



YOUTH CLUBS - SUMMER 2016

The summer term saw four youth programmes run under our Youth Club banner, two programmes for each age group (5 to 9 and 10 to 14 years old).

For 6 weeks the younger group took part in Travel Club, with projects focused around broadening young people's horizons. This involved looking at various countries, places, and cities around the world and considering what it would be like to live there or visit on holiday. One particularly successful piece of work was making treasure maps, with all the young people in the club producing a well-designed and thoughtful piece of work. Alongside this there were also opportunities to compete against each other as young people watched presentations and videos about geography, and then in teams took part in quizzes to see who had retained the knowledge best.

At this time the older group were involved in Skate Culture, a programme that last ran in 2011. The intention behind this club was for young people to consider what it means to be involved in skating, to come to a skatepark, to be recognised as part of that group. This meant researching online, in books, and through media how skaters dress, act, live, and what drives them to go out

every day in search of the next skill or the next trick. Through Skate Culture these young people, many of whom are currently dealing with the transition from primary to secondary school, were able to put a name to many things that represent who they are and think more insightfully about who they want to become.

In June both programmes were Adventure Club. In the summer months we try to run sessions that lend themselves to outdoor work so Adventure Club was the perfect opportunity for the young people to visit the local park and explore. For the older ones this meant walks and bike rides along the Dichty Burn nearby which always proves to be more about the social aspect of being out together as a group. The younger groups trips meanwhile focused on teaching them about the plants, trees, and wildlife around them in their local area, and both the benefits and dangers of this. On days when the weather didn't co-operate both groups looked at great explorers and adventurers and researched where they would like to go on an adventure.

Attendances fluctuated in both groups throughout these programmes but overall the numbers attending were positive. All these programmes will likely be run again next year as feedback

from the young people showed that they enjoyed attending and developed their social skills and self-worth. With a number of the older young people there were reports that their involvement in these programmes reduced their chances of engaging in risk-taking behaviour, a huge positive as young people of this age and stage in their life can be particularly vulnerable in the areas around The Factory Skatepark.

