

# Wash House February Half Term Scheme 2015



Quaggys holiday schemes are back! 2015s first scheme ran during February half term, beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and continuing Tuesday and Wednesday inside Heathside and Lethbridge hall and completing the week on Thursday, when young people were given the opportunity to go on a trip to Lewisham bowl, for a fun game of bowling. Like last years schemes, sessions lasted 4 hours per day and were free to all young people aged 8-18 years old, although we always opened at 12pm there were always young people eager to attend the session from as early as 11:30.

Starting off the week young people went straight into the kitchen to make some delicious desserts with youth worker Yasmin whipping up pancakes, decorating them with toppings of their choice and finally enjoying them!

All 18 attendees were able to have a turn in the kitchen, taking full advantage of having two pancakes each! Everyone worked well in the kitchen and showed good manners and was enthusiastic to get involved even with the cleaning! Young people also showed excitement in playing a new game at the youth club called flags of the world which is an educational game where you guess the flags representing all the different countries around the world, young people worked both individually and in teams they showed good listening skills, taking turns and team work. It was interesting to see how quickly this game became everybody's favourite as the game started with 3 players and within 20 minutes had 10 young people all playing around the table. Attendees also got involved in the youth clubs general activities such as table tennis, connect four, table hockey and table football.



On the second day of the holiday scheme there was an increase in attendance and staff met some new young people who had seen our posters around the area and some who were friends of regular attendees, it was clear young people enjoyed themselves on the first day enough to promote to their friends. As well as bringing friends to the Tuesday session, young people from the Monday session brought back their consent forms for the bowling trip on Thursday, which young people



seemed very excited to attend, spaces were all filled by the end of Tuesday's session. During this session young people made pizza baguettes in which most of the young people are experts at making as they have cooked pizza baguettes with the club at least twice before, it was clear to see young people were confident to make these without help from staff as they spread the puree across the baguette bread then applied cheese and toppings if they wanted and then placed them in the oven. It was nice to see that young people can now make pizza baguettes without any input from staff its clear to see the progression of our young people. Later on in the session young people asked if it was possible to go to the ball court of which all 3 staff and 20

young people went over to the ball court for a game of football, young people divided the teams equally and played for an hour in the cold but sunny day. Although some did not play football they was happy to watch and support the rest of the group, other young people who were just walking past ended up joining in the football.

The Wednesday session attendance increased with 22 young people at the centre for the whole 4 hours of the session. Young people enjoyed singing to the radio as they took part in competitions organised by youth worker Antoine. Antoine arranged for young people to play even opponents in table tennis, table football and connect four competitions. Most were excited to take part with the chance on winning a prize whilst some were happy to watch, although staff encouraged as many young people as possible to get involved with the taking part. Especially because staff know during competitions young people can really thrive, increase in confidence all whilst having fun. Some of the boys had been looking forward to the table tennis competitions all week and had been practising all through the sessions therefore you could really see the focus in their faces and how much winning meant to them. Young people also asked to go over to the ball court again in which staff agreed after young people had played their current games on the sports table. Over at the ball court even more young people joined us than the previous day at the ball court across the road, so many that staff ended up having to make three teams so that the pitch was not overcrowded during games!





Once the teams were divided equally a mini tournament commenced. The young people left the session with really positive attitudes, they expressed how much fun that had had over the past 3 days and how bored they would have been without the scheme. At the end of Wednesday's session young people were reminded about the bowling trip towards the end of the session about what time to meet and what they needed to bring with them.

On the day of the trip staff arrived just before the arranged meeting time but were greeted by 3 young people already waiting and ready to go! Gradually all the young people arrived who had given in the consent forms plus more! Some young people who we had only seen

during the Monday session wanted to come for the group but pay for themselves attended as well as one boy who had joined in at the ball court attending equalling to 4 members of staff taking 17 young people, our busiest for a trip ever. When travelling to the bowling alley young people walked in a calm manner they moved aside for oncoming people and stayed to one side, whilst walking staff split themselves up between the group have chats about the week, going back to school and how well they have behaved.

The bowling alley was completely full and we had to wait for our lanes although we pre-booked the young people responded well to being told they have to wait and used this time to eat their packed lunches, order some food and go to the arcades. It was helpful having 4 staff members there to organise the young people into groups, get them each the right shoes and divide them into even lanes. The young people really got into the competition playing as teams working together to get an overall high score, they encouraged each other to score more points and congratulated those who got strikes it was nice to see them all getting along together as one large group.

Overall the week was a great success with young people sharing with staff how much they enjoyed themselves, chatting with friends, being able to go to the ball court as a big group (as we have never done that before) and taking part in competitions.

As well as collecting young people's feedback about the week Madison also sent out



Parent feedback forms to collect information on the parent's views for the work we do with children during evening sessions and holiday schemes. The feedback was amazing from parents as they expressed how grateful they are for the club to be open, it gives their children the opportunity to be safe and have fun during holidays and also parents have seen a positive change in their children's confidence, self-motivation and being more aware of their own safety. Parents also commented on what activities they would like to see their child take part in during the next holiday schemes, this information will be used in the planning as will the young people's ideas from the young people's forum.



The next holiday scheme will be at the end of March, the Easter holiday's scheme will run for two weeks and Heathside and Lethbridge hall will continue to be open Thursday evenings during term time.

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