

Leeswood Transition Club Report

February – June 2023

Project Brief

The main aim of this project was to instil positive behaviour for future youth club sessions by hosting a 'Transition Club' whilst engaging with Year 5/6 pupils of Ysgol Derwenfa in Leeswood. We wanted to build a solid rapport and positive relationships with the pupils, to earn respect and trust to run sessions at Leeswood Youth Club due to the previous anti-social behaviour experienced at the club.

We started this by delivering play sessions at the school on the yard from October 2022, to inspire the young people to carry out their own playground games and activities during lunch time breaks or in their own time. During this, we built positive relationships with the young people over several weeks and earned their respect by engaging with the school on a weekly basis. We did this by utilising our skills learnt during our play experiences as young people and our work experiences used during the summer playschemes and other community projects delivered around Flintshire. We feel strongly as a team that our skills and experience have transferred to the young people we have engaged with at the club.

Activities

Each week, we delivered a different activity for each session to help the children build on confidence, social skills and help them use their creativity in different ways, eventually using their independence. A lot of the time, we trusted the young people to use the facilities at their own risk to give them that independence for when they transition to secondary school or a youth club environment. Here are some of the activities we delivered:

Transitioning with Mandy Jackson

In one of the first weeks, we thought it would be beneficial if we brought in an experienced youth worker who has worked in and around the area to talk about transition to secondary school. Mandy did a short activity with the young people about different scenarios and situations you might end up in during your time at secondary school. The content in this session was very important and beneficial towards the young people, especially the Year 6 pupils who will be heading up to secondary school in September. The young people were really engaged and had a great discussion about what they're looking forward to as well as what they're worried or concerned about.

E-Safety

With some advice from their teacher, Mrs. Cartwright – we decided to take on an E-Safety session as a few of the young people were caught up in experiencing the wrong use of social media and apps. The young people had to design an E-Safety

poster, we had an informal discussion of what we should and shouldn't do which was positive and engaging. They really enjoyed this and produced some brilliant work. We gave a prize to the winning poster.

Easter Egg Hunt

Once Easter came around, it was only right to do an egg hunt and reward the young people with chocolate eggs. This was fun, and they really enjoyed it. Everyone got involved and took their turns in teams to find the chocolate eggs around the youth club. We also printed some easter egg colouring sheets off for the young people to colour when they were waiting.

Paper Planes

Mike brought up a great idea one week where the young people had to design their own paper aeroplane and joined a competition to hit a certain target on a paper 'dart board'. This was such a laugh and the young people really got stuck in with different designs. It got very competitive which was great to see!

Silent Disco: Song Movie Quiz

Provided by the Urdd Fflint a Wrecsam through Huw, we put on a silent disco quiz where the young people had to listen to a play list of songs that were from certain films and name the corresponding film. This activity got them all thinking, and it was a laugh to have a bit of a sing song along the way.



Anti-Racism/Black History Week

A very important topic that the young people were studying in class. They did an assembly on Welsh Black History Month where they discussed topics covering Martin Luther King, Bus Boycott and other historical figures and references. This was such an informative session, we decided to let them paint their hands and print it on a huge planet earth with different colours to represent equality. It's important that young people understand these topics and that everyone should be treated equally with respect. It's something they can take with them when they develop as young people.



Mental Health Awareness

Another important topic that is hugely significant to us all as time goes on. Everyone has been impacted in different ways from the pandemic a couple of years ago and the young people who have been through school have been disrupted. We let the young people design their own posters of what mental health means to them. This was great to have another informal discussion on what it means and what we should do for help. The winning poster received a prize.

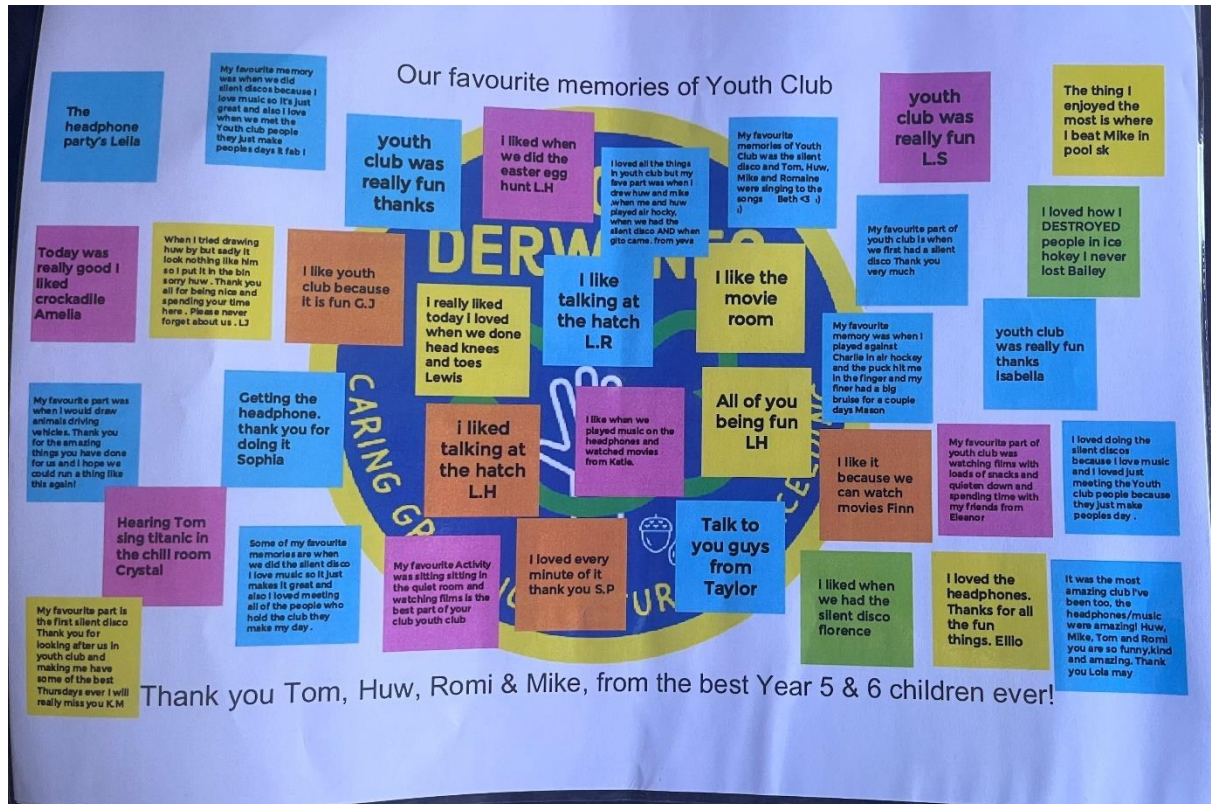
A lot of the other sessions consisted of free time, using the facilities at the club, having general chats with us. Drawing, colouring, watching a film, listening to music, playing pool, or using the air hockey table.

Case Studies

There were a couple of young people who were new starters at the school and evidently new to the club. They were low on confidence and very shy as everyone else had settled into the club and had already got to know us as staff. Fortunately, the club and our presence as staff made these individuals much more confident and brought them out of their shell. We managed to do this by putting on different activities where they were able to develop their social skills. A firm favourite has been the silent disco headphones provided by Huw and the Urdd. The young people really enjoyed using them as it's a great way to get everyone involved into a sing along with out being embarrassed in any way. This club has transformed and boosted confidence and self-esteem within the young people at Ysgol Derwenfa.

Summary

Overall, this project has been very successful in promoting positive behaviour, confidence, and social skills for the pupils of Ysgol Derwenfa. The young people have thoroughly enjoyed their time over the last few months, and we are grateful as staff to have worked with them. The sessions have been something we all looked forward to every week, we are proud to hopefully have been positive role models for these young people where they can take our experiences and skills on board, during their development and growth. Below, they have left their favourite memories of the club, showing all their gratitude for our work.



School 'Pontio' Transition Project

Project Brief

The project is to help Year 5/6 pupils feel comfortable with their transition to secondary school. The sessions consisted of several fun games, implementing the use of the Welsh language. As a service and partnership with the Urdd in this project, we wanted to promote the Welsh language through play in a less formal way through games and activities. We also wanted to instil confidence into young people ready for their transitioning phase come September. We worked with mainly Year 6 pupils around several schools in Flintshire, we also had Year 5 pupils join us as some were in mixed classes. This was also beneficial for them as they will be transitioning in the following year.

Schools

Below are the schools we visited with a mixture of Welsh and English-speaking schools:

- Ysgol Abermorddu
- Ysgol Bryn Coch, Mold
- Ysgol Cae'r Nant, Connah's Quay
- Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint and Shotton
- Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint
- Ysgol Maes Y Felin, Holywell
- Ysgol Mynydd Isa
- Queensferry C.P.
- Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn
- Ysgol Ty Ffynnon, Shotton
- Ysgol Westwood, Buckley
- Ysgol Yr Esgob, Caerwys
- Ysgol Parc Llan
- Ysgol Derwnefa

Games

The games we delivered with the young people were fun and energetic, trying to help them engage with the session as much as possible. We delivered most of the games bilingually, throwing in some Welsh phrases so that the young people understand it's in a less formal aspect. Some of the games consisted of:

- Goleuadau Traffig (Traffic Lights)
- Mynyddau a Gwpannau (Mountains and Cups/Cups and Saucers etc.)
- Lliwiau (Coloured Cones)

- Corneli (Corners)
- Siapiau (Shapes)

During these games, the young people learnt various instructions through the medium of Welsh such as 'Golau Coch, Golau Gwyrdd'. We also counted down in numbers in Welsh too 'tri, dau, un'. Phrases like 'dwylo i fyny' were used or 'pawb yn ol'. Using small phrases in a fun and interesting setting was a great idea to get the young people involved through the medium of Welsh. The young people really engaged with the games and really enjoyed their time. They worked well in teams and got very competitive.

Writing Tasks

In between games, the children were put into small groups to complete some informal writing tasks relating to their transition to secondary school. For the first task, they had to write down what they were looking forward to going up to secondary school, whereas the second task consisted of writing down their worries or concerns about secondary school. After collating everyone's thoughts and feelings, we would feedback as a group and help to answer some of the concerns and queries the young people might have about secondary school.

Number of Participants

Over the period of the Transition Project a total of **474** children participated, **271** girls and **203** boys.

Feedback

Below is some of the feedback and quotes we have received from some of the schools we worked with:

Liz Price (Queensferry C.P.)

"Our children loved this workshop and can't wait to get started on vlogging"

" A purpose for speaking Welsh - that the children love"

" A lovely idea for transition and sharing your skills in high school"

Lynne Brown (Ysgol Westwood, Buckley)

"Thank you for your visit to Westwood CP for the Pontio Transition session."

"The children thoroughly enjoyed the games. The Welsh elements of the session were useful for the revision and application of everyday Welsh, and Welsh language patterns relating to commands. Having the opportunity to reflect on their transition journey with you was welcomed by the children who said they had ...such a fun time!"

“Diolch yn fawr,

Mrs. Brown, Miss Mattar and the children in Birch and Magnolia classes”

Charlotte Cumberlidge (Ysgol Abermorddu)

“The session was a great experience for the children.

All children were engaged and participated well, most of all they enjoyed the activities planned.

A good mix of physical and written activities delivered which focused on their transition.

during the discussion the children had time to share their worries and excitement, and everyone was listened too!”

Pauline Lewis (Ysgol Ty Ffynnon)

“The children really enjoyed the session - it was a positive way to engage the children in a discussion about their Transition to High School. I really liked the way that everyday Welsh was used throughout the session and the children quickly remembered the words used. I thought it was good how you started the written session about what they are looking forward to about going to High School - So often people ask the children about what they are worried about first. Thank you again for a positive and engaging session. Looking forward to seeing you again next year.”