

Appendix 2

October Half Term Report – 26th – 31st October 2014

Account by Sue Tarry

Monday 27th was spent at Horizons. In the morning we had a session for the KS2 children and this consisted of two workshops using music as the theme. We had a drummer teach individual sessions throughout the morning and a voice/ singing coach work with the group. This was funded by our recent joined up project “Connects” with Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow.

11 children attended the day and the ages ranged from 7 – 15 years.

Learning outcomes were- confidence building and presentation. Working in a group, as a choir and also some were able to speak and sing individually.

Listening skills were reinforced, for example, in singing in rounds, waiting for the right point to come in to the song.....

Learning new skills and experiences, eg – the drumming (one child had said on his PEP document, that he would like to try drumming – he had met a target!)

Tuesday 28th – this was our day trip to Cambridge. We travelled by coach with **19 children, two teachers, one lead mentor, one social worker and one foster carer.**

This was part of the Realise scheme, which is run by Cambridge universities to encourage care leavers to come and study there. This day was all about engineering and what it means to be an engineer. We took part in a morning workshop, where we worked in groups and the task was to make a load bearing bridge out of paper and clips! This led to a competitive exercise in designing a bridge which was then tested individually to the groups. It was great fun and used many learning and thinking skills.

After lunch we were offered a tour of the campus with two of the under graduates, seeing what facilities were on offer, as well as looking at the accommodation. I think our students were impressed by the quality of

accommodation in the “halls” and the amount of activities which a student could take part in whilst at Uni.

In the afternoon there was a lecture which demonstrated the vast range of uses of engineering – not just about bridges! Then, before we set off back to Ealing, we were treated to a very inspirational talk from a care leaver (from Harrow) who was studying Law. Despite his setbacks and many moves during the time when he was fostered, he proved that it is possible to study and achieve, then gaining a place at Cambridge!

This was a long, but very inspiring day. Everybody enjoyed it. One student, a boy in year 9, later told me, when I attended his PEP meeting a week later, that he now wanted to be an engineer! Good to have such direct impact!

Wednesday 28th October

This was “the big day out” – indeed a very long day! We left Ealing at 8.00 am and travelled by coach to Stratford-Upon-Avon, where we followed in the steps of the bard, William Shakespeare, attending workshops with the RSC and attending an evening performance at the famous RSC theatre. We arrived back in Ealing at 12.00 am.

19 young people, aged from 12- 17 attended this day, together with three foster carers, a social worker and two LACET teachers.

The coach dropped us off near to the RSC theatre where we took part in the first of our workshops. This one was on stage make up, costume and wigs. Students volunteered to be dressed up as a Shakespearean character – the theme of the workshop was –“Blood and Gore!”. A tableau was presented on the famous scene where Caesar was stabbed to death. So we learnt all the tricks of the trade on how this bloody scene is presented. Well done to Sandra for volunteering to be Caesar!

After lunch we were able to spend time looking round the theatre and the displays, then exploring the immediate area around. The next workshop was on voice production, where a very skilled member of the company worked with the group of over 20, getting them to understand working with rhythm, using their bodies and voices and learning the skills which prepare an actor for voice production.

Then we split into small groups and had a look around the town, visiting Shakespeare's birthplace and tomb – even Shakespeare's ye olde sweetshop!

Before the evening performance of "Loves Labours Won" we found an accommodating pizza restaurant to rest and eat in. This proved a challenge both to the restaurant and to us, as eating with a large group is never easy. However, everyone was refreshed and we were soon in our seats to see this astounding production – a take on "Much Ado about Nothing". The staging was very impressive as well as the first rate acting, which you would expect at the RSC.

So, it was a late and long journey back home, where students were collected by also weary foster carers. However the day was really worth it, offering such a high quality experience in the theatre world as well as a day out with a large group, on a coach, making a good, all round day out!

Lots of lessons were learnt about being out in a group, social skills and appropriate behaviour are always on the agenda. We could only have managed this trip with the help and support of the foster carers and social worker who came with us. As with all trips, staffing is so important and it was such a long day! However, I am sure that the impact of this trip will continue for some time with the group, not only with their school studies but on a personal level.

Thursday 30th October

This was a quiet day after yesterday. We offered study support at Horizons with opportunity for students to catch up on homework and studies.

6 students came in to do maths and catch up with their studies.

Friday 31st October.

The morning session was spent with the continuation of the drumming workshops, where individual students were able to work with our guest musician. The others did an art workshop. At lunchtime our regular "gardening ladies", Linda and Ella came in to run a workshop based on Halloween. Pumpkin soup was made for lunch as well as pumpkin pie, in the cookery session, then for the rest of the afternoon, pumpkins were carved

into scary faces and displayed around Horizons. This was a definitely active and fun activity and all the children really enjoyed it. Bulbs were planted around Horizons so that we can look forward to a beautiful spring!

7 children took part in the day aged from 7- 13.