

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

Dates: **1st January 2025 to 10th March 2026**

Number of Young People interactions: **71**

Number of Session: **10**

Age ranges: **10 to 15 years old**

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

With continued thanks to Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council we remained inside at the Library at the Ellendune Centre. The plan, however, is to move back to Maunsell Way, Pump Track from 7th April. Generally, the numbers will pick up once we are outside and the warmer weather is with us. Numbers have naturally been lower inside over the colder and darker months, and we have lost some of our regulars due to moving out of the area but the six new members

we attracted as per the last report have stayed, with another two added to the ranks. From more relaxed activities inside we can look to re-introduce some more active pursuits once outside. The plan from April will be sporting activities, safe crafting events as well as getting Young People to support the community with litter picking events (with prizes for the most collected). We've found being outside also gathers more interest from the public about what we do and some new young people get interested about joining in.

Update provided by Kevin -

Ren has now been a regular member of the team and is well liked by our Group. Aside from her own youthful approach Ren has been key in bringing new activities to the Club for Young People to enjoy. She has created Quizzes, hosted Bingo and introduced 'The Pirate Game' - Far too complex to explain here but she invested a lot of time in preparing individual sheets for the group who all interacted together in a quest for Gold (Haribo)! She still feels her shining achievement is the Dorito blind taste test on National Tortilla Day (Feb 24). Who knew there were



so many flavours and that Golden Sriracha tastes horrible? We have also been graced with Gigi who is supporting YSW as part of her college course. She is studying CYPF (Working with Children Young People and Families) and has brought further energy and also insight into further education which she's happy to share with those thinking of college. It's a good opportunity for them to hear first-hand experience about life after school from someone only a few years their senior.

Aside from the Quizzes and Bingo amongst others, we found our guests really enjoyed some more online interactive activities. Thanks again to the Parish Council we were permitted to access better wifi for a YSW laptop to connect. This meant we could host some interactive games with our groups such as Boggle. They connected using their own phones to Kevin's Netflix account and could stream the game so everyone played together. It's so simple to set up yet our youngest group love it and get very competitive. The best thing was seeing their word skills develop over time and they realise they are improving spelling and their vocabulary. Despite being play focused it's been a great educational tool and the measured improvement in their language is noticeable. Another recent activity was a game where one person used a phone to examine a virtual suitcase adorned with wires, buttons and codes. The others couldn't see the screen but had to listen to what this person



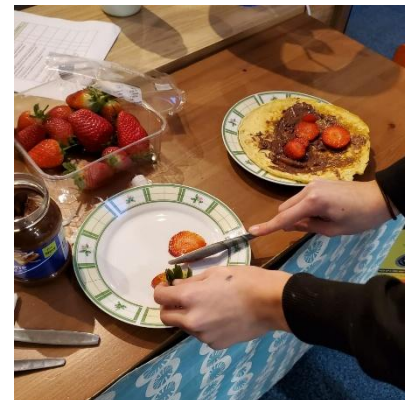
could see and worked together to read an online manual and decipher the codes for the other person to deactivate the suitcase. It's become a great way to get young people to work cohesively and communicate effectively. There was also some fun on a Murder Mystery game based around the Knives Out films where everyone used reasoning and questioning to find out who the assailant was. Don't worry, we are mindful to ensure that all games played are age appropriate. It's although worth noting that in a world where social

media and phone use amongst young people has become taboo, it's nice to put these devices to an educational use where everyone is involved together and can improve knowledge and processing information as well communication and social skills.

Creative sides were also encouraged, especially on Pancake day where Kat and Amy took over in Kevin and Ren's absence and made pancakes for the group to decorate – as well as enjoying eating them! On the Tuesday just gone we supplied resources for them all to make



Mother's day cards which they really enjoyed and look forward to handing out on Sunday. We are aware not all children have a biological 'mum' so we are careful to still make it an inclusive event for them and promote that Mothering Sunday is also about celebrating someone special in their lives who has provided care and love over the years.



Generally then, relationships within the group continue to grow and young people who didn't initially know each other have become firm friends and competition in activities remain healthy. We have also had a visit from the local community policing team when two of the local PCSO's came in and talked to our young people. They are also planning another visit which our young people are looking forward to; particularly as one of them is interested in joining the Police. It's also great for young people to experience first-hand positive interactions with the police when social media sometimes depicts a negative view.



We still kept separate groups whilst inside with years 6 - 9 in earlier and 10 - 11 afterwards (it will be one larger one when we go outside because of the space available). Even though numbers have been lower than last year we still find they keep different interests. Our younger group enjoy the activities and direct playful interaction with the Youth Workers whilst our older group prefer to chat and discuss what matters to them. There is a strong bond between the young people and youth workers and there have been times when we have provided one to one support over matters where individuals feel anxious or are nervous about confiding in others. Matters over school and bullying have been reflected on with signposting given to the appropriate pastoral care at school to deal with it and how it can be raised to end it. There are times when we can see such interactions have a positive effect on a young person's mood and self-esteem. We pause and remember that the local council are providing a safe place overseen by YSW and it's just a place where young people are happiest being in small groups and enjoying each other's company. We always strive to ensure our evenings are Youth Led and recognise when they just want to relax and socialise.

Looking forward over the next few weeks, we are planning some further events to supplement the ones held over the festive period and the past three weeks. Another Quiz is planned and prior to Easter we will supply Easter biscuits and offer them the chance to decorate them and take home. After that it's the big location change and all the events from there will take place outside where no doubt a treasure hunt, aforementioned litter pick, picnic and sports will come to fruition.

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 outside on April 7th!

From the team,

Kevin, Ren and Amy (plus Gigi)