



OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUBS AUTUMN 2016

The 2016 Summer Holidays meant the second holiday programme of the year here at The Factory Skatepark (FSP). There were four weeks of holiday clubs, two for age 5 to 9 years old and two for age 10 to 14.

October saw us run our final holiday programme of 2016. This time around there were two weeks to coincide with the Dundee school holidays, with young people aged 5 to 9 attending the first week and ages 10 to 14 attending the second week.

The holiday programmes run from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday with the morning sessions spent in the skatepark arena and the afternoon time being for a variety of youth activities. In the morning assistance is provided by the staff and stewards with coaching being 1-to-1 or in groups depending on levels of ability, number of young people, confidence, and number of coaches available. Advanced tricks require the stewards to demonstrate repeatedly and work intensively with young people in various stages, while for the beginners it can be as simple as building confidence by riding a ramp together before moving onto the next challenge. Among the older age group the levels of peer-to-peer learning are often very high as young people play games

together to test their ability or encourage their friends to try something new.

Afternoons involve various activities with a few regulars making an appearance every time. There are co-operative and competitive games, outside at the local park if the autumn weather allows, and on days when the weather didn't co-operate video games and board games indoors. Arts and crafts are a regular activity with some artwork made by the young people displayed in the youth room and some taken home by them. With Halloween and Bonfire Night coming up shortly young people were involved in arts and crafts to do with these events, creating some artwork to take home and enjoying themselves.

To start with friends would stick together and work in pairs or small groups but by the end of each week everyone was familiar with each other and had branched out more. There were relaxed days in some of the weeks where the group chose to watch a movie and a treat at the end of the week on Fridays, such as a trip to Battlefield Live for the older group and to the Fun Factory for the younger kids.

Every time we run a holiday programme our aim is to provide a week long opportunity that young people from the local area can attend. We worked with 20

young people from the East End over the 2 weeks. Many of those attending also come to our term time clubs so it was pleasing to see them utilising the programmes and we had good numbers from out with the local area as well.

This programme, as always, would not run in the successful way it does without the funding we receive from Dundee Partnership and the dedication and hard work of our volunteer stewards. We are extremely grateful to both groups as they contribute to the continued success of our holiday programmes and to the enjoyment that the young people achieve from their holidays. We look forward to running our holiday programmes in 2017.

