

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

Dates: **1st October to 31st December 2025**

Number of Young People interactions: 112

Number of Session: **11**

Age ranges: **10 to 15**

Topics discussed: **Friends, Family, School, Relationships, Community, Future, Social media and Christmas!**

As of October 2025 we moved back inside and with thanks to Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council we were given use of the Library at the Ellendune Centre. This provided a warmer and safer environment for our young guests and after canvassing what suited them; we moved the start time to 5pm to allow for an earlier finish and to make them feel safer getting home. We felt it was essential to make sure we listened to what they wanted to make the club work for them and their

home life. It's important to make this feel like 'their' club. In other news, SMASH became rebranded as "Young Swindon and Wiltshire" as of 1st December. A move designed to recognise the work now being done across the county and not just Swindon.

Update provided by Kevin -

As per the last update Kat has moved on to another role within the charity and Kevin took over, with Ren joining him every Tuesday. This was Ren's first youth club, and she has enjoyed it immensely, bringing youth (she's the youngest member of our staff) and fresh ideas so the young people enjoy each session. She also makes a great Hot Chocolate! Amy continues as overall line manager.



A colder time of year has seen some numbers reduce, which is expected. The outdoor environment offered warmth plus far more space which encouraged activity and sport. Despite that we have seen six new members who have kept coming back week after week. Inside there's more of an opportunity to sit and chat, something we found

the latter group seemed more in favour of. It was great to continue to build trust and listen to how life in



general was proving great, but even sometimes demanding for them. Kevin and Ren were always on hand to offer support and advice, giving time for a one to one where needed. It's great that young people can reach out to trusted professionals and receive a response that makes them feel not just listened to but valued and supported. We have seen some great positivity come from this and the group have felt safe to disclose matters such as bereavement. This sensitive topic could not realistically be approached and covered if they didn't feel safe and trusted where they are.



Aside from getting to know each other, the club is also all about fun and games and some great seasonal events had been organised which our young people took on with gusto. We had pumpkin carving, gingerbread decorating, mask painting, marshmallow snowmen making and a Christmas buffet. Our young guests have really enjoyed being a part of such events and the photos on this page reflect this. We've found they really embrace combining crafting with food.

It's been quite interesting to see social changes in the group and how interests develop and mature. Our Nintendo Switch became less of a focus as we found the club

goers wanted direct interaction with the Youth Workers in board games and quizzes. Ren introduced "Imposters"; a one-word description game where one member had to guess the subject and not be found out to be the 'imposter'. This is the favourite! We also purchased a popular boardgame "Outsmarted". It's similar to trivial pursuit however question sets are age specific to each player so young people have every advantage over an older player. It relied heavily on good internet (it needed Kevin's phone to display the questions) and again, it's with thanks to the Parish Council for granting access to a faster connection (the password is only on Kevin's phone – honest!). Apart from these, who could ever deny "Uno" and "Taco, Goat, Cheese, Pizza" as being firm favourite card games.



Being in the centre is a good way to remind young people to mature and share and respect a space given to them. It's heart-warming to see they do. There have been other events going on in the main hall, particularly over the festive period, and it's good to see they recognise the library space is specifically for them and given freely but

requires continual good behaviour and no disruption for others. They acknowledge that the local Parish Council have provided this for their enjoyment and they are grateful, keeping the area tidy and helping to clean up if it's ever required.

Again, and as before, a massive thanks to the Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council for all your support and providing a safe space for young people to flourish and enjoy themselves.

We're back on 6th January!

From the team,

Kevin, Ren and Amy