. With this in mind we have worked with the young people and the wonderful team at the Parish Council and the Ellendune Library team to change the times we will be running the two sessions as we move indoors.



Update provided by Kevin -

Since the last update it's been all change at the Youth Club with Kat seeing her last few weeks out as she moves on to other roles within SMASH. Kevin has now taken over the running and is joined by Ren who brings youth and enthusiasm and is already proving to be a hit with the young people who attend.

7th October will see our return to Ellendune Library, thanks to the Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council, but we see off the summer at Maunsell Way having had some great events. The summer was a hot one and so much so that we purchased sun tents to keep everyone cool. Also, ice pops have been a refreshing favourite compared to the final two weeks and darker evenings which saw a welcome transition to hot chocolate.



There were some less busy periods over the summer as our young guests go on their holidays, but it's otherwise been great to see the same faces coming back week after week. Sports proved less popular as the sun beat down but a few picnic blankets we bought provided a safe and comfortable



space for our young people to sit and chat. There were varying topics, but they enjoyed talking about their families, school (and the new school year), friends and just enjoying a sit down and games with Kevin and Ren.





Paint was popular and some great canvas art was created by using balloons and paints. Clothing and environmentally safe powder paint was also used to decorate each other and especially Kevin!



Feeling they can contribute to the local environment and area is also important and we tried to merge fun

with education. In the final week at Maunsell Way, and following July's litter picking success, the young people were encouraged to learn more about nature and the benefit some of life's small creatures can have on the environment. They enjoyed seeking out discarded vegetation to make invertebrate hotels they could take home, so insects had a safe place to hibernate over the coming months.



Sometimes though, just a chill out zone and a chat was what made them happiest. We made sure to include them in what they wanted as events for the months ahead and also what opening times made them feel comfortable and fit

in with home life. Again, it shows the trust we have built with them which makes them comfortable to open up about themselves and to keep coming back. It's also good to see the camaraderie they display with each other. With the new change in school years, we felt it important to canvas their thoughts on whether they wanted the previous year group split (which would separate some of them) or to change so they could remain together. They're happy for those new relationships to continue so from 7th October we are adjusting it accordingly. We also brought the start forward an hour by listening to their concerns about leaving when it's dark and feeling safer. It's essential for young people to feel they can contribute to something and equally as important to know their input is valued and listened to.

For October we are painting masks for Halloween, Decorating Halloween biscuits and also doing some safe Pumpkin carving. The festive season will see a karaoke evening, art projects and a Christmas Party. Hot chocolate will continue to feature on a regular basis and as always, we involve our young people in the decision-making process for their club.



As always, a massive thanks for all your support and encouragement.

From the team,

Kevin, Ren and Amy