



OCTOBER COACHING 2014

This year we ran two weeks of coaching and youth activities in the October Holidays.

Week One was for young people aged 10 - 14, whilst week two was for ages 5 - 9. Splitting the groups up meant we could cater the activities better for the different age groups.

The morning sessions for both weeks were all about learning new skills and tricks in the skatepark arena. With the assistance of the staff and stewards the young people were provided with the knowledge and the support required to push the boundaries of what they could do on a scooter, skates or skateboard. In some cases this meant the staff learning a new ramp or trick first and showing the young people that it was not impossible. "If a staff member can do it then you can too" became a much repeated phrase throughout the two weeks and led to many of the individuals achieving levels they never would have believed they could have reached at the start of the week.

The most pleasing aspect from the staff point of view was the level of good behaviour over the two weeks and the way the young people built up a good rapport with each other.

This was achieved through various activities such as team based sports, peer to peer learning on the skatepark and arts and crafts, where the whole group were working on a project together. Both groups interacted well together, engaged in conversation and new friendships were formed.

Each group was given a reward at the end of the week, on the last day for the younger group was a magic show performed by Harry Mudini. The 5 - 9 year olds loved the show, were fascinated by the illusions and thrilled with the chance to not only watch but also join in a magic workshop and assist Harry in performing some of the tricks. The older group meanwhile were taken on a trip to Battlefield Live, an urban warfare themed laser tag game, for an afternoon of intense competition and teamwork. A couple of them had visited before, but the majority of the group were excited to simply be involved and have a fun afternoon with their friends. Both groups agreed that the Friday treat was the high spot of their week at The Factory.

When we run these holiday clubs we are looking for the young people to gain confidence through learning new skills and making new friends, and to enjoy their week. Based on the questionnaires

completed at the end of the week these aims were achieved and therefore the October Coaching Club was a success this year.

