

2006



Case Study

WALSALL UFA PEER TUTOR TRAINING DAY

Planning

The day was planned with the assistance of Jan Polack the Development Manager for the Birmingham UFA. Through her guidance and suggestions a program was put together that involved activities that would promote team building skills, develop Peer Tutoring skills and strategies and increase levels of confidence. Students also had the opportunity to learn about the UFA and about where they fitted in the organisation

Recruitment

Students from Joseph Leckie Community Technology College, Shire Oak Science College and Queen Mary's Language College were chosen through a variety of ways, some were volunteers, others were there through



staff recommendations and others were already lead learners in their schools.

The day itself

Delivery was mostly led by Jan although other UFA members were encouraged to lead some of the more familiar activities if they wished to do so.

The day was a great success and although students were hesitant to mix at the start of the day by the end of the day they were more confident and

relaxed in each others company. Through taking part in the various activities, such as the role play session and the 'orange and onion' exercise students were able to understand and demonstrate their understanding of what a Peer Tutor's role entailed. The importance of learning styles was highlighted with students taking part in a VAK exercise.

Peer Tutor training day - Walsall

Feedback

Students from Queen Mary's High were very positive about the day and their comments and thoughts of the day illustrated this.

Students felt that activities were both informative and interesting and having the opportunity to learn and develop new skills was an added bonus.

Students appreciated working with students from other schools and found it beneficial to learn about how other schools in the borough operated.

The day generated a lot of scope for further development within the school setting with students expressing an interest in areas such as;

- Form time activities
- International Day
- International week
- Organising Peer Tutoring training
- Leading an assembly for Year 7 on the role of Peer Tutors
- Mentoring Year 7
- Confidence building activities
- Organising a Super Learning Day

Although students were actively encouraged to develop their own programs in small groups it was felt that some guidelines were needed to be put in place in order to ensure that a workable program could be devised. The three areas therefore that the Peer Tutors will be looking at and planning will be;

- Learning to learn - what study skill activities would be useful and when could they be delivered?
- What information would the Peer Tutors want to get across to Year 7 students in an assembly?



- How could Peer Tutors make staff aware of the skills that are being developed and these skills would be put to use.

A second day of training will take place in September 06 to ensure that at the start of the new school year Peer Tutors can complete their training and begin working with students and developing their plans.

The UFA Peer Tutor Training day has resulted in students realising that as tutors they have the chance to make a real difference in school and that their ideas and plans are being taken seriously. The programs that the Peer Tutors will develop will be delivered by them to ensure that they continue developing their role, both for themselves, for future tutors and for the school.

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