



FREE SKATE AUTUMN 2016

This term the target audience for Friday Free Skate was altered. Whereas before this club was aimed at young people from the local DD4 8 postcode it was becoming evident in the homework and youth clubs that our user base has shifted. Whilst the majority still come from the area surrounding The Factory Skatepark (FSP) there was a significant number who were outwith this catchment area, and as such they were unable to attend on Friday evenings at this programme. As such it was decided that the target audience for Friday Free Skate would change to anyone aged 10-16 who attended any other young programme on a weekly basis at FSP. Free Skate is now more of a reward for those attending and behaving regularly at the clubs

This is just the latest in a number of evolutions for this club, but it is already having a significant impact. Young people are aware at the other clubs they attend that if they do not behave and interact in a responsible manner with others then there will not be a space that week for them at Free Skate. Thus the dynamic has changed slightly. However, Free Skate still retains its core intention, namely to help young people develop their social skills and self-worth in an active manner, and in a safe environment.

Also, whilst with the youth club and homework club there is often a more formal angle to the sessions, with Free Skate the atmosphere is more relaxed. Staff interact with the young people in the skatepark arena on an informal basis, and often in-depth conversations can rise out of nothing. The staff are there to help the young people enjoy themselves, interact with one another in a responsible manner, and help in any other way we reasonably can.

As mentioned in the summer term report, we are seeing high attendances amongst females at the Free Skate. Despite, or maybe due to, the change that has taken place these numbers continue to rise, with roughly a 50/50 split between girls and boys. With the reward system in place to link this to other clubs, girls from the youth club and homework club are now spending more time interacting in the skatepark arena, a huge positive as skating can still be seen largely as a male-dominated sport.

Free Skate will continue to run every Friday evening during Dundee school term time. Coming at the end of the week it is a perfect way for young people to relax after a week of school and set themselves up for a great weekend. We look forward to the winter term and what it may bring.

