



Trust.

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Summer Camp 2021



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The joy of our work at **US** is seeing young people's eyes light up and to hear their laughter. This isn't always the case, as we wouldn't need to provide our services if the world was perfect and each child achieved their dreams. Thanks to the trust and confidence built by our staff, our young people confide in **US** and tell **US** what they need or want to make the light come on and laughter to follow. Again this year led by our young people, we were able to offer a four week programme which went a long way to instil confidence, build trust, teach new skills and make them happy. Thanks to the financial support and creative inspiration of OPDC and the caring commitment and encouragement of The John Lyons Charity, **US** was able through the generosity of free space at Newman Catholic College, to provide four weeks of FUN, learning and confidence building for 30 young people.



Serena Balfour



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Summer Camp 2021

After the success of the summer camp in 2020, we were asked by our Youth Panel and members of the NCC student council to run one again this year. Though the young people had more continuous schooling during 2021, it was still far from 'normal'. Bubbles in school meant socialising was limited, after-school clubs and many extra-curricular activities were still paused and many were suffering from the ongoing effects of the pandemic: grief, trauma, economic uncertainty and mental health problems, particularly anxiety about the future.

Our Youth Conference held in June 2021 helped inform our responses and plan programmes to address issues the young people raised. We looked at Mental Health, Identity, Relationships and Consent and Careers. We've seen the numbers of students we work with that have English as an Additional Language (EAL) rise significantly in recent years, from about 40% in 2018 to 90% in some age groups in 2021.



With the information and input gathered from the students we worked to design a programme that improved well-being, opportunities to learn new skills, looked at different careers and most importantly, provided lots of time for FUN.

A focus on the Arts was something the young people were keen to explore and led to workshops in Dance, Puppetry, Photography and Film, Spoken word/language support, Expanded Horizons classes and Drama.

The programme culminated in a fete which involved the local community and the student's friends and families. This gave the young people a chance to showcase the work they produced and enjoy local music and food.

We'd like to thank our fantastic partners and funders this year. We have a long running relationship with **The John Lyons Charity** and their generous donation to the summer camp and continued support has been much appreciated.

We also had a new partner in the **OPDC** (Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, part of the Great Place Scheme). Not only did they fund large parts of the programme, but provided a partnership with local artist Hanna Bennihoud which inspired the Dance projects theme and will create an additional performance for the local community in early September.

Newman Catholic College also provided the space to run the programme, lots of equipment and generously covered all the food costs.

All funders and partners have been incredibly supportive and practical in their assistance and both US staff and all the young people involved are immensely grateful.

The programme:

Over four weeks in July and August we saw 30 young people aged between 14-18 attend the programme. They all experienced each of the Art forms on offer, then picked one or two to focus on.

Outcomes, short-term:

The students made new friends, grew in confidence and improved well-being. They were introduced to new interests and learnt new skills.

Outcomes, long-term:

The students found new passions and will be provided with opportunities to develop this in the future. The new skills gained will be used to consider future career or GCSE options. Vital life-skills learnt will continue to benefit them in future relationships and academic/career paths.

The Fete:

The Fete was held on August the 11th and open to the wider community and the Met Police Summer camp and Syrian camp which shared the school premises with US.

We provided a Steel Band, DJs, Magician/entertainers, food and drinks. There was a beautifully decorated exhibition room which showed the Art, Puppetry and Poetry the students had produced. There were also performances from the Poetry and the dance students. We were so pleased to see so many family members of our students as with Covid and work commitments, we were unsure how many would be able to attend.

The students and their families were so proud of the performances and all received certificates and awards for work produced.



Data

At the start and end of the programme the students filled in a questionnaire (Kiddo-KINDL) designed to measure well-being. This told us that as a result of the programme:

- **90%** said they found school interesting (10% at the start)
- **80%** said they had lots of good ideas (30% at the start)
- **75%** said they were proud of themselves (only 20% stated this at the start)
- **75%** said they were a success* with friends (10% at the start).

* This was defined as feeling comfortable and supported within their social group.

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Parent Testimonial

"My Bailey did so well, he is so happy with all the work he has made throughout the summer camp! The performances were amazing! This was such a great way to have the children learn something new during the summer holidays and just go with what they are passionate about. Bailey would come home every day and tell me all about what he has done, what he has eaten that day and how much he now loves calligraphy and how he would like to work in Asia someday. He is now trying to learn a different language at home on YouTube himself in the evenings. Thank you for giving him the chance to see his full potential"



Staff Testimonials



"US charitable trust have done brilliant work throughout this summer camp. Students have been able to learn new skills and most importantly have fun and meet new people. The organisation of the team was extremely good, freshly food was cooked for students and staff daily and helpful supplies were provided. US charitable trust has got so much to offer."

"The summer camp was a huge success; the students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and development of skills. The students enjoyed the creative aspect of the subjects alongside the communication and independence it requires."



"In Photography participants developed their visual literacy, communication skills, digital skills, language skills, and ability to work individually and collaboratively. Some participants might wish to build their photography skills further and pursue more advanced classes and qualifications in the subject area, or a career later down the line."



Young People Testimonials

"I was very proud of my puppet as I have never made a puppet before however, with expert guidance and teaching, I feel as though I made a high-quality puppet."

"I learnt skills of: Public speaking, confidence, organisation, team coordination, communication, time management, interpersonal skills, planning, problem solving."

"From puppetry I learned that we can use small things which we just throw in bin. So instead of throwing we can use and make something from that."

"My family came to the fete day and they really enjoyed the performance and they are proud of me that I'm able to go front of peoples."

"My favourite activity was Dance, because I was so proud to perform in front of the audience that I have never done in London. Thanks to Mr George who taught us really good dance."

"I was proud of poetry because I wrote a poem by myself for the first time."

"I am so proud of my photography, because I never had experience with a camera before. I learnt creativity, technical photography skills, patience and concentration."



Case Studies



One student who stands out to me is someone who when they first came was very quiet and shy. They did not particularly engage with the sessions, and obviously struggled with engaging in the drama games. By the final performance they took a main role and really stepped out of their comfort zone. They worked incredibly hard on building their confidence and other things such as vocal projection. Overall, I was very impressed in their journey throughout the summer camp and their boldness to step out and perform in the ending fete.

Student A stated at the beginning of the lesson that he has never been involved in dance and that he has no previous experience. Student A automatically caught my attention as he had a great desire to learn and offer collaboration and teamwork.

In the first week, student A was placed at the back of the room while at the same time he had the ability and the will to learn and follow all the dance moves. The second week, he collaborated with his classmates to a high degree giving ideas and new proposals that will lead us to the final choreography. In the third week, student A, now standing in the front row of the group, Dancing with passion, self-confidence and incredible will, managed to enter the list of the three top dancers in my class. In the fourth week he was announced as the second person in charge of organising the choreography and the overall performances that's going to take place at the fete. Student A was presented with a "Passion and Motivation" award at the end of the summer Camp!



Student B is a quiet, shy student who really enjoys drama, but lacks self-esteem and confidence. I spoke to his mother weekly to check in on him and mum said he was thoroughly enjoying the camp and looked forward to it more and more as the weeks went on. She said he was incredibly nervous to join and she did have to encourage him during his first few days, but once in a routine and he began making some friends, he lightened up and began looking forward to it. Student B was shy and reserved in the lessons at the beginning of the camp, but began to develop his confidence as he worked in small groups. He specialised in drama and it was a superb fit; it was a smaller group and his favourite subject. He began to lead some sections of rehearsal in the final week which is very different to the back seat he took in week one. Student A performed a group piece as well as a solo piece to an audience of 70 people during the fete day celebration! He was nervous, but with the US trusts help he was able to overcome the fear and perform. He was incredibly proud of himself for overcoming his fears and doing what he loves.





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